

Quarterly Staff Report — March 2025

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Fourth quarter general Library statistics

	December	January	February
Books Checked Out	333	382	218
Movies Checked Out	26	176	107
Interlibrary Loans Checked Out	24	4	12
Digital Materials Checked Out	1904	1923	1909
Other Materials Checked Out	45	67	23

Programming/Events for Autumn 2024 through spring of 2025

- Silent Book Club – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the Library, 4:30 pm
- The Plein Aire painters have taken a break from meeting at the library but may return when the situation presents itself
- Banjo Lessons- Thursdays
- Library Band– Thursdays
- The Maker Meetings- Wednesday Evenings
- Story Walk Trail with New Books Monthly
- AA and other 12 Step Programs have also taken a break but we look forward to their return
- Babies Read (newborn to 36 months) with Kate!
- Story hour for K-2nd grades on Wednesdays
- Story hour for 3-5th grades on Thursdays

One of our programs, the **1000 books before Kindergarten Challenge**, is taking a break for the month of March. We continue to engage with new parents hoping to accommodate meeting times that will work for everyone. We are always looking for volunteers who would enjoy being involved in this program to help our little ones become readers, so please reach out if you are interested!

Status of Active or Upcoming Grants

We continue to have funds available from the \$10,000 **Community Foundations Grant** that we originally received in April of 2022. This fund has been crucial to funding Library Literacy Camps along with the Funding of Books for Babes and 1000 Books Before K. We still have funds for this grant because, though the employee hours and the supplies are paid for by the grant, most campers pay tuition to attend these programs. We also offer scholarships for those who can't afford the tuition fees.

We are always looking for new ways to engage with the community on what kinds of camps and programs are desired (and needed) while school is out of session in the summer. If you have any ideas, please reach out to Nina Valadez to discuss.

The Library has applied for a grant from the **NFPA Education and Technology foundation** in order to offer a 2-week engineering summer camp/ program that is based on the fluid dynamic course Geneva Mottet, a seasonal local, has developed and taught in surrounding communities. We have reached out to Hoonah, Juneau, and are looking at other communities so this event can be well attended (even through Zoom) as it presents the students with an opportunity to interact with the University of Alaska and find out more about engineering opportunities and education within the state.

Those who take the class will have the skills to participate in the **Arctic Innovation Competition (AIC)** and will be connected with other young people around the state interested in STEM. The format is a hands-on science and engineering course for homeschoolers, character school students, and other 6-12th grade students within rural Alaska. Geneva will be teaching it in person here in Gustavus so please send any 6th-12th grade students interested our way for a very fun class!

Our **PLA (Public Library Assistance) Grant** which was thankfully awarded our typical \$7000 for FY25, is being used to budget for materials (books, periodicals, DVDs, etc.) and continues to be expended on a monthly basis.

Regarding our OWL (Online With Libraries) grant, this year we were granted \$1800 rather than our past allotment of \$1500. Combined with our Library E-rate discount, we are paying significantly less than in the past. We have signed a 5-year contract to lock this pricing in.

On another note, we want to express the dedication of our volunteers! Even with a lot of volunteers traveling, other volunteers are jumping in and helping us cover the desk. Winter is always more difficult to get coverage. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, please reach out.

Thank you to our City Council!

We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of Gustavus.