

## Mitchell Public Library Director Report

### April 20, 2022

1. SDSL ARPA Grant Project

The final report was submitted to the SD State Library to complete this project. We have received \$15,000 in reimbursement from the State. The acting State Librarian plans to visit April 20 for a final review of our project.

2. SDHC ARPA Grant

We still have some items to order.

3. Staffing

Allerie Loof's last date of employment was Friday, April 8. We received 17 applications for the open position. The week of April 11 we are reviewing applications and determining who to interview. In the meantime, Zack North is graciously doing some cataloging so that we don't get completely behind. He will get back to collection maintenance once we get a cataloger hired.

As a reminder, Cindy Meinen plans to retire at the end of May. We will have a small department celebration for Cindy at the time.

4. Board Projects

We have worked with our shelving vendor on the end panel project. We have worked on finish selections. We plan to have colorful end panels in the children's, media, and YA areas. We plan to have a light wood grain finish for the adult collections. The other projects are progressing as well.

5. OverDrive (follow up from last month)

In March OverDrive (our ebook and eaudiobook provider) informed me that the Mitchell School District requested to access to our OverDrive collection through a newer service that connects OverDrive's app for schools (i.e., Sora) to the local library. We gladly agreed to this. We shared this information with the Mt. Vernon, Ethan, and Mitchell Christian schools. Mt. Vernon and Mitchell Christian have started using this service. We expect Ethan to do so also. I need to contact JPII to let them know about this.

This new service allows area students to access age-appropriate materials from our OverDrive collection. Previously, accessing OverDrive required students to have an actual library barcode. This is the main reason why the local school district sent us student data to create library accounts. With this new service students can access our electronic materials from their Sora account. We no longer need to create library accounts for all MMS and MHS students.

This allows us to clean up our patron accounts and remove unused student accounts. In the statistics table you will notice that the total number of patrons declined significantly because of this.

6. Multicultural programming

See our funding request for an event in September.

## **Update for April 19 Board Meeting Jean Patrick, Children's Services Librarian**

I continue to provide reader guidance to parents and children, develop the children's book collection (including weeding), create book displays, and plan and direct programs (including Storytimes). Here are the highlights for March, along with plans for the upcoming months.

### **BOOKOPOLY, JR.**

Bookopoly Jr was a huge success. I continue to hear comments from parents and children about how much they enjoyed the challenges, and how they liked reading books they normally wouldn't have read. As one parent wrote on Facebook: "Thank you for putting this on. We had so much fun exploring new books." Kids also loved the surprise of the Chance books. (Kids and families checked out 200-225 Chance books.)

Here are the totals:

304 children and families picked up Bookopoly Jr. gameboards at the library

131 children completed at least one challenge on the gameboard

50 children completed the entire gameboard (24 challenges)

10 names were drawn for special prizes

1 Grand Prize winner

During the Bookopoly, Jr. challenge (Jan. 3 – March 22), at least 1,350 books were read by Bookopoly Jr. participants.

Thank you for the funding for the tote bags and prizes. The kids love them!

### **STORYTIME, OUTREACH STORYTIME, BILINGUAL STORYTIME**

#### ***Storytime***

We continue to offer on-site Storytime on Thursdays and alternating Saturdays. Our numbers continue to grow. In fact, we now are using both rooms in the Community Room to make room for reading and crafts.

#### ***Storytime totals for March***

Thursday Storytime at the Library - 5 sessions    Total: 110 participants

Thursday Online Storytime views - 5 sessions:    Total: 399 views

Saturday Storytime at the Library - 2 sessions:    Total: 39 participants

#### ***Outreach Storytime***

On March 7 and April 12, 43 preschoolers and 4 teachers from First Lutheran Early Learning Center came to the library for a special Storytime and to check out books. In summer, the First Lutheran preschoolers will be coming to the library weekly.

