

Gateway librarian recognized by state library association

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Since she started her job at the Gallatin Gateway School Library a few years ago, Kacee Krob has added Seuss characters to the walls, imaginative displays to the bookshelves and plaques celebrating her most avid readers, the “Millionaires Club.”

For her hard work, the Gateway School earned the School Library Program of the Year Award from the Montana Library Association this year. Krob will get \$500 to spend for future library development. She will also travel to Billings in April to be recognized at an awards banquet.

Krob said she loves her job and the community where she works.

“It’s rewarding,” she said. “Something I tell them is ‘this isn’t my library. It’s your library.’ They really take ownership of it.”

To help students navigate around their library, Krob added labels to each section, telling kids where books were located. The new, user-friendly system has helped enormously. Students can now browse their favorite titles with ease.

Krob has also worked to promote reading through her Millionaires Club. Students who read one million pages get their name on a little medal that is placed on a wall at the entrance of the library.

Three years ago when she took the librarian job, Krob decided the place needed a facelift. She hired an artist to paint colorful characters from Dr. Seuss books. She had the walls adorned with purple and yellow paint.

Though she didn’t grow up a fervent reader, Krob said she discovered her love of literature when her mom suggested mystery novels by Mary Higgins Clark. Krob eventually gravitated to Agatha Christie novels.

Now she works to get kids connected to a genre that thrills them. Adventure, mystery and action novels are popular with Gallatin Gateway students. Iconic series, like the “The Boxcar Children” and “The Hardy Boys” books, are timeless favorites.

Krob also reads a fair share of young adult literature, like the cult classics “The Hunger Games” and the “Divergent” series, to keep up with her students. For movies based off books, Krob always tells her students to read before they watch. That way they can formulate the characters in their mind and appreciate the story more, she said.

When each class comes to see her, Krob tries to connect classroom learning with library time. On the computers, she directs students to good research websites (not Wikipedia).

On the displays around the room, students learn about timely topics, like Black History Month.

“What’s really important,” Krob said. “It’s not just one person who’s doing this program, it’s a team. It takes a lot of collaboration. The more we work as a team the more it promotes the students’ learning.”