

Boulder Book Store donating 20,000 books to teachers

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At a young age, David Bolduc constantly sauntered through the stacks at his local library, searching for new stories and information to absorb.

"I always had books overdue," he said.

Bolduc, now the owner of Boulder Book Store, said all children should have a book of their own, and he hopes the store can make that a reality for many by donating more than 20,000 new books -- \$200,000 worth -- to Boulder County teachers this week.

"(Books) make knowledge more accessible," he said. "And it's not some exclusive thing."

The store has partnered with Impact On Education and the Boulder Valley School District to host its sixth- annual book giveaway today and Friday at the district's Shipping and Receiving Warehouse, 6500 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder.

Bolduc expects hundreds of educators to partake in the event, filling boxes with books to add to school libraries, use in classrooms, and even give to students.

"For many (students), it's the first book in their household," he said. "And it's important to have books that are special and meaningful to you."

Bolduc said the giveaway is also a thank you to teachers, who deserve more appreciation and often have limited access to resources.

"Hopefully this is one small way that we can help alleviate that a little bit," he said.

The books -- primarily for elementary- and middle-school level -- will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis. The selection ranges from world atlases to story books with popular figures, and classics to current bestsellers.

"It's the gift of literacy, the opportunity to take a book and treasure it," said Judy Skupa, Boulder Valley's assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. "It's a really generous action by the book store."

The give-away gives teachers access to reading materials that they might otherwise have to pay for with their own money, Skupa said.

"In times when budgets are tight, this provides an opportunity to expand our repertoire of literature," she said.

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This book giveaway is a fantastic opportunity for teachers and schools. Unfortunately, the hours they chose are during school hours on a weekday! Are the teachers expected to skip school?

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