

## News release



Everett Public Schools

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### **Elementary teacher Pam Thomas helps resupply burned school**

***32 boxes of books go to Crestline Elementary in Vancouver, WA***

In early February, when Crestline Elementary School in Vancouver burned to the ground, Emerson Elementary teacher Pam Thomas couldn't imagine what it would be like to have all of her classroom materials go up in flames overnight. So, she got to work.

In the words of her friend and fellow Emerson teacher, Stacy McHarness, "Pam took it upon herself to solicit colleagues and friends, and yes, students to donate boxes of books through Scholastic's 50 books for \$50 offer. I know one little girl in her class donated \$20 of her own money toward the effort."

Thomas' determination and passion for another elementary school paid off in the end. She was able to send 32 boxes of books to Crestline – and the \$300 shipping fee was paid for by [Scholastic](#); the popular publisher also chipped in another \$1,500 to Crestline's library.

Not satisfied with that, "Pam also took boxes of gently used books to Vancouver over one weekend and personally visited the charred site of Crestline," explained McHarness. It was a humbling experience to see firsthand, and Pam shared with her students photos of the school sign that was untouched by flames. Upon seeing that, one student made the profound statement. 'You can burn down the school but you couldn't take its soul.'"

How ironic that Thomas' students had been learning about "theme" in reading. "You never know how kids are going to make a connection," smiled McHarness.

Each year Pam helps her students with a philanthropic project for [Make a Difference Day](#). Helping "Crestline was a good lesson for her students to see that Pam walks the talk. We are citizens of this state and have a responsibility to help out fellow citizens in need."

Thomas is no stranger to good deeds. Her co-workers note that she frequently spearheads campaigns to help out colleagues and Emerson families in need. "She spends countless hours volunteering throughout the year for Christmas House. She saves Christmas decorations throughout the year and donates them to families at Emerson during December," McHarness explains.

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The response from Crestline teachers has been swift and enthusiastically grateful.

Thank you for purchasing books for us.

It's so amazing that you took your time to help people you don't know. I have no words to express how much I appreciate your generosity, support, and desire to help us-Crestline teachers.

You're awesome!

Tons of blessings to you. :)

*Luda, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher*

I just heard from your cousin that we are getting a box of brand new books! I want to tell you how much we appreciate your kindness as well as the work it took to get these books for us. I may never meet you, but I will try my best to pass on your generosity and assistance, to pay it forward. Thank you so much, from the bottom of my heart.

Pauleen, Second Grade

Thank you so much for your kind generosity and compassion in donating books for Crestline in this time of need! :)

**Cathy**, Teacher-Librarian

Thank you so much for the books. We know how difficult it is to find good nonfiction books. We really appreciate your generosity!

*Jessica, Reading Specialist*

Thank you for your generous donation of books for our classrooms! You know we'll love them up!

**Kellie**, 5th Grade Teacher

**Thank you so much for the books! It is so wonderful for people to reach out and help us!**

**Nancy** Fifth grade

Hi,

You will ever be able to imagine how grateful we are for the donation of books to help us rebuild our classroom libraries. The district has asked that the community stop sending supplies because we have enough pencils, crayons, etc.. to last us many years!

The importance of placing books back into the hands of teachers is only something that a fellow teacher can truly understand.

Thank you so much for your generosity and giving spirit.

*Thanks, Janet*

Special Education Teacher

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