

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The library reopens Mondays on Oct 28.
- Barb Steltz was hired into a full time position this summer.
- Beth Loesch started back on a limited/off desk schedule (4 hrs per week) in September.
- Kari attended a joint Alaska Library Association/Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference in Juneau in August.
- Jenny Cowan and Matt Gerrits kept our grounds looking great this summer.
- Summer Reading Programs
 - A total of \$6,380 was raised, \$3,000 from First bank and the rest from businesses and individuals.
 - BABY SHRIMP (ages 0-3) – 29 caregivers participated, a 52% increase over last year
 - STREAM (ages 3-12) – 147 participants, 53 completed. This is a 36% increase in completion over last year. The participation rate was the same as 2023. The biggest comment we heard from kids and parents was they liked the new prize structure where every kid could earn motivational prizes as they worked their way to completing the 6 week program. 30 in-person programs were offered with a total attendance of 214.
 - GO WILD (ages 13+) – 84 people participated; completion was down 35%
- In August, Kari partnered with Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory and Sunny Rice to host the annual Summer Science Camp for ten middle school students. This week-long day camp ran from 8 AM to 5 PM, featuring activities at various locations such as Hungry Point, Three Lakes, Ohmer Creek, and the Stikine River. Students engaged in hands-on learning about different soil types, tidal zones, beach plants, fish habitats, geology, invasive species, and amphibians. It was a great opportunity for students to explore and appreciate the local environment.
- Kari's partnership grant with Sealaska Heritage Institute is in its second and final year. In the first year, she worked with librarians from Sitka, Juneau, and Haines to create nine curriculums for public library cultural events for children ages 0-5. This year, she'll implement one curriculum each month, featuring a book from Sealaska's Baby Raven Reads collection and including 4-5 learning stations with cultural and literacy activities. Brandi Heppe, the lead teacher at Tlingít and Haida HeadStart, has been the Cultural Specialist for these events, presenting the stories and activities - they've been well attended, with 7-9 families each time. We'll host one event a month through April 2025.

- In September, Kari began offering three Storytimes a week for kids ages 0-5: one for the public, one for Good Beginnings Pre-School, and one for HeadStart. In November, she plans to add a fourth session for the Petersburg Children's Center. These sessions have been a wonderful way to engage young children with stories and foster a love of reading.
- In August, the USFS invited Kari to participate in the Washington, D.C. Christmas Tree decorating project, featuring a tree from Wrangell. Alaskans contributed 10,000 ornaments for this tree and 47 others in D.C. Pia Reilly hosted a painting class creating 13 bears, and MaryAnn Rainey led sewing sessions that made 40 Tlingit ornaments. Petersburg will be well represented this holiday season, with MaryAnn traveling to D.C. in early December to see the ornaments on the trees.
- In September Barb coordinated a *French Flower Beading* class with Terry Robson. 9 students participated in this challenging class. Participants came out with a sampler of techniques and a bag of supplies to finish their bouquet.
- Barb is teaching *Crafty Science*, an afterschool program for kids ages 7-10. Kids do science based crafts with mostly recycled materials. Two sessions have run so far and they have been well received. More are planned.
- In October we held a *Stuffie Sleepover*. 22 stuffed animals participated, and all had fun, including Kari and Barb. Kids really enjoyed receiving photos of their stuffies at pick up Saturday.
- In September, Kari and Barb hosted a Teen Game Night that was a huge success, with 17 kids in grades 6-10 attending. Everyone enjoyed activities like a Super Smash Bros. tournament, minute-to-win-it games, board games, pizza, and a fun craft. Gus Pennington was invaluable with his video game expertise and skills in managing the kids. Gus Petersen will also assist with future events, enhancing the gaming experience. Monthly teen game nights are planned.