

# Staff Reports

## Director's Report

### *FY2026 General Fund Budget Update*

- Library now closes at 4:00 p.m. on Mondays.
- \$10,000 IMLS Basic Grant and IMLS-funded Interlibrary Loan service reinstated

### *Grant Funding*

- \$3,000 First Bank grant to support the 2025 Summer Reading Program.
- Atwood Foundation/ALN grant provides one-year access to NewsBank.
- Attended Rasmuson Foundation community event.

### *Maintenance*

- Clerestory windows replaced in September by Southeast Windowcraft (Jason Grone).
- Sprinkler maintenance completed in October.

## Programming Report

### **Programming – Kari**

#### *Early literacy and family programming*

- Programs with Kellii Wood, CLC & RN
  - *Prenatal Breastfeeding Class* – First held in October; planned twice yearly.
  - *Mama-to-Mama Milk Meet-Up* – Developing into a monthly support group.
- Public Storytimes for Young Kids – In partnership with Jill Lenhard (PHS), Kari presented to high-school students in the new *Early Childhood Development* course. Students learned about early literacy strategies and will later observe and assist with Head Start Storytime and Stedman Elementary literacy activities.
- Current weekly storytimes include Wiggle & Giggle (Thurs 11 a.m.), Lil' Monsters (Wed 9:30 a.m.), Good Beginnings (Thurs 9:30 a.m.), Head Start (Fri 9:15 a.m.).

*Ongoing programs:* Yoga with Karen (Saturdays), and Rainforest Writers sessions with Orin Pierson (seasonal).

#### *Summer Reading*

- Summer STREAM Challenge (ages 3–12) – 149 registered, 74 completed (up from 53 in 2024).
- Baby Shrimp Challenge (ages 0–2) – 9 registered, 3 completed.
- Draw Your Own Reading Dragon Cards – Popular July class with Gus Petersen.
- Read Your Way – Flexible reading sessions for families; all regular participants completed.

#### *Partnership Highlights*

- KFSK Programs – *Homegrown Conversations* (Jan–Jun) and *Voices of Séet Ká Kwáan* (re-airing through Feb 2026).

- Science Series – Monthly with Alaska Sea Grant and the Marine Mammal Center.
- Baby Raven Reads – Two-year Sealaska partnership concluded; programming continues locally under Brandi Heppe.
- Elementary Classroom Tours – Eight classes participated; strong tie to Summer Reading enrollment.
- Garden Sprouts & Drop-In – With Alex Helms, Stedman Elementary.
- Wonder Camp Series – With Sunny Rice, combining science and art day camps.
- Gaming Tournament – Monthly with volunteer Gus Petersen.
- Rainforest Festival Workshop – Botanical printing with Cindi Lagoudakis.
- Estate Planning Seminar – With Liz Smith, 49th Estate Planning.
- PHS Senior Interviews – 31 oral histories archived and displayed.

## **Programming – Barb**

### *Youth and Family Programs*

- Lego Club (launched May 20) – Meets first and third Tuesdays; 3–15 kids per session.
- Stuffed Animal Sleepover – Popular annual event with teen volunteers filming the animals’ “night at the library.”
- Teen Game Night – Included art projects, games, snacks, and a book tasting.

### *Workshops and Classes*

- Junkbots and Art Book Making – Creative STEAM programs for ages 7–12.
- Food Preservation Series – Three well-attended classes with Sarah Lewis (UAF Cooperative Extension).
- Angel Painting with Pia Reilly – Community art class focusing on creative expression coming in Nov.

### *Community and Cultural Events*

- Manhattan Shorts Film Festival – 10 short films shown at Northern Nights Theater with 90 attending.
- Taliswoman Art Show – Opened Oct 18 with 80+ attendees and 50+ artworks. Presented by Barb and Beth, with music by Sarah Hofstedder and refreshments from FOPL and artists.

### *Ongoing*

- Year of Reading (YOR) – Steady participation.

## **Programming – Tara**

- Art with Ashley afterschool program funded in memory of Jo Norosz.
- Flowers and Foliage, Enamel Earrings (November) and Wreath Making with Ashley Lohr.
- Beth Flor Silent Auction (dates TBD)