Love for reading explodes at Gouverneur Head Start

by Rachel Hunter

A love for reading exploded Monday Gouverneur Head Start when Gouverneur Correctional Facility Librarian Katherine Ferund carried in a cardboard box – filled to the brim with more than 70 children's books.

The Gouverneur Correctional Facility holds a book drive annually so that area children can experience the joy of reading. This year, Ms. Ferund said that wanted to stay local – and chose Gouverneur Head Start for two reasons: it is located in Gouverneur and it is a free service to the community.

And the children couldn't have been happier.

Many of the schoolchildren had curious looks on their faces as their teachers instructed them to sit on the mat, but they did as they were told and listened carefully to what Ms. Ferund had to say.

It didn't take Ms. Ferund long to grab the cardboard box and kneel down to the children's level. She explained that the Gouverneur Correctional Facility had collected these books for them to read, and learn from.

The schoolchildren were a bit cautious at first, letting Ms. Ferund and Head Start teacher Laura Schneller pass the books out one at a time. But that didn't last too long.

Soon the excitement about the possibility of owning a book or two of their very own was too much, and they crowded around the box eagerly looking at what was inside. Once they found one that suited their fancy, they quickly grabbed it and hugged it tightly to their chest – not wanting anyone to take their selected books away.

Many were beaming as they formed a line to go on to other activities. As Ms. Ferund got on her coat to leave, everyone in the room said a "thank you."

The teachers instructed the children that they would be able to take two books of their choosing home with them at the end of the day.

Ms. Ferund said that she enjoyed the whole process of collecting, and purchasing the books for the schoolchildren, and that hopefully they would be back in 2016 with more books for the area children.

Books are fun!

Gouverneur Correctional Facility Librarian Katherine Ferund and Head Start teacher Laura Schneller hand out children's books to all the area youth. Each child smiled brightly when they discovered they could take two books of their very own home with them. (Rachel Hunter photos)