**Rotary International District 5550**

**2020 – 2021 Literacy Report**

Submitted by Gayle Jones, District Literacy Coordinator

District 5550 continues to be a district that is interested in promoting literacy in our communities and around the world. This year 20 clubs have won District Literacy Recognition Certificates. 24 of 45 clubs reported their initiatives for 2020 - 2021. Due to problems with organizing events during this Covid year, our Literacy Committee recognized clubs that completed 5 literacy activities with a District Literacy Recognition Certificate. Also, we recognized 4 clubs that had organized important literacy projects or literacy fundraisers during this challenging year. The report below summarizes all the great work our District 5550 clubs have accomplished during this trying Covid year.

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| District Literacy Recognition Certificates 2020 – 2021 | |
|  | Hudson Bay |
| Dryden | Melfort |
| Kenora | Moose Jaw Wakamow |
| Brandon | Nipawin |
| Brandon Sunset | Regina Eastview |
| Gimli | Saskatoon |
| Neepawa | Saskatoon North |
| Selkirk | Saskatoon Nutana |
| South Eastman | Saskatoon Riverside |
| Winnipeg Assiniboine |  |
| Winnipeg Charleswood |  |
| Winnipeg Downtown |  |
| Winnipeg St. Boniface/St. Vital |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Stepping Up for Literacy During Covid (Special Recognition) | |
| Rotary Club of Brandon | Rotary Club of Winnipeg Downtown |
| Rotary Club of Selkirk | Rotary Club of Neepawa |

**Ontario**

**Rotary Club of Dryden:** President Anna Traini reports on the following support for literacy projects by the Dryden Rotary Club:

* The club donated $10,000 in scholarships and bursaries to high school students in Dryden, Ignace and Red Lake schools
* The club participated in eRYLA and Day 7 Virtual RYLA, and donated $2,500 to RYLA as a deposit for future programming
* Sponsored one team to participate in MUNA virtually
* Hosted last year’s Rotary Youth Exchange student, who could not get home to Brazil due to COVID restrictions, for a three month extension this year
* Participated in Strategic Planning for District Youth Exchange Program
* Sponsored The Free Reading Program on the club’s website. This program provides free access to interactive resources that supplement and reinforce fundamental reading skills for any students in reading levels K-6.
* Continue to partner with, and sponsor 1st Dryden Scouts
* Two club members serve on the Dryden Public Library Board
* One club member holds the position of President of the Ontario Library Board Association, is the Northern Caucus Trustee Representative for the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries; and is the OLBA representative on the Ontario Public Library Guidelines, Monitoring, and Accreditation Council
* Three club members are members of the Friends of the Dryden Public Library. Two sit on the executive. The Friends organize and conduct book sales as a fundraiser for library programs.
* In partnership with the Dryden Public Library and the Friends of the DPL, plans are underway to build and install up to three Books for Sharing boxes in the community
* Donated $2,260 to the Ripple Effect for schools in Guatemala
* Led a project to support an Amarok Society school in Bangladesh that raised over $40,000 with the assistance of a private sponsor and donations from other Rotary clubs and individual donors
* In recognition of Rotary Literacy Month in September, The Free Reading Program was introduced to the club’s membership for sponsorship consideration and a guest speaker from the Kenora club was invited to share information about Kenora’s Little Free Libraries project
* Recognized Family Literacy Day in January with a post on the club’s FB page promoting The Free Reading Program

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotay Club of Kenora:** Kenora supports many literacy projects. President Steve Walker reports on the following support for literacy projects by the Kenora Rotary Club:

