

## Librarian's Report December 2015

Wendy Wright, Library Director

### Children's Programming:

- **Babytime** and **Toddertime** wrapped up with a party and will resume on January 11, 2016.
- **49** people had a fabulous time at the annual **Christmas Pyjama Storytime**, featuring Nicky's dramatic reading of *The Night Before Christmas*, songs, stories, seasonal snacks, a craft... and a visit from Santa himself!
- Thursday afternoon **LEGO** time is always popular.

### Teen & Tween Programming (*funded by the United Way of Northern BC*):

- **Dungeons & Dragons** for teens and tweens continues with a steady and insatiable following. The library receives requests for more D&D every month. Teens also created **Christmas crafts** one December evening.
- **29** teens and tweens had a blast at **Minecraft Mania**, held on a school non-instructional day. Participants alternated between playing Minecraft and making Minecraft-themed crafts while awaiting their turn on the computers. The library will hold more Minecraft programs in 2016 and purchase more laptops to replace our out-of-date models. Thanks to CBC radio for picking up on this event and spreading the word.
- The library participated in the international computer education initiative **Hour of Code** this December by holding an evening teen program of fun, game-based tutorials to teach beginner-level computer programming. Many local classrooms took part in the Hour of Code this year.
- Nicky, Children's & Youth Programmer, and Will, our Computer Tutor, had a table at Smithers Secondary School's **Christmas Craft Fair** to connect with local teens.

### Adult Programs:

- **Book Lovers' Night Out**, hosted by Melissa Sawatsky, enjoyed increased attendance at The Alpenhorn in its second month. This month's theme was war/conflict, and copies of *All My Puny Sorrows* by Miriam Toews were distributed to people who wish to discuss it at January's get-together.
- Local author **Jean Christian** led a reading and discussion of her new book *The Golden Path* with 13 attendees.

### All Ages Programming:

- Thanks to community volunteers Phil Brienesse; Jesse Hiemstra; and Vern, Madigan and Ivy Wright for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with the public during **Innovation Open House** in November. Thanks also to staff members Will, Ellena, and

Nicky for their demonstrations, and to the Friends of the Smithers Library for purchasing refreshments. Approximately **70** people came to see and learn about the range of technology available to them, with patrons placing holds on items during the event and Muheim Elementary reserving five technology kits for school use in mid-December.

#### **After Hours Use:**

- **Smithers Tabletop Gaming** and **Magic: The Gathering** hit a new high in early December with **49 attendees one evening**. Several people left because there were no chairs available, while many other gamers played on the floor.
- A traditional **Book Club** continues to meet at the library each month.

#### **Staff:**

- **Lynnda McDougall** has given up one of her weekly shifts on the front desk.
- **Children's & Youth Programmer Nicky Davis** has opted to switch roles from programming to the circulation and reference desk. Nicky, who holds library science and biology degrees, previously worked as a librarian at the Ottawa Public Library and loves helping people find what they are looking for. The vacant Children's & Youth Programmer position has been posted internally.

#### **3-D printer & scanner:**

- The Wednesday night gaming group has donated and installed a **locking tether** on the 3-D printer, which is once again back in service. The printer has been in constant use.
- The **Bulkley Valley Museum** plans to use the 3-D scanner and printer to replicate fragile artifacts so the public can handle the copies for closer examination.
- A **teacher** with an interest in entomology is considering scanning and printing insects for her class to handle and study.
- A **Learning Centre** student brought her instructor and classmate for a training session led by herself. All three will book a group 3-D scanner training session after the holidays.
- Two children have visited to **make presents** for friends and family on the 3-D printer, and last week library staff taught a grade 1 student how to use the printer.

#### **Computer Tutoring Service:**

The **Town of Smithers, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, and Federal Government** have made a significant difference in the lives of local residents through funding this service. Here are a few impact stories from 2015:

- A life-long **prospector** was taught how to use the computer drafting program required by the government to submit a claim, now accepted only electronically. Without learning this skill, he would not have been able to continue to earn his livelihood.
- A **homebound 91-year-old** woman receives computer tutoring sessions to assist with keeping in touch via email; troubleshooting; and deepening her understanding of the World Wide Web.
- An elderly gentleman who wishes to share stories from his life is learning to type and use Microsoft Word in order to **write his memoirs**.
- A local resident with few computer skills attended weekly sessions for months, learning to Skype with friends and family in his homeland; use Google Maps to plan travel routes;

book flights online; and use the translate feature on his phone to understand foreign languages. He is now **travelling the world** using these skills learned at the library.

#### **Library Operations:**

- The library board presented their **2016 funding request** to the Town of Smithers and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in early December.
- Canada Post has announced a **5% increase** for 2016 in the Book Rate shipping charges used by the library for interlibrary loans.
- Smithers will join an **expanded sharing zone** in January 2016. This will allow patrons to view the holdings of more BC libraries when searching for a title and easily place a hold on items to be shipped to the Smithers library for their use. We anticipate a dramatic increase in circulation and shipping charges with this move.
- The crawlspace has been insulated; the upgrade project is complete.

#### **Community Needs Assessments:**

- The director attended the **School District's Education Forum** about their Maker Days initiative set for winter 2016, as well as a **Bulkley Valley Literacy Coalition** meeting to keep abreast of developments in our community's education and service networks. The library is supporting local students as the district increases the use of **iPads** in the classroom; offers a regular **computer programming** course for the first time; transforms one of their portables into a hands-on trades **makerspace** for elementary students; and selects **technology kits, including robotics**, for one of their elementary schools.