

LIBRARY DIRECTOR REPORT

1. APL / CAFÉ

There are currently still legal issues to be worked out in regards to being able to take credit cards. At the last APL Directors meeting, it was discussed that the 'Go Live' date would hopefully be April 1st. I believe this has significantly been pushed back and I don't have any further updates as to the status of it right now. The next APL meeting is Friday, March 17th.

2. CIRCULATION / PROGRAMMING

February's circulation was at 22,241 down 9.1% compared to last year's 24,459.

During the month of February, the library held 22 children's programs with a total attendance of 345. The Goodnight Lulu theatrical program on February 16th was a popular event with 32 kids in attendance and 24 adults. There were 3 teen programs, two of which were passive / drop-in programs (scavenger hunt and string art), of which there was a total attendance of 51. There were 16 adult programs with a total attendance of 482.

We had excellent participation for all three of the reading programs which ended on February 24th with a total of 173 kids between the two children's reading challenges and 93 adults participated in their reading challenge. We've also started a Teen Library Council to hopefully generate teen's interest in the public library.

During the month of March, we have several various raffles for patrons to enter either through checking out 5 or more items or partaking in the March Madness.

For further details on the aforementioned statistics and figures, please reference the charts immediately following this report.

3. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

They are holding Pi Day on Tuesday, March 14th. They've also asked me to supply a 'wish list' of items (not books) of which I will present to them at their meeting this week on Wednesday, March 15th. They've also shown interest and asked me to present to them the idea of hosting a village-wide Community Reads program.

4. IN-SERVICE TRAINING DAY

Staff in-service training day was on Friday, February 24th and went very well overall. During the morning we had team-building and brainstorming activities, a customer service presentation and discussion, and touched on various new activities and items that will be happening at the library (new self-checkout machines, Mobile MakerSpace, etc.) During the afternoon session, Laurie Freund from Bridges Library System presented to the MCL staff on all of the various databases offered to those who hold a CAFÉ library card. Mellanie Mercier from Bridges Library System presented to the staff on the functionality of LEAP, a responsive web client that gives staff the power of Polaris (our automation system) through a web browser. Mellanie also gave us an overview on using the CAFÉ catalog.

6. OUTREACH

In the month of February, there were 18 dedicated outreach programs to the schools servicing 316 kids and 29 adults. On February 17th I was invited to read before the student body at Clarendon School for the kickoff of the 'One Book, One School'. Youth Services Assistant, Michelle, and I were also invited back on March 1st to read a chapter from the 'One Book, One School' book to an individual class.

5. PERSONNEL

I'm looking at the possibility of having a dedicated marketing person. I believe this would be a part-time position to start off and I also believe that this could be filled by an in-house employee. Dianne Dakich, reference assistant who already does our e-newsletter, has shown interest. I also met with two members of the IT Academy Leadership Team at the high school. The IT Academy engages students in experiences that increase both their learning opportunities and practical experiences in computer science. Each student then during their senior year is required to complete a Capstone Course which involves real-world experience. I discussed with the two members the possibility of having several students collaborate with MCL through programs such as pairing teens with seniors to assist them with devices or assisting this summer with the coding programs I'm pushing for during the Summer Reading Program.

6. TECHNOLOGY

Craig Grisham realized that the issues we were having with the Wi-Fi accessibility was due to the lack of a router working in tandem with the access points. The issue should be cleared up now.

The deposit for one of the self-checkout kiosk machines was sent to Envisionware. We've been assigned an Implementation Consultant who will assist us with the project planning, installation, and training. The initial project planning meeting is scheduled for this Friday, February 17th. I will have Craig and Mary Jo definitely partake in this whole process.

The 3D Printer has made it out of its box! It will soon be ready to start printing. I'll have a policy ready for the policy committee to review for the committee's April meeting. Staff will also have to be trained before this service can be made available for public usage.

7. YOUTH SERVICES

The materials that were purchased through the 2017 Youth Services LSTA Mini Grant have arrived and have been incorporated into the sensory storytimes. To date, more than 60+ people have used the materials.

8. UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS!!!!

Mobile MakerSpace – Every Wednesday 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Various Computer Classes continue through the end of April

'Horton Hears a What?!' (Improvisation Theater for children): Saturday, March 18th at 11:00 a.m.

Irish Band Performance (Ceol Cairde) – Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

The Lure and Lore of Spices presented by The Spice House – Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Movie Screening of “Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home” – Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Aldo Leopold and the Ghost of Sand County Musical – Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Open and Concealed Carry Open Forum with Police Chief Schmidt and Sgt. DeMotto – Monday, April 24th at 6:00 p.m.