

## Librarian's Report October 2015

Wendy Wright, Library Director

### Children's & Teen Programming:

- Madison Lundberg and Nicky Davis put on a fantastic **Summer Reading Club** for local children and 'tweens this summer, culminating in a Wrap-Up Party & Medal Ceremony attended by Deputy Mayor Gladys Atrill. Parents submitted positive written feedback about their children reading every day, discovering new interests, and making new friends through the Club.
- **Babytime** and **ToddlerTime** (formerly called Mother Goose on the Loose) and **Storytime** programs began in late September.
- September 19 was **International Talk Like a Pirate Day**. Staff and youngsters celebrated by dressing and talking like pirates at a themed storytime with pirate crafts and tasty gold doubloons. Three cheers for Nicky who lead everyone in rousing sea shanties during a feisty storytime, and for good sports Bronwyn, Melissa, and Will who donned pirate garb to get into the spirit of things. Arrr!
- Children ages 2-10, plus a teen volunteer, enjoyed the **Cardboard Challenge** in early October. The purpose of the program is to encourage children's creativity, imagination, and innovation through inviting them to build whatever they can dream up out of cardboard and tape. Robot costumes were the most popular creations this year, along with Minecraft characters, a house with a covered porch, and a delightful farm complete with a barn, fence, and animals. Thanks to Home Hardware, Speedee, Kondolas Furniture, Dan's Source for Sports, SportChek, and Totem Audio Video for contributing boxes.
- **Teen Night**, funded by the **United Way**, started up again in mid-October. Olivia Bartsoff of the United Way informed us that several parents of teens who attend our program have submitted positive written feedback to her agency.
- A **Zombie** program for older children and teens will take place on the school district's non-instructional day in October.
- Thursday afternoon **LEGO** time is recovering its popularity as we move into autumn.

### Adult Programs:

- **Shelley Worthington** led a non-partisan **Civic Literacy** discussion in early October. The information session was aimed at new voters, people desiring clarification of government structure and the election process, and anyone wishing to know how they can impact their community through political channels. 10 people attended, including several teens.
- **Sarah de Leeuw** read from her much-anticipated new poetry book titled "**Skeena**" about the Skeena River in October. Interior Stationery sold books at the event.
- Local veterinarian **Kim Hunter** presented a talk and slideshow on **Body Talk for Animals** in September.

### Outreach:

- The library participated in the **Fall Fair Parade**, delighting children (and some parents) with special guest Geronimo Stilton, a character from the popular book series. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for purchasing 500 Geronimo stickers, to the young volunteers who handed them out to the crowd, and of course to Geronimo himself!
- The library and Friends of the Library maintained a booth at the **Bulkley Valley Exhibition** displaying information about local interests, the Friends, and the proposed multi-purpose building. Many people stopped to inquire about the town's plans for a new library and/or the multi-purpose building. The unanimous feedback was that a multi-purpose building is a smart idea that they will support, primarily citing

less walking for seniors between services; a smaller environmental impact; and cost savings. One Smithers teen joined the Friends during the exhibition in hopes that he can help the library create a Makerspace in the new, larger building.

- The library partnered with **Smithers Community Services Association** in a Literacy Tent at the **Farmers' Market** to celebrate International Literacy Day in September. Nicky put on a stellar, well-attended Storytime on the performers' stage while Tanya from Lokks Hair Salon gave free haircuts to children in exchange for reading her a story.
- **Clubs Day** coincided with the Farmers' Market Literacy Tent. The library had a display at Clubs Day with posters and pamphlets promoting our free programs for children, 'tweens and teens.

### Partnerships:

- **AFFNO** (Association des francophones et francophiles du Nord-Ouest) joined the library to promote their lending library of popular French books to the community in **August and September**. The September event included a French storytime; an hour-long performance by professional storyteller Anne Glover in French, English, and sign language; and delicious refreshments. Approximately 35 people attended the event, connecting with French books and building community among French language speakers in the area.
- On October 3 the **Breastfeeding Challenge** was held on the library's patio for the second year in a row. This partnership between the Pregnancy Outreach Program at the Society for Domestic Peace, public health nurses at Northern Health, and the library aims to raise awareness of the important health benefits of breastfeeding and normalise breastfeeding in public. Public health nurses distributed information about breastfeeding and answered questions before a group latch-on at 11:00 a.m.
- **Elections Canada** set up an information booth in the library on October 16 to distribute pamphlets and answer questions about ridings, required identification, and voting locations.

