

PROGRAM GRANT STORY

CONNECTING CULTURES THROUGH languages

Second grade Connaught School student Charvi loves her school's library. "Books, books, books, books, books!" she squeals. "It has all the books!"

The library includes dual language books. They tell a story in English and in an additional language, like Arabic, Mandarin or Hindi. Connaught School has a large ELL (English Language Learner) student population, which means the dual language books have become very important.

"Some of our ELL students are very capable in multiple languages and some students have limited literacy in their native language," says Connaught's Vice Principal, Allison Bobenic.

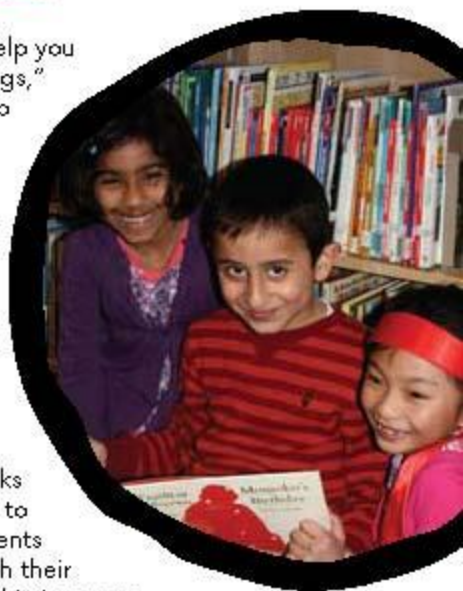
Students can take the dual language books home to share with their families and help develop their parents' native language literacy and English skills.

"The books help you learn new things," says grade two student Rosie, who speaks English, Thai and a bit of Mandarin. "If it's in your language then you can read them either way!"

The dual language books can also serve to keep the students connected with their heritage. "Arabic is not my main language anymore, but I can still read it with my family at home," says second grade student AlMamoon.

With a grant from EducationMatters, Connaught has received 80 dual language books.

As for Charvi, who speaks English, Hindi, Gujarati and is learning French, she says she's looking forward to getting a chance to read those books; "I love different languages!"



"My family are firm believers that Canada was built by people who came here to start a new life"

- James McCreath