

Columbia Heights Public Library

Library Board Report – May 2026

BUILDING

Two new heating boilers were installed.

TECHNOLOGY

COLLECTION

- New books were selected from reviews in the November, December or January issues of *Booklist*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Library Journal*. Youth requests purchased were Spanish language alphabet, numbers/counting, *Wild Robot*, and *Dog Man* books. DVDs for children and adults were also ordered.
- Weeding was finished in adult nonfiction 800-920 and fiction T-Z.
- The Friends prepared a Minnesota-themed display for the case which included state parks, sports teams, and popular myths about Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. Adult displays highlighted Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month. Endcap displays included Minnesota travel, tech careers, books to movies, mental health awareness, and party planning. Youth displays highlighted books to movies and AAPI month.

PROGRAMS AND SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	DATE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDANCE
Daycare Storytime	5/1	Children (0-5)	12
English Language Conversation Circle	5/2	Adult	4
Painting Dishtowels with the Friends	5/2	Adult	14
EL Conversation Circle	5/4	Adult	7
EL Conversation Circle	5/6	Adult	9
Story Explorers: Arabic	5/9	Children (0-5)	13
EL Conversation Circle	5/9	Adult	3
EL Conversation Circle	5/11	Adult	8
Tinker Time: DIY Stickers	5/12	Children (6-11)	24
Adult Basic Education class tour	5/12	Adult	31
Bultum Academy Kindergarten field trip	5/12	Children (6-11)	47
Story Explorers: Arabic	5/13	Children (0-5)	10
EL Conversation Circle	5/13	Adult	6
Active Agers Book Club @ Murzyn: <i>Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald</i>	5/15	Adult	5
EL Conversation Circle	5/16	Adult	3
Youth Services Librarian Visits Highland Elementary (6 classes)	5/18	Children (6-11)	400
EL Conversation Circle	5/18	Adult	4
Highland Elementary Kindergarten Field Trip (4 classes)	5/19	Children (6-11)	90
Library Book Club: <i>The Quiet Librarian</i>	5/20	Adult	10
EL Conversation Circle	5/20	Adult	5
EL Conversation Circle	5/27	Adult	7
EL Conversation Circle	5/30	Adult	3

STAFF

Elizabeth Ripley, Adult Services Librarian:

- Hosted a Level 1 English class from Metro North Adult Basic Education for an introduction to libraries and library cards signups.
- Attended MELSA's Jobs and Small Business interest group.
- Interviewed potential adult volunteers.

- Facilitated the ELL Conversation Circle on May 2.
- Provided Tech Assistance to two patrons.
- Made deliveries to two At-Home patrons.

Renee Dougherty, Library Director:

- Participated in first-round interviews for the city human resources director.
- Met with the Anoka County Library assistant director about potential changes to delivery.
- Met with a Bibliotheca representative about replacing the self-check kiosks.
- Began preparing a recommended budget for 2027, including meeting with the adult and youth services librarians.
- Participated in the adult book club discussion of *The Quiet Librarian*.

Eliza Pope, Youth Services Librarian:

- Contracted two Arabic storytimes on a Saturday and Wednesday; one was bi-lingual and the other entirely in Arabic.
- Facilitated a Tinker Time devoted to creating DIY stickers.
- Hosted two kindergarten classes from Bultum Academy for a field trip to the Library.
- Hosted four kindergarten classes from Highland Elementary for a library tour, storytime, and scavenger hunt as part of their field trip to the Library and Fire station. Angela was very helpful in connecting with the Spanish speaking students.



- Visited Highland Elementary to promote the summer reading program with students in grades 1 through 5.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Library was closed on May 14 so that staff could attend a training and development event with Anoka County Library staff.
- Someone attempted to steal or burn the Minnesota state flag which was at half-staff for the holiday weekend. The flag prevailed, dirty but unharmed.
- Anoka County Law Librarian John Murphy held office hours on May 28.
- Nine adult volunteers donated 29 hours; two teens volunteered for 6 hours.