

Librarian's Report February 2015

Wendy Wright, Library Director

Stats (January 2015):

- Visitors = 5,423
- Total items circulated = 8,727
- Public computer and WiFi sessions = 1,280

Author Event:

- Author **Richard Wagamese** gave a free public presentation on February 12 at the Roi Theatre, sponsored by School District 54 Aboriginal Education, Smithers Bridging Committee, Embrace BC, and the Smithers Public Library. This exciting opportunity drew **80** people. Mr. Wagamese is the author of poetry, novels, and non-fiction. His novel *Indian Horse* won the People's Choice award in the 2013 Canada Reads competition.

Partnership Presentations -- Family Literacy Week programs and events:

The library partnered with Smithers Community Services Association, MOST for Children, Smithers Community Police and community volunteers to present the following exciting roster of events for Family Literacy Week (January 26-30) and Family Play Day (January 31). Thanks to Smithers Interior News for creating the Family Literacy week poster.

- **Early Literacy Apps for Kids** – An introduction to high-quality apps that can be used to engage and support young children as they learn the alphabet and phonics; numbers and math; colours, shapes, and sizes; and handwriting.
- **Your Online Presence: Social Media Safety and Conduct for All Ages**– Matt Davey of Smithers Community Police led a discussion of what leads people to take risks online and how to stay safe.
- **Community Bedtime Stories** -- Community members Phil Briennesse, Norma Stokes, Glenda Patterson, and Cathryn Olmstead shared their favourite bedtime stories with a room full of appreciative, pyjama-clad children and their parents (**25** attendees). Everyone enjoyed a delicious snack prepared by Smithers Community Services Association's Ground 2 Griddle Neighbourhood Kitchen program. At the suggestion of enthusiastic attendees, the library will repeat this event next year.

- **Family Play Day:**

139 children and parents dropped by the library's table at the Dze L K'ant Hall to make a literacy-based craft and learn about free programs.

Teen & Youth Programming & Services:

- Teen Night resumed with a movie night and 26 youth attending Dungeons & Dragons, including some new faces after Wanda's December visit to Smithers Secondary School.

Children's Programming:

- **Mother Goose on the Loose (MGOL)** – 45 participants
- **Family Storytime** -- 46 attendees
- **LEGO Thursdays** – 24 builders

After Hours Use for December/January:

- **Smithers Beekeeping Club** -- 23
- **Smithers Tabletop Gaming** (thrice monthly) -- This club is growing in popularity, with **41** attendees over the past few weeks.
- **Scrabble (thrice monthly)** -- 15 attendees
- **Book Club** (monthly) -- 11 attendees

Community Needs Assessments:

- Wendy attended School District 54's *Hour of Code* education forum in January to learn whether local students would participate in the third annual event in October of 2015. The Hour of Code is a week-long educational promotion encouraging children to try fun, game-based tutorials that introduce the basic concepts of computer programming. In 2014, tens of millions of students in over 180 countries completed an hour of coding instruction. Notably, more girls received computer science training during the 2013 and 2014 Hour of Code events than over the past 70 years. The library is dedicated to literacy and lifelong learning, including digital literacy. Accordingly, the library will participate in the 2015 Hour of Code by inviting all ages to explore the array of tutorials for beginners using library computers and providing extracurricular opportunities for students to experiment with coding.

Technology:

- The Digital Early Literacy Station purchased with Spectra Energy's Community Connector grant is now installed in the children's room. Several families have asked the librarian to recommend and demonstrate educational apps specifically tailored to their child's level of progress. This new service in learning support has been dubbed "App Advisory" among librarians, and the Smithers Public Library is on the leading edge of providing this expertise to their community.
- The library's new website launched in mid-January at <http://smithers.bc.libraries.coop/>. (An automatic redirect to the new URL is in effect). Big thanks to Kathy Spiro who had the huge task of transferring content from the old website to the new. The new site has a sleeker, more modern look; more opportunities to showcase programs and new items; and will cost only \$5 more per month.

Friends of Smithers Public Library:

- The Smithers Interior News Digitization Committee has confirmed that Black Press intends to digitize their complete print run of the Smithers Interior News and post all back issues on the American subscription site Newspapers.com. Grant Harris, publisher of the Smithers Interior News, has generously pledged to pay the library's \$80 annual subscription fee to the newspaper database when the service becomes available, with the goal of ensuring free access for all community members. The Digitization Committee has agreed to disband and return all donations received towards their project.