

Support & Public Services Report to the Mead Library Board of Trustees

Submitted by Cheryl Nessman & Aleah Hill

September, 2026

Staffing:

- An internal candidate has been hired for the Library Assistant – Technical Services position.
- Staff In-service will be held on Sept. 25th. We will have a presentation from a former WAPL presenter on organization, we will tour the Warming Center, Shower Bus & The Landing, and the Fire Department will provide our annual fire safety training.
- Alison Lowen will be presenting at the annual WLA conference in October: *Shake, Rattle, and Grow: Music in Early Childhood Programming*, as will Cheryl Nessman: *Fostering Belonging with Proactive Outreach to Marginalized Communities*

Public Services

- During election time, we have come up with a procedure to allow poll volunteers to use the staff breakroom space so they can still have their meal. This is to keep staff from having to consider if they should allow an exception to poll volunteers when it comes to our policy about not eating meals in the library.
 - We had a few key tags made. They will be held behind the circulation desk and the volunteer will need to return it to the desk after they eat. Marge Giesen volunteered to show them where the staff breakroom is located.

Programming/Exhibits/Outreach Highlights:

- We will be celebrating the Imaginarium's 10th Anniversary on Oct. 27th from 3-7pm. Come join us for crafts, STEM activities, tours, a pumpkin competition, and a visit from Mayor Sorensen!
- There's a new opportunity for kids to build their reading skills in the Youth Services room through a program called [Reading Dragons](#). Kids K-8th grade can track their reading time in Beanstack to win Reading Dragon playing cards. So far, we have 53 readers signed up!
- The library is partnering with Lakeshore CAP to bring monthly office hours and services to the library. A Lakeshore CAP representative will be available every 2nd Monday of the month to offer on-site resources and support to those

experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. This service will begin Sept. 14th.

- Mead has been meeting with the Job Center and the City's Transit Department to brainstorm ways that we can get patrons in need of vocational assistance to the Job Center. We also had a Job Center representative at our last Adult Services meeting where they went over the many services offered there and provided a way for Mead staff to place direct referrals. We are hoping to tour their facility in the near future.
- We now have open STEAM Studio in the 3rd-floor Activity Center on Mondays & Thursdays from 4-7 and the 1st Saturday of the month from 9-4. Families can drop in during those times and enjoy self-directed Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math-themed activities.
- Upcoming fall programs:
 - Adults:
 - Sept. 14-Nov. 16: Spanish Language 101 Mondays 6-7pm
 - Sept. 15: What's in Your Estate Planning Toolbox? with Tracy Gibson
 - Sept. 29-Oct. 20: Great Decisions Lecture Series Tuesdays 6:30-8pm in the Rocca
 - Oct. 1-Nov. 19: BINGO! Thursdays 2:30-3:30 in the Rocca
 - Oct. 9: Enchanted Library: fantasy immersion event with dancing, snack, magical crafts and more, all to celebrate the new A Court of Thorns and Roses book.
 - Oct. 10: Introduction to Drop Spinning (wool spinning)
 - Oct. 26: A Court of Thorns and Roses Midnight Release Party at Wordhaven Bookhouse.
 - Nov. 7: 2nd annual Sheboygan Zine Fest!
 - Nov. 10: WI Academy Talk – The Edmund Fitzgerald and the Meaning of Home in the Great Lakes with Dr. Steve Ackerman
 - Kids:
 - New! Sensory Storytimes: calm, sensory-friendly storytimes on Mondays beginning Sept. 14
 - Regular storytimes are back! (BYOB, Bitty Book Club, Baby & Me, Preschool, Toddler, & Wiggleworms)
 - Scary Story Writing Contest entries are due by Oct. 9, followed by a Scary Stories Night at Paradigm on Oct. 23rd
 - Sept. 19: Messtival
 - Oct. 26: Halloween Glo-Party
 - Nov. 14: Ballet Storytime: The Nutcracker with dancers from the Milwaukee Ballet

- Tweens:
 - Tween Fan Club: Books they love with fun activities, 3rd Tuesdays of the month
 - Tween Art Club, 1st Tuesdays of the month
- Teens:
 - Sept. 16: Beaded Bar Keychains
 - Oct. 26: Mario Kart Tournament
 - Nov. 6: Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping Party
- **FINAL** Summer Reading Program Stats:

Children's Stats

	2025	2026
Registered	892	848
Participated (readers who logged)	754	718
Percent Participated	84.52%	84.67%
Mins Read	907,477	766,423

Teen's Stats

	2025	2026
Registered	440	662
Participated (readers who logged)	259	276
Percent Participated	58.86%	41.69%
Mins Read	363,868	405,565

Adults' Stats

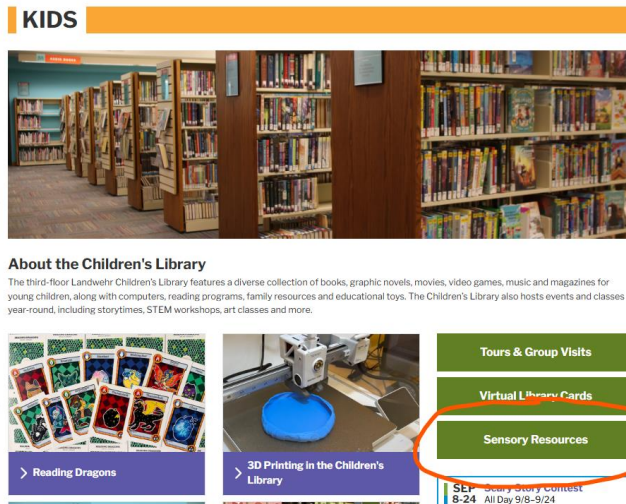
	2025	2026
Registered	600	542
Participated (readers who logged)	488	441
Percent Participated	81.30%	81.36%
Mins Read	931,457	825,492