### After Hours Use for July/August/September:

- Attendance at the thrice monthly **Smithers Tabletop Gaming** and **Magic: The Gathering** has grown steadily, drawing 20 to 34 people each week. The **Friends of the Library** surprised appreciative gamers with pizza one night in October.
- The Friends of the Library's **Scrabble** group took a break over the summer and resumed in October. Scrabble will now be held on Tuesday evenings while the library is open.
- The monthly **Book Club** has reconvened at the library after a summer sabbatical.

### Technology:

- The library's new **mini 3-D printer** has been immensely popular. Surprisingly, the largest group of users have been children aged 8-12. Word of mouth has spread through the homeschooling community, public and private schools, and high school. Some children who have been taught to use the printer by staff are now teaching their friends and siblings, while others meet with the library's Computer Tutor to learn about 3-D design software and create their own printable objects. Families visiting to use the printer discover and borrow the five Technology Kits acquired last spring. Parents and grandparents accompanying the children are delighted to see them learning new skills. "What a wonderful addition to a library!" one patron enthused, while others thanked us for making all of these new technologies available to the community.
- A **mobile 3-D scanner and iPad** have been purchased with a \$1,500.00 grant from **Seabridge Gold**. Will, our Computer Tutor, is teaching himself how it works in order to train staff and patrons. The scanner will be available for public use sometime in November.

### Materials and Services:

- **IndieFlix** is a new movie streaming service available to Smithers' library patrons. Visit our website with your library barcode and an email address to watch over 7,000 independent films and short from around the world in the comfort of your own home. An Internet connection is necessary for viewing the films.
- A new **ethnography of the Wet'suwet'en nation** has been ordered and will be available in November.

## Publicity:

- **3-D printer and Scanner** -- **CFTK-TV** story; **MooseFM** interview, Facebook, and MyBulkleyLakesNow story; **Interior News** story and photo; **CICK** interview. **CBC Daybreak North** discussed our 3-D printer and Technology Kits, holding Smithers' Library up as an example of a modern library changing to stay relevant to their community, then tweeted about the printer and kits and began following our Facebook page.
- **Pharmasave Beginning Readers Collection** -- MooseFM interview and MyBulkleyLakesNow story. *N.B.:* Only one of the 119 Usborne Readers purchased with the donation remained on the library's shelves by August 22; they had all been borrowed.
- **IndieFlix** -- MooseFM interview
- **Cardboard Challenge** -- Moose FM interview, Interior News photo
- **Civic Literacy presentation** -- MooseFM interview

## Staff:

- **Melissa Sawatsky** is now sharing the position of LAII: Public Relations with Kathy Spiro and has been hired as the library's first Program & Events Coordinator, a temporary position generously funded by **Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation**.
- **Nicky Davis**, our Children's & Youth Programmer, has added a permanent weekly front desk shift to her duties.

## Training & Professional Development:

- All staff have been trained on searching, downloading, and printing out objects on the **3-D printer**.
- Wendy W. participated in webinars on **collection development; funding and fundraising; modern models of outreach; conflict resolution and communication; and employment law**.
- Nicky participated in a webinar on **programming for babies and toddlers**.
- Lynnda participated in a webinar on assisting patrons seeking **legal information regarding end-of-life issues**.
- The Smithers Library presented a session at the **North Coast Library Federation's fall conference** in Prince Rupert about the various new technologies we have made available to our community. Wendy W., Nicky, and Kathy S. attended conference sessions on programming and improving library service to First Nations. Board co-chair Wally Bergen and director Wendy W. participated in a workshop on recruiting board members.

## Library Operations:

- Staff have begun an extensive **weed** of the non-fiction section, relegating outdated or unused items to the Friends' Book Sale.
- One of the children's **iPads was stolen** in September. **BC Web** has kindly replaced it at a discounted price and new security cases have been installed.