* Offered youth academic scholarships
* Months-long training is taking place for students who are participating in MUNA, which is being held virtually this year from April 29-30
* The club sponsors an Interact Club at a local high school. Rotarians meet with students monthly and have participated in joint projects.
* Seven students attended the eRYLA Leadership Virtual Training in September/October 2020 sponsored by the District and the club’s Director of Youth Programs assisted on the planning team
* Donated $1,000 to Kenora’s Dolly Parton Imagination Library
* Participate in school-based literacy programs as reading mentors
* Maintain four Little Free Libraries in the community
* One club member volunteers at a nearby First Nation reserve assisting teachers with the assessment of reading levels and providing guidance with literacy and math skills related to the grade 3-5 curriculum
* The club’s Book Club meets every six to eight weeks
* Three club members sit on the District 5550 Ripple Effect Committee
* Provided a scholarship for four middle school students in Mexico (Beccas Program) who are studying on-line during the pandemic
* Donated $3,000 to the Amarok Society to educate mothers in Bangladesh
* Applied for a District Grant to refurbish the school kitchen in the Hernando Beltran Jr. School in partnership with the Rotary Club of Gualan
* Applied for a District Grant to construct an emergency exit for preschool children in the Carlos A. Velasquez School in partnership with the Rotary Club of Quetzaltenango
* Applied for an International Grant to construct two classrooms, a library, principal’s office and washrooms in the Colpech School in partnership with the Rotary Club of Huehuetenango
* Applied for a Youth Services Grant for RYLA and scholarships
* Recognized International Literacy Day and Rotary Literacy Month in September, and Family Literacy Day in January
* Organized a fundraiser for literacy

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Manitoba**

**Rotary Club of Brandon**

Alan Moulin, President of the Rotary Club of Brandon, reports that this club continues to have very active Literacy and Youth Programs.

* Offered youth academic scholarships
* Offered RYLA scholarships
* Sponsored students to participate in Model United Nations Assembly (virtual program this year)
* Donated to a literacy program: No details provided.
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* Organized a fund-raiser for literacy.

**Special Project:**

* iPads for Seniors: Our club provided iPads to 14 special care homes in the Westman region of Manitoba. The recipients have used the iPads to communicate with their families, and in the process have developed computer literacy skills such using the internet.
* Book sale: Our club continues to distribute books free of charge to various community groups as part of our book sale activities. Book sale itself could not be held due to Covid.
* Brandon Correctional Institute Reading Program: Our club continues to support a reading program with the inmates at the BCI. Many inmates are from rural and remote areas of Manitoba, and there is a real loss of contact with the family due to incarceration. Our club provides children’s story books which are read by the inmate to their child and recorded at the BCI. The book and the recording of the parent is sent to the child in the home community and the child is able to read the book along with the parent’s voice. The parent is allowed to provide a message to their child as well. This program included both male and female inmates, and this recording might be the only time a child hears their parent’s voice during incarceration which could be almost two years. This unique program provides hope for both the parent and child during a very difficult time.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year as well as **a Stepping Up for Literacy During Covid Special Acknowlegement**.

**Rotary Club of Brandon Sunset**

**Jacquie Koromah President of the** Rotary Club of **Brandon** Sunset reports the following projects for 2020 – 2021:

* Donated to a literacy program
* Sponsored or participated in a literacy program
* Books given to Child and Family Services Christmas Store where children can purchase family gifts at a nominal amount.
* Books were donated to CFS to be given to children in care
* Applied for a District Literacy Grant

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year.

**Rotary Club of Gimli**

Ken Krebs, President of the Rotary Club of Gimli, reports that this club continues to have very active Literacy and Youth Programs.

* Offered youth academic scholarships
* Offered RYLA scholarships
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* Donated scholarship(s) for the Ripple Effect program.
* Applied for District Grant for Literacy.
* Organized fund-raiser for literacy: No details provided.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Neepawa:** The Rotary Club of Neepawa continues to have very active Literacy and Youth Programs. Wayne Jacobsen, President, lists the following **8** literacy projects for this challenging year.

* Provided a youth academic scholarship to one of the top graduating students going on to University.
* Donated money to literacy programs in the community.
* Participated in a Public Library program, reading to pre-schoolers on Friday mornings at the library until Covid 19 was detected.
* Engaged in school partnerships, including providing reading mentors, financial support, gifts in kind, extra tutoring, etc.
* Set up Free Little Libraries in the community.
* Donated money and scholarships to the Ripple Effect Program
* Raised money for an international literacy program.
* Applied for a District Grant for Literacy

**Special Covid Project:** The club raised funds through an on-line auction to support schools in the Neepawa area to purchase technology needed by students who were required to use online technology for their schooling. This was in partnership with the Beautiful Plains School Division.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year as well as a **Stepping Up for Literacy During Covid Acknowledgement**.

**Rotary Club of Selkirk**

Jean Oliver, President of the Rotary Club of Selkirk, reports that this club continues to have very active Literacy and Youth Programs.

