

## Library Quarterly Staff Report — September 2025

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General Library Statistics	June	July	August
Library Visitors	570	809	697
Books Checked Out	391	533	386
Movies Checked Out	108	148	76
Interlibrary Loans Checked Out	12	10	20
Digital Materials Checked Out	130	125	124
Other Materials Checked Out	57	68	42
Events Hosted at/by Library	21	22	25

### Programming List for Summer & Autumn 2025

- Makers Meetings- Ongoing Wednesday Evenings
- The Library Band and Banjo Lessons – Ongoing Thursdays
- Story Walk Trail with New Books Monthly
- Gustavus School Art Exhibition (May)
- Summer Reading Kick-Off (June)
- Weekly Story Time in partnership with the Glacier Bay Rangers (June- August)
- Estate Planning with Liz Smith followed with solo appointments (June)
- Summer Kite Days (June)
- Cribbage Training for Beginners (June)
- Cribbage Tournaments (June, July and August)
- Volunteer Appreciation Event: Make your own Tea and Mug Press
- Travel Series: A Cycling Journey Around Ghana, Africa with Tod Sebens (July)
- Summer Literacy Camp: What's Your Wingspan?
- Summer Art Camp: Color Our World!
- Books for Babes is back! (July 2025)
- Hainrs Fair Entries on Display
- End of Summer Reading Celebration (August 2025)
- Author Talk with Jennifer Hahn: Pacific Harvest (August 2025)
- Engineering Day at the Library with Geneva Mottet (August 2025)

## **Change in Library Evening Hours & a new Librarian!**

In late June, we welcomed Morgan Park as the new Public Services Librarian. Morgan has extensive knowledge of libraries (she volunteered for years!) and the community, and how to formulate and lead great programming events that bring people together. We are excited to have her creative, kind, brilliant talents here at the library.

We also adjusted our evening hours from Wednesdays (4:00–7:00 pm) to Mondays (4:00–7:00 pm). Since the change, we've seen a noticeable increase in attendance, with significantly more patrons visiting on Monday evenings compared to Wednesdays.

## **Programming**

### **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge has been on pause since March, but our new Public Services Librarian, Morgan Park, has revived it with great success. Please let all the parents of young children know about this program and how important early literacy skills are as a crucial foundation for a child's academic, cognitive and social-emotional development. Learning to read and write is not a switch that flips in kindergarten but is a developmental process that begins at birth through positive interactions with language and books. Plus, there is camaraderie amongst parents, and a safe space to meet, and free board books are available for children to take home!

We also have plenty to check that parents may not be aware of available for checkout. Our **Lovevery award winning play kits** are geared towards children between 0-12 months up to 4 years and are tailored to match a child's age and stage in learning. They include thoughtfully crafted play essentials, tips and activities.

### **Summer Reading**

Summer break often leads to a dip in children's literacy, and we strive to help children continue developing their reading skills throughout the break. Though we did not get our Libraries Reading Buddies Program up and running as hoped (next year!), we did have a very successful Summer Reading program and celebration.

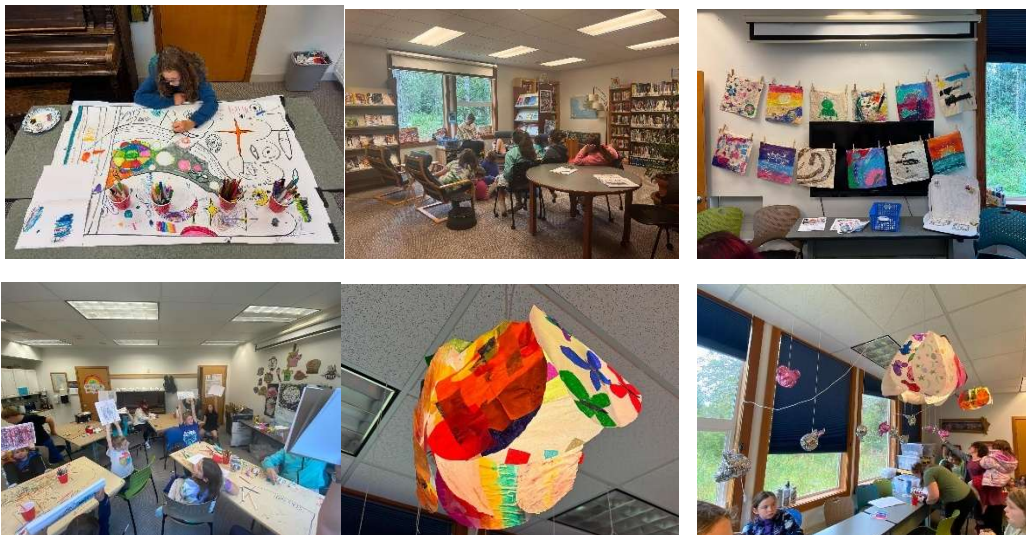
### **Library Literacy Camps**

This year we were able to again have two full week literacy programs funded through the Community Foundation Grant received in April 2022. Although the grant covers staff hours and materials, most camp participants pay tuition, which has helped stretch the funds. We also offer scholarships for families who need financial assistance. We will be applying for this grant again in Fiscal Year 2026.

**What's Your Wingspan**, made possible through ADFG Southeast Alaska, provided many bird specimens for close inspection and fun for the participants.



**Color Our World** was also a great success with campers exploring creativity through literature while making masks, disco balls, bags with glue batik designs, and reading and learning together.



What we hoped would be a two-week engineering summer camp turned into a very well attended single day Engineering Day at the library with Geneva Mottet, a seasonal local who has taught in various Alaskan communities. It was very well received and we plan for the full two-week camp to happen next year with more time to plan.

## **Grant Status**

The Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grant that we receive yearly that accounts for \$7000 of the Libraires budget was in danger of not being funded in Fiscal Year 2025. But as of August, the PLA grant process appears to be back on track. Our application for 2026 has been received and accepted, and the report for 2025 has been submitted and accepted.

The OWL (Online With Libraries) Grant has also been renewed and continues to greatly reduce the cost of our internet services.

## **Staff Training and Professional Development**

Melisa attended another OWL Virtual Technology Workshop, Show Up For Our Libraries: How To Protect Federal Library Funding, and AI and Libraries: Literacy, Ethics, and Responsible Use. The PNLA virtual conference was attended by both Melisa and Morgan, and we continue to have access to the webinars to attend at our convenience.

## **A Big Thank You to Our Volunteers!**

Our volunteers play a vital role in keeping our library thriving. Many assist with special projects during their shifts, and their support is deeply appreciated. As we transition from spring/summer to autumn volunteers, we can always use more helpers. If you or someone you know would enjoy contributing to the library, please consider volunteering!

## **Thank you to our City Council!**

We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of Gustavus.