

## Librarian's Report – November 2014

Wendy Wright, Library Director

### Adult Programs and Events:

- **In Our Backyard** – The Wellness Options series continues on November 17 with presentations on raw food, fermented foods, and meditation. 10 people attended October's presentation.
- **Knitting Circle** (weekly) — New participants are still arriving to join a small group of regulars. Bethany Duff of Steeped Teas provided refreshments at one session. October attendees: 15
- **Author Reading** – local writer and publisher Sheila Peters read from *Shafted*, her new mystery novel set in Smithers, then discussed the writer's craft with six attendees.
- **Great BC Shakeout** - On October 16, staff and parents at Mother Goose on the Loose participated in a province-wide mock earthquake drill, learning how to stay safer in the event of an emergency.
- **Dorothy Giesbrecht** entertained library patrons with her cello November 6 as a promotion for the Bulkley Valley Concert Association's production of *Highgate*.

### After Hours Use for October:

- **Scrabble** (thrice monthly) 19 attendees
- **Smithers Tabletop Gaming** (thrice monthly) 14 attendees
- **Book Club** (monthly) 4 attendees

### Children's Programming:

- **Mother Goose on the Loose** (MGOL) and **Family Storytime** were well-attended in October with 202 participants. Parents of older children enjoy browsing and socialising over tea during Storytime.
- **LEGO Thursdays** – 32 kids trekked to the library to play and build in October.
- **Global Cardboard Challenge** – Our first-ever Cardboard Challenge was very successful, with 19 children and parents participating. Everyone from toddlers to intermediate students built and collaborated with boxes and tape generously donated by Home Hardware and SpeeDee. The kids decided to create a giant robot, two rocket ships, and private "reading and colouring nooks". Next year we will extend this program to three hours, as once they got going, nobody wanted to stop.
- **Hallowe'en party** -- The library hosted spooky fun for 6- 10-year-olds on SD54's October 24 Non-instructional Day. Activities included an elaborate scavenger hunt for clues and spells – literally – since the clues were used to spell a secret word. 28 children and parents attended, in costume.
- **School Art Display** – The wonderful artwork of St. Joseph's School students is on display in the Children's Room for the month of November. Come on in and have a look!

### Teen & Youth Programming:

- Attendance at Drop-in Art Night is growing. Dungeons & Dragons continues to be popular, with D&D players petitioning for weekly sessions. Olivia Bartsoff of Teen Night funder the United Way of Northern BC visited the library to review the program in October. Thanks to the United Way for their ongoing support.

### Staff:

- The library's **Computer Tutoring Service** is in full swing, and feedback is glowing. Recipients of this service have called and messaged the library on Facebook to let them know how much they appreciate it. The Government of Canada partially funds Adam's position for half the year.
- Staff training continues with Adam demonstrating how to access audiobooks for print-disabled patrons through the National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS).

### **Strategic Planning:**

- Staff, Board, Friends, and Smithers' Mayor participated in a strategic planning session on October 25. The Board will now proceed to create a work plan from the shared input of everyone at the session.

### **Friends of Smithers Public Library:**

- The Friends gathered in October to create a new Strategic Forward for 2014-2015.
- The Friends' **Annual Book Sale** was held at the Legion this year, generating an astounding \$4346.61. Thanks to the many Friends who organized this event.

### **Building:**

- Thanks to the Town of Smithers for the new coat of paint on the library. Thanks also to the Friends of Smithers Library, Hy-Tech Drilling, and the Town of Smithers for the beautiful new banners, sign, and lighting.
- The relocation of a greenhouse used in Smithers Community Services Association (SCSA) literacy programming to the park beside the library has been approved in principle by the Town.

### **Technology:**

- The library will receive a Community Connector grant from Spectra Energy in the amount of \$5,000 to purchase three iPads pre-loaded with early literacy apps for the children's room.

### **Community Needs Assessments and Partnerships:**

- The director met with SD54 Trades Coordinator Monica Strimbold to discuss possible partnerships for the future. The school district needs a permanent space to house equipment and teach classes that support trades skills. Public library "Makerspaces" to be shared by local schools and the general public were discussed.
- The library will once again partner with SCSA by accepting donations of non-perishable food in lieu of money for overdue fines December 1-13. The food, plus any monies collected for overdue fines during this period, will be donated to SCSA's Christmas hamper program.
- The director met with a representative of a local homeschooling group to discover how the library can support their needs. Requests ranged from specific materials to developing children's programming that is not age-specific for full family inclusivity.
- The library joined the Bulkley Valley Literacy Coalition's strategic planning session in early November. The Coalition pools resources and knowledge to support literacy in the region.