* Offered youth academic scholarships
* Offered youth technology scholarships
* Offered RYLA scholarships
* Sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Technology; when program was cancelled, $1000.00 was put towards a local high school scholarship.
* Sponsored students to participate in Model United Nations Assembly (virtual program this year)
* Donated to a literacy program: Selkirk Adult Learning Center received $350.00 towards a computer learning program to assist adult learning in the areas of Math and English.
* Club member(s) participated on a literacy or library board.
* Club member(s) participated in a literacy project other than those sponsored by their club
* Supported a computer literacy program.
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* Donated scholarship(s) for the Ripple Effect program.
* Contributed to a Nepal project to educate women on preventing abuse.

**Special Project:**

In lieu of contributing to an adult writing contest sponsored by the Adult Learning Center, we bought a computer program to enhance adult learning ($350.00), as requested by the instructor. An additional $150.00 was donated to help purchase a new printer for their programs.

The Nepal project, in conjunction with several other Rotary clubs, took several months to get started, but has highlighted the need to educate women and girls to protect themselves from domestic and sexual abuse.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year as well as a **Stepping Up for Literacy During Covid Acknowledgement**.

**Rotary Club of South Eastman:**

Dennis Schroeder, President of the Rotary Club of South Eastman, reports that this club continues to have active Literacy and Youth Programs.

* Club members donated to a public library.
* Members donated to literacy program at the Steinbach Family Resource Center.
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect program.
* Donated scholarship(s) for the Ripple Effect program.
* Club members will play an administrative role with a school project between District 4250 and District 5550 Ripple Effect program.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg Assiniboine:**

Rotary President Steve Coppinger reports on the following support for literacy projects by the Winnipeg - Assiniboine Club:

* Offered youth academic scholarships
* Offered RYLA scholarships \*
* Sponsored students to participate in MUNA \*
* Participation by club members in a literacy project other than club sponsored – Book Mates
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect
* Applied for a District Grant for literacy

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Charleswood:** President Douglas McKenzie reports on the following support for literacy projects by the Winnipeg - Charleswood Rotary Club:

* Offered youth academic scholarships
* Offered RYLA scholarships
* Sponsored students to participate in MUNA
* Donated to a community literacy program
* Supported a computer literacy program
* Engaged in a school partnership
* One club member is working in disability studies that consider barriers in learning and employment
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect program
* Donated to an international literacy program other than Ripple Effect – Becas for Barra
* Recognized International Literacy Day and Rotary Literacy Month in September, and Family Literacy Day in January
* Provided $250 to support a school in Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh, initiated by the Rotary Clubs of Dryden, Kenora and Winnipeg-Assiniboine

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg St. Boniface-St. Vital:** Rotary President Pat LeBlanc reports on the following support for literacy projects by the Winnipeg St. Boniface/St. Vital Club:

* Offered youth academic scholarships
* Offered RYLA scholarships, funding two students to each of the Junior and Senior on-line camps
* Sponsored students to participate in MUNA
* Engage in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, gifts-in-kind, scholarships, extra tutoring, etc. as identified by the school
* Devoted a Club meeting to creating awareness of Literacy Project opportunities
* Members work with and attend meetings with the Interact Club at Glenlawn Collegiate
* The club supports an Adult Education Program that includes full credit courses for those aged 19+, allowing them to continue on to higher education
* The club supports the Leadership Program that includes summer continuing education and mentorship
* Continue to support the Ripple Effect program, building and equipping schools in Guatemala
* Provided scholarships to a Guatemala Literacy Project
* Partner with the Club Rotario PVR Sur AC in performing eye surgery for children in Mexico
* Provide scholarships to both the Adult Education Centre as well as high schools in the community ($1,000 x 4). A matching grant from the District was obtained for one of these.
* The club provided $2,000 plus a $1,000 District Grant to a project in Ghana, Africa

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year.

**Rotary Club of Winnipeg Downtown:** President Brent Jorowski reports on the following support for literacy projects by the Winnipeg (Downtown) Rotary Club:

* Sponsored students to participate in MUNA
* Sponsored or participated in a literacy program – sent boxes of used books to a northern partner community
* Sent recently published and culturally relevant books to seven northern First Nation communities
* Sent fun learning packages and supplies for children in several First Nation communities to keep them happily occupied during the pandemic
* Supported a computer literacy program – helped to collect and provide electronic devices to inner-city children so they could participate in virtual learning during the pandemic

**Special Project for a COVID year**

* Sent fun learning packages and supplies for children in several First Nation communities to keep them happily occupied during the pandemic
* Helped to collect and provide electronic devices to inner-city children so they could participate in virtual learning during the pandemic

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year as well as a **Stepping Up for Literacy During Covid Acknowledgement.**

**Saskatchewan**

**Rotary Club of Assiniboia:** President Leanne Pituley reports her club has completed the following **4** literacy activities.

