



## LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATION

**DATE:** November 29, 2023

**FROM:** Laura Klenke, Library Director

**AGENDA ITEM:** Director's Report

**SUMMARY:**

- August was a busy month for the library. The library restrooms, children's area and foyer received a much-needed makeover. Staff assisted with preparing and painting these areas with a fresh coat of new paint. We replaced the restroom mirrors and added stepstools. In addition, the foyer and bathroom tile were professionally cleaned.
- Friends of the Library volunteer, Bryce Myerhoff helped install new slat wall panels throughout the library.
- Our former Friends of the Library President, Roy Hawthorne volunteered his time assembling our new wooden bookcase. It now houses our leased book collection.
- Library staff completed a full inventory of all 18,000 items for the first time in over 10 years. We hope to continue this practice regularly to maintain an accurate catalog of materials.
- September was Library Card Sign-up Month. This year we tried something new, entering all new cardholders for a chance to win a gift card at the end of the month. We're looking to repeat it next year, with ways we can encourage current patrons to tell their friends and family to become library card members!
- We debuted a new program Toddler Time, which encourages creativity and learning, with sensory play, cooperative building with unit blocks and word play with search and find alphabet letters. We have received positive feedback from attendees.
- We've decided to take a different approach to tween and teen programming. Instead of having a fixed activity, like we've had in the past, we're changing the activity monthly. September, we had board games, October we had a spooky mystery snack of bugs and insects and this November we will have a chainmail craft. The approach seems to be helping to keep things fresh for the tweens and teens.

- October was Star Wars reads month; the library had a special event to celebrate all things Star Wars. Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club stopped by to join in on the fun. We had a galaxy themed storytime read by a Jedi master, crafts, photo booth and scavenger hunt. Attendees had an opportunity to win a Star Wars themed door prize, which included a baby Yoda backpack, Star Wars poster, Lego set and books!
- Aaron Evans of Yahweh Pottery was very kind to sponsor another pottery class for adults in October. Participants were thrilled with their beautiful creations. Many of them made mugs, dishes and decorative pieces.

## **STAFF UPDATES:**

- We welcomed our new Technical Services Specialist, Carissa Malmgren in September. Carissa has been an integral part of our consortium for several years, serving as Secretary and on multiple committees. She has identified possible ways to strengthen our collection, and is currently in the process of
- Jesse our part time assistant resigned in October due to health issues. We have filled his prior position with a new part-time staff member – Theresa Hammond. She is helping us with organizing our financial and library data. Much of it is needed for the annual report and future performance measures.
- We have hired a temporary part-time staff member, Sarah Phelps who will be with us through the end of January. She will be helping us with our relabeling project and front desk operations.
- After serving the library for 23 years, Lynne Smiland has notified us of her intention to retire in February. We will miss her greatly!

## **OTHER NEWS:**

- Our digital usage of ebooks and audiobooks has been steadily increasing. We're looking at possibly expanding our services with another product – Cloudlibrary. It has a similar business model like Libby but holds can only be placed on our items. There is a Texas cloudlink group of 65+ libraries we could join but it has specific requirements for joining and maintaining membership.
- At the end of September, we purchased three scholarships for Gale's Excel High School Diploma program. The program is a fully accredited high school diploma program for adults. We hope to have at least one student enrolled next year. We have four years to enroll a student in the program. All of the coursework is done online and Gale has onboarding resources for new libraries.

**FISCAL INFORMATION:**

Budgeted: YES/NO

Amount: \$0.00

GL Account: XXX.XX.XXXX

**RECOMMENDED MOTION OR ACTION:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A