



Quarterly Staff Report—October 2021

Gustavus Public Library

1. General Library Statistics July-September 2021

	July	August	September (as of Sept. 10)
Library Visitors	374	292	37
Books Checked Out	518	515	183
Movies Checked Out	224	252	47
Events/Meetings Hosted at Library	4	8	3

Summer 2021 Activities/Programs

- Gustavus School Class Visits
- Music Lessons
- Test Proctoring
- Neighborhood Meeting
- Story Time
- Summer Reading Programs
- Curbside Services 5 days/week
- Grab and Go Activity Kits
- Custom-made book boxes
- Virtual Book Club
- Library Friends



Summer Reading Program Summary



We kicked off our Summer Reading Program with an Ice Cream Social in July. We had over 70 attendees! This was also a way for the community to meet the new librarians. Additionally, LeAnn hosted a weekly story time, a Womens in Graphics webinar, and a Graphic Novel for Beginners event.

One event, a Harry Potter birthday celebration, was canceled due to cases of Covid in the community. We ended the Summer Reading Program with a Root Beer Float event and a drawing for prizes. There was a lot of community engagement during the Summer Reading Program and a lot of people were excited about participating.

Summer Reading 2021 Statistics

Child Participants	30
Teen Participants	11
Adult Participants	5
Total Summer Reading Events Hosted	7
Total Summer Reading Event Attendees	Approx. 100+



Upcoming Fall Programming

LeAnn met with Gustavus School teachers in August and discussed opportunities for students and teachers to use the library during school hours. She discussed what services the library can currently offer to teachers and students. At this time, one class has weekly trips scheduled and all students in that class have been issued a library card. They check books out each week to bring home to read. More classes are working with LeAnn to set up times for their classes to visit on a weekly basis. Additionally, the young adult reading and writers group from the summer will continue to meet, and Battle of the Books will be starting soon.



The library is collaborating with the Gustavus Community Center to plan and host events in September and October to celebrate the fall harvest. These events include a Harvest Festival at the GCC, moose butchering and processing at the GCC, and more. We will be bringing, promoting, and checking out harvest-themed books from our collection at these events too.



Grab and Go Kits continue to be immensely popular and will continue through the spring with one a month.

Each month a section of our library is featured in a display with information, books, and materials. In early summer it was our L.G.B.T.Q. Collection, August and early September it's been our Graphic Novels collection. At the end of September, we will shift to highlighting our harvest, canning, and fermenting books to feature them during the Harvest Festival during our partnership with the Gustavus Community Center. Looking ahead we will feature books with a gratitude theme, then holiday books, and our Alaskan collection in partnership with the Alaska State Libraries book challenges; *Alaska's 1000 Books Before Kindergarten* (ages birth to 6) and *Fall in Love with Reading about Alaska* (ages birth to adult).

The garden bed has been cleaned out with help from LeAnn, Mellissa Gomb and Sven, and Dean Weikle. Flower bulbs will be planted this fall and there is a plan in progress to use the garden bed as part of regular library programming. For example, a fall planting that will be part of Story Time and then an on-going *Weeding and Reading: Pollination Station* that will pick up again in the spring.

We have renewed our one-year movie license and have plans to host movies viewings for the public soon!

The library is sponsoring a monthly the adult Gustavus Book Club.

2. Status of Active or Upcoming Grants

FY22 PLA (Public Library Assistance) Grant has arrived. This grant gives us \$7,000 which we budget for materials (books, DVDs, etc.). We purchase approximately 50 books per month using funds from this grant. Please let us know if you have a book request!

Jessie submitted an “Easy ARPA Grant.” These funds come from the American Rescue Plan Act and the “Easy ARPA Grant” is a non-competitive grant for up to \$3,500 to buy supplies and equipment to respond to COVID impacts. We are requesting funds through this grant to buy materials to build an outdoor Story Book Trail and to create STEM kits that patrons can check out. Additionally, libraries can ask for an additional \$2,500 to buy materials for their collection, which we did.

3. Existing Projects

Gustavus Construction finished the roof project! We know that this project has been in the works for many years and there are many individuals to thank for pushing this project along to its completion. Thank you!

Our library procedures are being updated by volunteer Shelley Owens. It’s a great time to update since Jessie and LeAnn are both having to learn all of the procedures!

The Young Adult section has outgrown its space! We plan to move it and create a dedicated space in the library for teens.

We are working to reduce the clutter in the library to create more usable space. Step one of this effort was to erect the shed kit that was purchased earlier this year. Ben Sadler built a base and constructed the shed on top of the base. (Thanks, Ben!) We'll store the lawn mower, large totes, and other items in the shed. This will free up space in the patron entrance and the hope is to make this important space a more viable part of the library.

We are moving ahead with a plan for a covered bike shed for the library. We plan to submit a scoping document to the City Council soon.

4. Past, Current, or Upcoming Trainings

Jessie and LeAnn are both registered for a free *Leap into Science* training through the Alaska Afterschool Network and Franklin Institute Science Museum. This program integrates open-ended science activities with children's books and is designed for libraries, museums, and afterschool programs. Once the training is completed, the library will offer programs to children and families to teach the activities. The first training is on September 17, with additional training sessions scheduled for November, January, and March. Looking ahead, both Jessie and LeAnn would like to attend the Alaska Library Association Conference in Feb. 2022.

Jessie and LeAnn both attended a *New Libraries Director's Orientation* by Zoom in July. Jessie also attended *Introduction to Library Ethics* by Zoom and a *Public Librarian's Chat: How to Safely Provide Children's Programming During the Pandemic* by Zoom. LeAnn attended the *Alaska State Library's O.W.L.* training.

5. Budget

Thank you all for being such a great Council - we all appreciate your work