Children's Math Challenge Stats

	2025	2026
Math Challenge		
Registered	469	406
Single Bingo (earned/claimed)	87/ ?	61/40
Blackout Bingo (earned/claimed)	44/ ?	29/19

Patron Services:

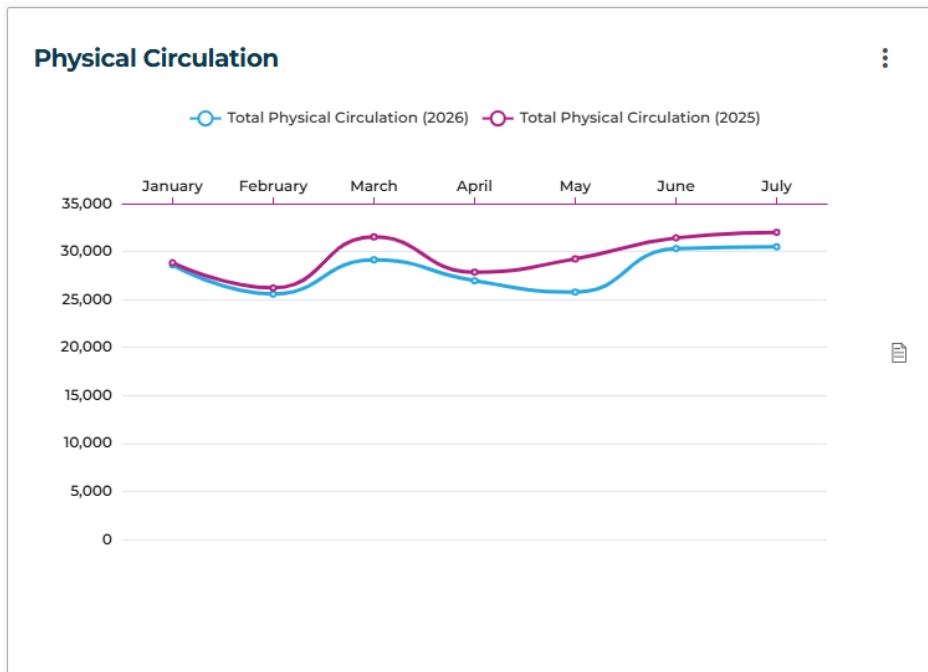
- Construction on the 3rd-floor [Sensory Room](#) and 2nd-floor study rooms has begun.
- We now offer Social Stories on our Kids' webpage under "Sensory Resources." Social Stories are designed to help visitors with social/sensory sensitivities feel more confident and comfortable at the library.



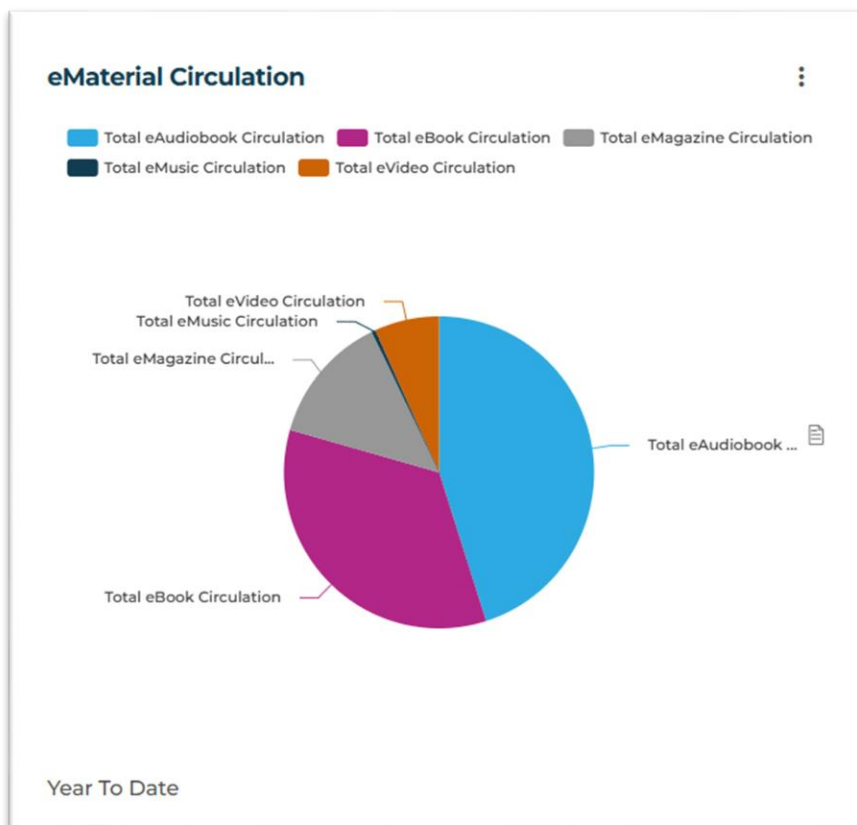
- We are once again offering Teacher Cards to anyone who teaches within the Sheboygan school district. Public, private, homeschool teachers—all are welcome to get a [Teacher Card](#) which will grant them a higher checkout limit, access to ALL of our online resources, and the ability to request curated collections of books for their classroom.

Collections:

- New Jan-July 2026 stats pulled from LibraryIQ:



(Books, AV, Kits, etc.)



(Hoopla, Kanopy, Libby)