* Offered two youth academic scholarships
* Set up and maintain two “Free Little Libraries” in the community
* Donated scholarships for the Ripple Effect Program
* Applied for a District Grant for Literacy.

**Rotary Club of Hudson Bay:** President John Daisley reported that the club continues to be very active in the field of Literacy and Youth Programs.

* The club offered youth academic scholarships
* Within the community the club donated to a literacy program
* Within the community the club sponsored or participated in a literacy program
* Within the community the club continues with ``Little Free Libraries`` keeping their 2 Free Little Libraries stocked with books
* The club has set up a program with the local Library called Rotary Reads: Rotarians pick up and deliver Library books to the homebound
* Internationally the club has donated money to the Ripple Effect program
* Internationally the club has supported a foster child in Uganda through Plan Canada

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Melfort:** President Richelle Rogers reported that the club continues to be very active in the field of Literacy and Youth Programs.

* The club offered youth academic scholarships
* The club offered youth music scholarships
* Within the community the club donated to a literacy program
* Within the community the club participated in a public library program
* Within the community the club had participating by club members on a literacy or library board
* Internationally the club donated money to the Ripple Effect program
* Internationally the club donated scholarships for the Ripple Effect program
* The club applied for a District Grant for literacy

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Moose Jaw Wakamow:** President Sonja Susut reports that her club has completed the following **9** literacy activities to qualify for a Literacy Award.

* Offered youth academic scholarships
* Offered youth music scholarships
* Donated to a literacy program
* Donated to a Public Library
* Club member participated on a literacy board
* Donated money to the Ripple Effect Program
* Donated scholarships for the Ripple Effect Program
* Applied for a District Grant for literacy

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Nipawin:** President Pat Chernesky reported that the club continues to be extremely active in the field of Literacy and Youth Programs.

* The club offered youth academic scholarships
* The club offered youth music scholarships
* The club donated books privately to a family with a very young child in need of books
* The club did a project in the school which gave 14 families a Pre-Kindergarten Book Bag filled with appropriate material for that age group and their families; families who had very little or NO literacy material at home were the chosen recipients. The cloth bag which held the books and other materials had the Club’s name and the Rotary Wheel on it!
* Little Free libraries are planned for this spring in several locations in the community
* Internationally the club donated scholarships for the Ripple Effect program
* The club applied for a District Grant for literacy
* The club applied for an International Grant for literacy which was their budding Family Resource Centre Grant
* The club organized an online used book sale fundraiser for literacy
* The club recognized International Literacy in September by having the principal of their local elementary school speak at the DG Talk Show in September, about the excellent team they have in Nipawin promoting literacy at all levels

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Prince Albert:** President Keith Fonstad lists the following activities to foster Literacy and Youth Programs.

* The club offered youth academic scholarships
* The club donated $500 to PA branch of Imagination Library Project

**Rotary Club of Regina Eastview:** President Jean-Marc Nadeau reported that his club completed the following literacy initiatives this year.

* The club offered youth academic scholarships
* The club offered youth RYLA scholarships
* The club sponsored students to participate in MUNA
* The club sponsored students to participate in Adventures in Citizenship
* The club donated to a public library
* The club participated in a literacy project other than one the club sponsored
* They donated to the Ripple Effect Program
* They donated to an international literacy program other than Ripple Effect
* The club offered a Zoom presentation about the Amarok Society
* The club applied for a District grant for literacy and applied for an International grant for literacy
* Other speakers invited to speak on literacy were: Gord and Deb Lemaistre – Ripple Effect Program, Kateri Clark – Rotary Club of Ottawa on Adventures in Citizenship, Greg Prodmore - Rotary Club of Grande Prairie on the Guatemala Literacy Project
* Rotary Riders fundraiser for Ripple Effect – the most successful as yet.