Although Embe preschoolers didn't come to the library in March, they plan to bring school-age kids to the library during the summer for stories and crafts. (For many of these children, this will their first exposure to

the public library.)

### ***Bilingual Storytime***

On Monday, March 14, Ada Morales and I led a bilingual Storytime for education students in Stephanie Gelderman's Human Relations class at DWU. We also introduced bilingual books from our collection and discussed our techniques.

On Saturday, April 23, Ada and I plan to lead Bilingual Storytime at the Library at 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm. These sessions are designed for elementary age kids (ages 6-11), but everyone is welcome to attend.

### **SUMMER READING PROGRAM PLANS**

"Oceans of Possibilities" is this year's Summer Reading Program theme. Our goals are to keep kids reading to prevent the "summer slide" and to encourage kids to be curious about their world by providing a variety of free programs.

### ***Promotion***

In May, I will be leading tours and promoting the Summer Reading Program to schools and preschools with informational handouts that include the schedule. We will also distribute these handouts at First Fridays beginning May 6 and at the Big Friend, Little Friend event on May 10.

Also, Summer Reading Program information is available in the Park & Rec booklet. Families may sign up to receive emails about programs, etc., and by registering on the online Summer Rec registration form.

Summer Reading Program information will also be posted on our website and the Mitchell Public Library Facebook page.

***Tentative Schedule for large programs***

Summer Reading Kickoff - Andi Herbst, goats

Wed. June 1 & Sat. June 4 – 10:30-noon – Library

Gavins Point Fish Hatchery – Sam Stuckel

Wed. June 8 – 9:30 & 11:00 am – Corn Palace Plaza

Traveling Lantern Theater, Portland OR – “Camp Ocean”

Fri., June 10 – 6:30 pm – Corn Palace Plaza

Cabela’s Pro-staffer fisherman, boats, and activities

Wed., June 15 – 10:30 am & 6:00 pm – Cabela’s

Mr. Twister – Balloon artist from Sioux Falls

Wed., June 22 – 10:30 am & 6:00 pm – Corn Palace Plaza

Wed., June 29 - TBA (Likely, art sessions for kids at the library led by art educator, April Geist)

Outdoor Campus (SD Fish & Game) – Water mammals, fish identification, etc.

Wed. July 6 – 9:30 am & 11:00 am – Corn Palace Plaza

Phil Baker, Musician from SD Arts Council

Darrell and Ashley Barber, Mitchell, Face painting

Wed. July 13 - 10:30 am & 6:00 pm – Corn Palace Plaza

Michael Albert, Collage Artist from New York

Wed. July 20 – 10:30 am & 6:00 am – Location TBA

***Summer Storytime***

Weekly Storytimes for younger children (every Thursday at 10:30 am at Hitchcock Park)

Bilingual Storytime (bi-weekly at Corn Palace Plaza or Library)

***Reading Incentives***

Incentives include books from Scholastic Literacy Partnership, ice cream from area businesses, and small toys from Oriental Trading Company.

NOTE: In the past, Dairy Queen provided a generous number of free ice cream treats as reading incentives. This year, DQ Corporation (Fourteen Foods) will only provide a limited number of coupons. As a result, I’m asking local businesses (Culvers, Zestos, County Fair, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Lawler) for additional ice cream incentives.

**AND...**

On Thursday, April 14, I received a text and photograph from a former Thursday Storytime mom.

Here's the background:

Every week, Rebecca (the mom) and her 2 ½ year old son came to Thursday Storytime from Lake Andes. Sadly, they moved to Cape May, New Jersey last week.

On Thursday (same day as Storytime!), Rebecca sent us this photograph with this message: "We made it to NJ and Barrett got his first library card! Missing all our SD library friends."

After asking if I could share the photo with the Board, she wrote: "You are more than welcome to share the photo. After all, his love of the library started with you all."

I believe that "you all" includes more than the Storytime community; it includes our wonderful library staff, director, board, and community. We do make a difference in children's lives.

