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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NOW IN ASHWAUBENON AT CORMIER SCHOOL**

**Ashwaubenon, WI – September 21, 2012** – During Cormier School & Early Learning Center’s Fall Fest, there was a grand opening and introduction of two Little Free Libraries, one for children’s books and the other for adult books. Little Free Libraries are open to the public and books are free. There are no fees, no fines, and no operating hours. Visitors do not need a library card. Instead, they pick up books as they please with the expectation that they’ll also drop off books to keep the shelf stocked. The mission of Little Free Libraries goes hand-in-hand with what Cormier is all about - to promote literacy and the love of reading.

There are Little Free Libraries in at least twenty-eight states and six countries. The two in Ashwaubenon are located at the entrance to Cormier School & Early Learning Center at 2280 South Broadway. They will be added to the world-wide map on the Little Free Library website at [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org).

Getting books into the hands of children and families is a key for literacy development. Research shows that reading to children at a young age promotes development of language, how print works, expands vocabulary, contributes to brain development and helps build a healthy bond between child and parents.

The libraries are designed to mimic the old Cormier School house and were built by Cormier’s custodian Craig Balfanz. A grant administered by the Ashwaubenon Education Foundation (AEF) and funded by the Green Bay Packers provided the two wooden structures that house books for everyone to borrow. Diane Mitchell, president of the Ashwaubenon Education Foundation, said “The Ashwaubenon Education Foundation gets more requests than we currently can fund from innovative educational programs. We are excited to partner with the Green Bay Packers to provide funding for the Little Free Library. This low cost project benefits not just the students but the community and encourages giving at all levels.”

Along with the ribbon cutting for the Little Free Libraries, there were many other activities for Cormier students and their families during the Fall Harvest Fest. It was an evening to foster a sense of community. Children enjoyed activities such as country hat making, pumpkin bowling, football relay and sack races. “Awesome family event! It was great!” said parent Nick Nesvacil.

For more information, please contact Maria Arena, Cormier School & Early Learning Center, at 920-499-2875 extension 7002 or [marena@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us](mailto:marena@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us).

Picture ASD-CM-FreeLibrary-5.JPG: Maria Arena, Principal of Cormier School & Early Learning Center; Diane Mitchell, President of the Ashwaubenon Education Foundation; Ginny Laukka, Ashwaubenon School Board member; Michele Schmidt, Reading Specialist at Cormier School; Kim Carlson, Music Teacher at Cormier School and Valley View School; Mike Aubinger, President of the Village of Ashwaubenon.

Picture ASD-CM-FreeLibrary-7.JPG: Two families looking at the books of the Little Free Library (if you need names I can get them for you, but most of the individuals have their backs in the photo)

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