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Regina Oskaya,**

Adam Kramer, President of the Oskaya Rotary Club of Regina, reports that this club continues to have active Literacy and Youth Programs.

* Donated to literacy programs in 2 schools.
* Applied for District Grant for Literacy.
* Donated books to Sacred Heart
* Bought $25.00 certificates for Grade 4 and 5 students to purchase personal books for themselves.

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon:** President Paul Gauthier reports that this club continues to have active Literacy and Youth Programs:

* The club offered a youth academic scholarship to Sask Polytechnic
* The club donates to a literacy program – RAP
* The club sponsored or participated in a literacy program – RAP and King George Community School
* The club engages in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, etc. (both RAP and King George Community School)
* Rotary Restorative Action Program (RAP) has been implemented in 8 Saskatoon high schools. Our club has been involved in organizing, fundraising, have members that sit on the board of directors, including President and treasurer, as well as donating monetarily
* The club has a partnership with King George Community School though it has been limited due to Covid restrictions in the school
* Internationally the club donates to Hope for Malawi Project – donated towards building a new early childhood school this year.
* Internationally the club has donated to the Becas Scholarship Program which sponsors over 100 middle and high school students in Mexico
* Internationally the club donates to Joy’s Center in Uganda which has built a school for the orphanage and this year the club is helping to fund food and medical supplies for the school and orphanage.
* Internationally the club is funding a teacher’s aide at this same school in Nepal
* The club has organized a fundraiser for literacy which is the Rotary Badge, Shield & Star Dinner which raised over $70,000 for the RAP program. Even though the actual event was cancelled last year, through the efforts of a number of our members, many of the sponsors of this event allowed their contributions to remain as a direct donation to the event.

Congratulations to this club on earning **a District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon North**: President Ruth Maritt reports that this club continues to have active Literacy and Youth Programs.

* The club has participation by club members in a literacy project other than club sponsored
* The club supported a computer literacy program
* The club engaged in a school partnership such as providing reading mentors, financial support, etc
* Internationally the club has donated money to the Ripple Effect program
* Internationally the club donated to an international literacy program other than Ripple Effect
* The club applied for a District Grant for Literacy – specifically for Howard Coad school projects.
* The club recognized International Literacy month by inviting the school principal from Howard Coad to speak to the club about the literacy program at his school. The club has a long history at the school as over the past 7 years the club has funded the school’s library renovation and purchased enough chrome books for 2 classrooms and also a plug in port. This past year we funded a basketball court.

Congratulations to this club on earning **a District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana:** President Lorne Braithwaite reported that the club continues to be very active in the field of Literacy and Youth Programs.

* The club donated $2000 to youth scholarships at Oskayak High School
* The club donated $1000 to Rotary Restorative Action Program (RAP)
* The club donated to literacy programs and supported a computer literacy program.
* This year the club held on online auction in which all members donated either new or used items to be auctioned off. The club had 42 items to auction and they raised over $2500 which was donated to the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre for their food and literacy programs.
* This was the clubs fourth year donating $10,000 to St. Frances Cree Bilingual School for the purchase of IPad and other technical support. These IPad offered Cree learning apps and other programs which supported individual and group learning. They particularly came in handy this past year with Covid.
* Internationally the club donated money to The Ripple Effect program
* Internationally the club donated $3000 to the Vietnam Education Society (VES) for assisting with their school and breakfast programs.
* The club applied for a District Grant for literacy
* The club is still meeting weekly online each week on zoom. They continue to make a donation on behalf of each weekly speaker to Read Saskatoon.
* One of the club members donated a bottle of 50 year old Bell Whisky to the club to raise money. They were unable to put the bottle into the online auction, so a private auction was held whereby the highest bidder made a donation to The Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre on their own behalf and the club gifted the bottle. That raised $420.00

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!

**Rotary Club of Saskatoon Riverside:** President Colin Taylor reported that the club continues to be active in the field of Literacy and Youth Programs.

* The club sponsored or participated in a literacy program at St. Mary’s Community School
* The Club sponsored or participated in a literacy program at Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre
* Internationally, the club donated money to the Ripple Effect program
* Internationally, the club donated a scholarship for the Ripple Effect program
* The club applied for a grant – Canadian Club on Guatemala approved global grant for a Ripple Effect school – RC Coatepeque, Columbia

Congratulations to this club on earning a **District Literacy Recognition Certificate** this year!