

Librarian's Report – October 2014

Wendy Wright, Library Director

The library was indeed well-used by the community last month, with circulation up over September 2013 by **46%**! Thanks to the staff and volunteers who rose to the challenge of keeping up with the constant flow of children's books. Many families rediscovered the library as an informal learning resource, while others enjoyed the chance to get out of the house and visit a welcoming public space.

Adult Programs and Events:

- **In Our Backyard** – The Wellness Options series continues on October 20 with presentations on chiropractic care for children and hypnotherapy. 17 people attended September's presentation, with 4 driving from Hazelton to hear the speakers.
- **Knitting Circle** (weekly)—Since September 18, 12 people have dropped by to work on their projects Thursday evenings between 6 and 8 pm, informally sharing ideas, helping each other, and chatting. Highlights include a senior teaching a 9-year-old a new technique, another senior saying she drives from 30 km away to see old friends and meet new people at the circle, mothers of young children taking social time for themselves, and attendees teaching the library director how to knit.
- **Breastfeeding Challenge** -- 28 people (10 moms with children and partners) attended an October 4 event on the library's patio. Organized by Smithers Pregnancy Outreach, the Challenge was intended to raise awareness of the health benefits of breastfeeding and encourage this practice by normalizing breastfeeding in public. Informational literature was available, and two Public Health nurses, a representative from Pregnancy Outreach, and a lactation consultant were present to answer questions and provide assistance to mothers.

After Hours Use:

- **Scrabble** now shares a time slot with the **Smithers Tabletop Gaming** group, encouraging intergenerational community-building between people with related interests.
- A **Book Club** continues to meet at the library once per month.

Children's Programming:

- **Mother Goose on the Loose** (MGOL) and **Family Storytime** began September 24 and are off to a strong start, with 55 and 21 participants respectively in the first week alone.
- **LEGO Thursdays** are very popular, with families showing up at 3 pm sharp just for the chance to build and play. The program already has regular attendees, and one child brought some of his own pieces to use with the library's collection. Small children, parents, and 'tweens alike participate.
- **International Talk Like a Pirate Day**—Visitors to the library on September 19 were in for a silly surprise. Staff dressed up and encouraged patrons to talk like pirates with the aid of a handy list of pirate phrases, then rewarded them with gold doubloons. Children enjoyed pirate mazes, word searches, and a draw. One toddler who returned the following week was clearly disappointed to find staff dressed in regular clothes. We will build upon this theme with more children's programming next year.
- **Global Cardboard Challenge** – Kids: Join in this celebration of child creativity. Build something out of cardboard and recycled materials, then bring it to the library to show others on October 18 from 4-5 pm. Participants will collaborate on building an enormous... something – together!
- October 24 is a Non-instructional Day for SD54. Ages 6-10 are invited to a Hallowe'en party from 10-11 am.

Teen & Youth Programming:

- On October 10, members of the local band **Split Seconds** jammed with teens and 'tweens. Upcoming Teen Night activities funded by the United Way include art, technology, crafts, and Dungeons & Dragons.

Technology:

- A new screen, projector, and portable sound system for presentations have arrived. Electrical work for the project will begin in November. The equipment can be used with extension cords in the meantime, and the staff is already excited about programming possibilities.

Collection:

- Congratulations and thanks to Dolores Alfred, Charrine Naziel-Lace, Carmen Paola Redunante, and Amanda Lewis for donating their newly published books to the library. Two are traditional stories told by local elders, and three are first readers. All titles are in Wit'suwit'en and English with pronunciation keys.

Staff:

- Adam Koch has been hired as the library's **Student Computer Tutor**, and will begin taking appointments mid-October. Adam is available to assist the public with computer questions; teach people how to use the library's catalogue and eResources (eBooks, eAudiobooks, and databases); and promote the library's eResources to the community. The Government of Canada partially funds Adam's position.
- Individual staff training continues with one-on-one eBook practice sessions for staff and advanced reporting webinars for the director. Two staff members and the director will attend a cataloguing workshop in Terrace on October 18.
- Corry Tremblay, Board Chair, will attend a North Coast Library Federation meeting October 18. Bruce Hutchinson, Trustee, will attend a Trustee Orientation Program October 19. Both take place in Terrace.
- Staff, Board, Friends of the Library and the Mayor of Smithers will attend a strategic planning session on October 25 to reexamine the library's role in the community and determine our future direction.

Friends of Smithers Public Library:

- The Friends' **Annual Book Sale**, an important source of revenue for the library, will tentatively be held October 30-November 1 in a Main St. building TBA.