

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
For February 2024**

Libby: Audio and Ebook Checkouts		
	2023	2024
January:	3,591	4,028
February:	3,274	3,630
March:	3,729	
April:	3,210	
May	3,484	
June:	3,607	
July:	3,712	
August:	3,744	
Sept.	3,614	
October	4,044	
November	3,837	
December	3,836	
Totals	43,683	

Physical Circulation for February	24065
FEB. Libby:	3,630
FEB. Hoopla	650
2024 Monthly Total	28,345
2023 Monthly Total	29,364
New Cards	115

Library Director's Notes:

Cindy Krynski submitted her resignation. She will retire at the end of March finishing up 21 years of service to the library. She currently oversees our ILL processes, book mending and repair, along with desk time at circulation and reference. We all miss Cindy but wish her the best in retirement!

As you may have noticed, the 2023 Annual Report is back on the March agenda. After submitting/locking the report I received updated figures from Finance regarding Fund 1 expenses. Those updated figures will raise our cost per circulation so I will need another approval from the Board. The Bridges Director will contact DPI to unlock our annual report and I will update the figures, secure Chris' signature and send back to Bridges. I made this decision in consultation with the Bridges Director.

Stephanie Curtis and I will present at WAPL on May 2 in Stevens Point. The name of our program is "The Dynamic Duo: A Tale of Two Organizations Coming Together to Work Towards a Common Goal of Strengthening Families".

I would like to acknowledge two dedicated volunteers, working behind the scene on special library projects. Matt Smith has been working tirelessly on trying to get the antique grandfather clock to work again. I had given up on repairs several years ago so it is wonderful that he is dedicated to getting this beauty up and running again! Dan Olejniczak is creating a grid that can be used by staff to identify the location of specific pavers. Many times we have family members or donors unable to locate a specific paver. Organizing this will be a great help to donors and library staff.

.A reminder to check that your Friends of the Library membership is up to date. Friends is struggling a bit. The current president needed to step down and we haven't had anyone volunteer to replace her. There are still several dedicated volunteers that help keep the organization running. Also, if you would know a local business or organization that would want to be a monthly coffee sponsor, your willingness to reach out on behalf of Friends is greatly appreciated!

I was re-reading the February 2023 Director's report and noticed that Kevin was making repairs to drywall and painting damaged areas. A year later, Kevin has completed another February (2024) of repairs to walls. We find that many like to rock on chairs and lean up against drywall leaving a gouge. Kevin and I are

exploring the addition of chair rail in all the study and meeting rooms. He is also completing deep cleaning of carpets in the study and meeting rooms.

Monthly Department Information

Adult:

In February, Peg, Cari, Erin and I attended Library Legislative Day at the Capitol. It is always fun to have a chance to tell our representatives about all the great things we offer our communities. We started a meditation group that meets here twice per month, led by a local volunteer. She's had good attendance at the first two installments of the program. Sue lent us her talent (again) but offering professional headshots to our patrons to help promote themselves professionally. Cinema Club is still going strong, and beginning in March, Noah will help Peg run the group. Noah has about a month in the Reference Department under his belt, and he is learning a lot and fitting right in! He will be posting one video to our social media each month and start programming in April. We have several computers throughout the building that need to be replaced. We ordered some through a group purchase that Bridges offers each year. We will pay for some, and Friends will donate money to cover some as well. We are lucky to have a Friends group! Our staff development day on February 7 was useful and fun. Peg posted what we did that day on our Facebook page, and I think it's good to be transparent with what we spent our time on that day, as being closed for a day can present a hardship to our patrons. We definitely made good use of our time!

~Jamie

Children's:

It was another busy month in the Children's Department with programs, transitioning of staff and Library Lovers Month! We had a library-wide scavenger hunt for Library Lovers Month and it was for kids, teens and adults. It gave our patrons an excuse to explore our entire building, a way for us to highlight areas and collections that aren't always seen, and an opportunity to do something fun together at the library for families! Adults were pleasantly surprised to be included and earn a prize this time as well! We had 120 adults, 324 kids, and 49 teens participate. We have had some staff changes in the Children's Department in February. We said "see you later" to Carley in February and Amy has been continuing to work her evening and weekend while we transition. Xander has transitioned up to Children's and has been learning the ropes up here. He already did his first program, Library Kids Club, and did a Lego Challenge with the kiddos. He and Brittany are gearing up to do their first joint Homeschool Tuesday next week together. Earlier this month, we received a written complaint regarding the cleanliness of the TalkReadPlay Center. This is something we take seriously and staff is constantly working on keeping it clean and safe for children and families to enjoy the library. Peg, Kevin and I have been working together to get a cleaning and sanitizing schedule organized so that we can be sure that nothing gets missed in our regular cleaning of the department. We are also posting pictures on our social media to show the public in a fun way that playthings and toys are "getting a bath", as our Dinosaurs and Duplos received last week. 😊 I also completed a TalkReadPlay

Program Participation survey, as we do a few times a year, to see how we're doing with our programming geared towards 0 to 5 year-olds. Some highlights include that 94.9% of respondents indicated that they either strongly agree or agree that after attending a TalkReadPlay program, they now build interacting with their child(ren) by talking, reading and playing into their daily routine, 92.3% rated their overall satisfaction with programs a 5, and 92.3% read, sing songs and tell stories with their children either daily or 4-6 days a week. I've also included a few of the comments that I thought were indicative of the results of the survey.

When asked "What did you learn during a TalkReadPlay program that you can use at home to help your child learn?":

- "So many wonderful songs that helped with transitions and early concepts"
- "My kids and I love to sing the Baby Bounce songs at home. With the songs my kids learn body parts, opposites, taking turns, pitch matching, all kinds of things!"
- "I am the grandparent, and have certification in early childhood teaching, so I don't know that I learned anything new to me. But if I didn't have that prior knowledge, I think there is an incredible amount of demonstration of how to teach through play. Which I feel is essential for small children. Using multiple formats - reading, singing, dancing, physical movement, obstacles - to exercise the mind and the body of the child."
- "Come with people who have special needs and it is very helpful with keeping minds engaged!"
- "reading fun books and helping kids count stuff on page or pick out colors"

When asked "If there are any other comments you have regarding TalkReadPlay programming at the library, please include them here.":

- "Ms Tina is literally the best human ever! She is so kind and caring. My children have been attending the Watertown library since 2019 and they always ask for Ms Tina as soon as we walk in. She created such a fun, learning environment for every single age!!! She has been so inclusive with my child with special needs as well. We can't say enough good things about Ms. Tina!! We also love Ms Jamie too :) :)"
- "Currently, I am not a fan of the open play area at the library."
- "I am so grateful for Miss Tina, the Watertown library, and the community of caregivers and kids that my family has grown so close to!"
- "It's a great way to socialize my only child and helps me get out of the house"
- "You do a great job singing and reading! I've attended a lot of storytimes in the area and this one is my favorite! I love how many other people attend the sessions too!"
- "A safe place for my grandchildren to come to too interact with other children!"

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~Tina

Teens:

"February may be the shortest month of the year, but it was jam-packed with things to do here at the library! For the teens, we finished up our Winter Library Challenge and had 6 wonderful winners! We had an all-ages scavenger hunt throughout the library which many teens also participated in throughout the month. I hosted a few programs: a Mardi Gras event where they painted masks, a Valentines Day event to make valentines, and my final gaming tournament, which was Fortnite. Homeschoolers had a science fair at the beginning of the month, which was a fantastic learning experience

~ **Brittany**

Circulation Department:

Hooray it's March!

Here at circulation we have been experiencing wonderful views of birds flying and sunshine flooding in. We have moved a display stand to front and center by the circulation desk that has really generated a lot of interest! The theme is "Think Warm Thoughts". Our movie display is going green! Movies with green artwork and musicals are this month's showcase!

We love that patrons can relax and enjoy a puzzle down here on the lower level, lately we have been experiencing some disturbance of the finished parts. We are exploring the idea of rearranging our library of things shelving so staff has a better view of the area to prevent disappointed puzzle enthusiasts.

Stop in and check out all the things the library has to offer and finally enjoy this awesome quote regarding the month of March! Cari J

"March is a month in which you can experience a Lion's fierce roar of frigid cold, the long white teeth of biting winds that can cut through flesh; and the gentle softness, the warmth of fluffy white fleece, and the innocent kiss of sunshine like a docile newborn lamb."

~ **Cari**