

## **Assistant Director's Report on June 2022**

### ***Programming***

May was spent at outreach events to schools and on field trips promoting the summer library program. We gave 83 presentations to roughly 2300 students in 4K-6<sup>th</sup> grader. My thanks to all of the KASD librarians, Trinity Lutheran and St. Ignatius office staff for working with me to coordinate visits with all of their classes. Special thanks to library staff that helped with school visits and field trips – it was all hands on deck! During most classroom visits we asked students to color a fish to add to our library décor. They were encouraged to visit the library this summer to find their fish in the schools of fish we made in the library. On May 27<sup>th</sup> students from River View Middle School spent their morning volunteering with us. They worked on making our summer Take & Make kits, harvesting in the hydroponic garden, cleaning up the building, and decorating with more than 1,000 fish.

We had 89 youth programs with attendance of 2,452 and 7 adult programs with attendance of 99 in May.

We have had incredible attendance at programs already in June. Many, many thanks to all of our programming staff for their creativity and excitement as they put these together. Storytime in the Garden with Sarah M is averaging 40 participants a week. Sarah R worked with partners at UW-Oshkosh to bring a scientist to the library to talk about fossils with over 50 kids. Rachel hosted an awesome Elephant and Piggie Party (with a real live pig) and has moved her Toddler Time programs to the garden for the summer. Nancy is taking storytime around town, hosting weekly at Haen Elementary or Horseshoe Park. Jenny is taking our art classes into the garden for adults and teens, and with Bobbie has put together really fun Take and Make kits for our kids and teens. Bobbie's displays continue to help increase circulation and help patrons find great summer reads. Gavin is bringing back our Historic Businesses Walking Tour and will be debuting a Cemetery walking tour next month.

Carrie has been caring for the learning garden this summer. She took on cleaning up all the old brush and grasses to get it ready for spring and summer. On May 21 she joined me for our Planting Party, hosting families and two scout troops to plant the garden boxes they would be caring. She also helped teach attendees how to plant and helped them fill multiple planters with colorful annuals around the garden. Her passion for caring for the garden has really helped it blossom this year.

Summer Library Program began on June 6. We've had 300 kids and teens complete their first challenge in the first 2 weeks of summer. This year kids and teens can earn up to three free books! Staff are doing a great job balancing excellent customer service and detailed readers advisory with the addition of SLP rewards at the desks, increased returns and shelving, and staying on top of their other responsibilities. We are seeing pre-pandemic library use, attendance, and everyone is continuing to exceed expectations with their levels of service this summer!

### ***Administrative Updates***

**Marketing Grant** - We completed the Wisconsin Mini Marketing Grant project in May. As part of the grant funds, we purchased wayfinding signage for the building, a yard sign for outreach, branded tablecloth for outreach, and did a "Welcome Back" mailing to 700 households that have not used the library since March 2020, with additional printing used at outreach and distributed around the City. If you are interested in reading the full grant report and plan for this project, let me know.

**Staff Training Day** - Staff training day on June 3<sup>rd</sup> was a full day of safety with Fox Valley Safety. All staff were certified in first aid and CPR/AED. Additionally we reviewed summer library program details. Our next training day will be Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Creator-in-Residence** - Our Creator in Residence Program kicked off on June 7<sup>th</sup> with a "Meet the Creator" night. Aaron Renier gave a great talk on his background, art style, and his experiences as an illustrator and author. His art and books are now on display in the gallery space at the library. His books have also been purchased thanks to the donation from

Bank of Kaukauna and are available for checkout through InfoSoup. His first workshop on June 21 had over 30 kids and teens in attendance in the afternoon and nearly 20 teens and adults attend in the evening. Part 2 of this class will be offered on 6/28. In July his workshops will focus on zines, a unique way to create and publish.

**Fox Cities Book Festival** - The Fox Cities Book Festival launched on June 11 with an Authors and Ales event at Stone Arch Tied House in Little Chute. With my committee, we organized an author fair featuring 20 local writers. The Festival will take place October 13-16 in person, with a handful of virtual events. It will kick off with an evening fundraiser honoring Festival founder and champion, the late Ellen Kort. 2022 will be my last year on the Festival Authors committee. I continue to serve on the Festival Board and also work on the Marketing and Grants committees. I will be moving to the Reads Committee for 2023 and will be training James to transition into my spot on the Authors committee starting this fall.