

## KENYATAAN MEDIA

### **UniMAP BOOKS4GIFTS INFORMATION EXPLORATION STRENGTHENS B40 CHILDREN READING CULTURE**

PAUH PUTRA, 6<sup>th</sup> August – The Books4Gifts Information Exploration Programme is a Read@Uni Programme initiative that focuses on strengthening reading culture among children of B40 families.

Organised by Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Library (PTSFP) with the cooperation of the Educational Technology Division (BTPN) of the State Education Department, the programme is intended to spark interest in reading, improve information scanning and retrieval skills and to increase their creativity.

UniMAP Head Librarian Mazmin Mat Akhir said this was a joint PTSFP and UniMAP university social responsibility (USR) programme to cultivate reading practices through the expansion of reading material available to the community that requires it.

She explained that the weekly programme which takes place every Wednesday involves 74 primary schools in Perlis. The students were escorted by their respective school librarians and were brought to explore the collections, facilities and services of the UniMAP-developed Hybrid Library service.

“A slew of fascinating activities have been organised including a group-based scavenger hunt with a *History of Cars* theme which includes a visual chart sponsored by the Bank Rakyat Foundation. The young students must acquire keywords to unlock the puzzles regarding the history of automobiles,” she said.

Furthermore, they have the opportunity to design and create illustrations of Future Cars in the MCMC-UniMAP Makerspace while exploring, reading and taking home reading material exhibited at the Books4Gifts Corner at the PTSFP Tunnel Gallery.

Meanwhile, the Chief Assistant Director of BTPN Perlis Addnan Abd. Hamid said that the programme's favourable response will be beneficial to students for B40 families as they could see and experience campus life for themselves.

“They are not only exploring new experiences but also able to acquire books from the Books4Gifts Corner that are allotted to the participants.

“Hence, I hope this programme will continue on to ensure low income families are not marginalised from possessing books and participating in information literacy activities in PTSFP,” she said.

According to the Library Club Chairperson of the Tambun Tulang Teachers Activity Centre Rosnita Ismail who is also a teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sanglang said that most of the students are children of fishermen and farmers.

“The programme allows them to enjoy the environment of an academic library and lend a spark to their resolution to continue their studies until university level to help their families in the future.

“Furthermore, early awareness to cultivate reading habits is important for the future of the pupils, their families, religion, people and the advancement of the country,” she said while escorting SK Sanglang students.

Earlier, UniMAP Vice Chancellor Prof Ts Ir Dr R Badlishah Ahmad emphasised the importance of this programme as a Service Learning Malaysia (SULAM) initiative intended to facilitate UniMAP in aiding the surrounding community.

“This initiative is intended to provide learning experience through theory and practice centred on love, happiness and mutual respect in line with the intentions of the ministry.

“It indirectly strengthens relations between the university and the community which would help improve the lives of the people using the facilities available at the university,” he said.

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