



## LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATION

**DATE:** February 28, 2024  
**FROM:** Laura Klenke, Library Director  
**AGENDA ITEM:** Librarian's Report

### **SUMMARY:**

#### **December**

- Throughout the month of December, children and their families could come celebrate the holiday season by adding their personal touch to our winter village and Christmas tree.
- Our co-sponsored event crafts with Mrs. Claus was a big hit with 75 kids and 50 adults in attendance. Children had their choice of crafts - snowman, Christmas tree or stockings to create and decorate.
- In December, we continued our recipe swap for the holiday season. TWU libraries was very kind to offer recipes from their cookbook collection. Some highlights from their selected recipes included Godiva Pecan Pie and Frosted Chocolate Drops.
- Mrs. Claus (Staff member MaDonna Wade) made another appearance during the Chamber of Commerce's Mrs. Claus Storytime. Mrs. Claus read How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?
- We had a special storytime guest in December! Emily Dindorf of D&L Farm and Home was very kind to bring her pony Franklin to our Christmas themed storytime! Franklin came all dressed up in his best elf costume to spread holiday cheer to all. It was a very well attended event with 21 children and 17 adults in attendance. Thank you to Emily and D&L for a memorable storytime.
- December's tween and teen hangout featured retro video games! Thanks to a very generous donation from former staff member Renee Grayson's family, the library received several mini retro consoles. Tween and teens had an absolute blast playing genesis, super Nintendo, Nintendo and Wii games! We had 13 teens in attendance. We hope to make this a regular hangout activity.
- We were overjoyed to be able to have our very own booth at the Sanger Arts and Craft Fair! We were able to connect with our community and promote library services, programs and events to booth visitors. We gave out fun freebies using our library prize wheel. It was a successful outreach event, interacting with close to 100 people. We are planning to make this an annual outreach event to gain visibility in the community.
- Throughout the month of December, the library collected several boxes of nonperishable food items for the Sanger Crisis Center to help restock their food pantry.

- Our last activity for the year was family board games and snacks. Several families came out and joined in the fun and friendly competition.
- For the 2023 calendar year patrons saved a total of \$384,023 by borrowing materials from the library

#### Calendar Year End (Jan. – Dec. 2023) Statistics:

- \$384,023.81 saved by our patrons through borrowing materials vs. buying them.
- The most a single patron has saved for the year was \$8,629.71.
- 24,441 physical items circulated.
- 499 new cards issued
- 1,174 items added to the collection.

### January

- January we debuted a new calendar format and added additional programming to our regular schedule for children, teens and adults. We're aiming to have at least two programs for each age group, preschool, elementary, tween & teens, adults and all ages.
- Teen programming featured an old favorite, make your own buttons. Teens and tweens and their families were delighted to make their own creations and took home some favorite designs like Taylor Swift and Squishmallows! Our second offering for the month was an Oreo taste test. It was a hit with 11 teens & tweens, 5 adults and 6 children in attendance. Tasters used their developed and discerning pallets to rank 17 varieties of Oreos. They ranked each Oreo flavor based on appearance, taste, smell and overall likeability! The original Oreo came out on top.
- The library was closed Friday, January 12th for a staff development day. We took the opportunity to discuss the City's goals and the library's performance measures, goals and objectives in relation to the City's goals. Staff made great progress in planning programs and events through April and part of May.
- In addition to book club, we had two additional offerings for adults. Beth Patton a patron offered to teach a no-sew mini quilt class. Participants made their own beautiful quilt designs using colorful fabric and no sew fusible backing. We had a lot of interest and will be offering a class for children Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and another class on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Aaron Evans of Yahweh Pottery class was very kind to sponsor another pottery class for adults. We had a full class, with a long wait list. Participants had many beautiful creations, such as mugs, dishes and decorative pieces. We are looking to offer another class to address the wait list.
- In addition to our regular Lego program, children and their families created a simple bird feeder for their feathered friends to enjoy out of birdseed, shortening and twine.
- Denton County United Way's VITA Tax assistance for the 2024 tax season kicked off on Saturday, January 27. Free tax preparation is available for households earning up to (not over) \$64,000 across Denton County. The library is seeing an increase in traffic on Saturdays, and the program is seeing a steady number of returns being processed.

## February

- Dr. Michele Steigleder, from Dementia Friendly Denton County came to speak about dementia and memory care. It was very well received. We had 17 in attendance. Many of our patrons have been recently diagnosed with dementia or are supporting their families as a caregiver to someone who has dementia. In addition, we debuted our cognitive care kits at the library. We have three kits with a variety of resources for patients and caregivers, as well as activities, and objects to encourage positive discussions, reminiscing and recall.
- Lynne Smiland retired February 9, 2024 after 23.5 years of service to the Sanger Public Library and the Community.
- We received the 2023 Achievement of Library Excellence Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association (TMLDA,) an affiliate of the Texas Municipal League. To successfully receive the Achievement of Library Excellence Award, the library must exhibit excellence by providing services to underserved and special populations, enhancing services, marketing in innovative ways, promoting cultural, topical, and educational programming, providing literacy support, providing summer reading clubs, pursuing collaborative efforts, supporting workforce development, providing for digital inclusion, and comprehensively training staff. Of the 545 public libraries in Texas, only 84 received this award in 2023. Staff members MaDonna Wade and Carissa Malmgren compiled and helped write our award application. They did a fantastic job!

### Other News:

- We're continuing to see a steady increase in volunteering. We've had more people looking for volunteer opportunities at the library. In related news, the City is now requiring a formal volunteer application and background check for all volunteers. This is mainly for people who are on site at the library or are volunteering at outreach events on behalf of the library. Many Friends members have submitted applications.
- Thanks to staff member Theresa Hammond, we have been able to have a consistent message and marketing efforts for the library. We're seeing an increase in our attendance numbers and public awareness of our events.
- We're currently working on evaluating and streamlining many of our internal processes such as interlibrary loan, purchasing, etc.
  - Our current ILL system Texas Navigator is retiring this summer. The state has been slow to offer information on our new system. There will be training over the next few months before launch.
  - We will be purchasing a new acquisition module for our ILS system that will make budgeting and cataloging new materials easier for us and lower the turnaround time for processing materials.
- The second and third weeks of January brought colder temperatures. I made the decision to keep the sprinkler system charged. Facilities helped with winterizing the building by placing soffit covers over many of the vents. We purchased wireless thermometers and leak detectors to monitor the temperature in the attic and insulation. Staff and volunteers helped wrap shelves out of abundance of caution. I continued to monitor the temperatures, ERCOT grid stability and worked a full day on

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to monitor the building. We are happy to report had no issues with the weather or the building.

- On a related note, we are in the beginning stages of a smoke alarm installation. We hope to have a system installed within the next 30 days.

**FISCAL INFORMATION:**

Budgeted: YES/NO

Amount: \$0.00

GL Account: XXX.XX.XXXX

**RECOMMENDED MOTION OR ACTION:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A