

Monthly Stats (January 2016)

- Circulation **8,874**
- Visitors **5,727**
- Public computer and WiFi sessions **1,633**

Children's & Youth Programming

- A big thank you to **Sieghard Weitzel** of Outdoor Essentials and his **guide dog Radar**. 15 people visited the library on a Saturday afternoon during Family Literacy Week to "**Read With Radar**". Some children enjoyed reading aloud, while parents of shy children read to Radar and their children.
- The **United Way of Northern BC** funded a popular **Minecraft** program for children, teens and 'tweens on the school district's February non-instructional day. Around 30 kids ages 6-12 took turns playing the computer game and creating Minecraft posters for an ongoing contest. It was heartening to see so many of the older children teaching the younger ones how to play.
- Regular **Babytime, Toddlertime, Storytime and LEGO** programs continue. Storytime was switched to Thursdays for the winter/spring session to avoid conflict with another program in town; unfortunately, the new day conflicts with other programs and attendance has dropped. It will move back to Wednesdays for the fall session.
- The new schedule of rotating **teen games nights** funded by the United Way is being greeted with enthusiasm by attendees.

Adult Events

- **Book Lovers' Night Out** met at the Aspen Riverhouse's fireside lounge to share good reads on the subject of romance. Next month the group returns to The Alpenhorn to discuss *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg. Watch for the group's personal recommendations on display in the library.

Outreach

- The library participated in **Family Play Day** at the Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre's hall with a fun craft for kids and information about children's programs.
- The library reached out to an organizer with the **Syrian Refugee Group**, describing services and materials to assist newcomers to the community and inviting the families for a tour.

Community Needs Assessments

- The director met with **Broadway Place** shelter staff and spoke with a **Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre** representative about barriers and solutions around Internet access for their clients.

After Hours Use

- The Wednesday night **games groups** have outgrown the library's space. Smithers Tabletop Gaming will now be held on Wednesday evenings and Magic: The Gathering on Sunday afternoons.
- A long-running **Book Club** meets at the library once a month.
- Two **exam invigilations** and an Access Smithers **meeting** were held before opening hours.

Funding

- The Friends of the Smithers Library have been hard at work raising funds within our supportive community. The following organizations have made generous donations:
 - **MOST for Children** has pledged \$500 for books and craft supplies to enrich programming for ages 0-6, and
 - The **Bulkley Valley Community Foundation** has pledged \$1,400 to purchase five more circulating technology kits (Dash & Dot robots; three different Little Bits circuitry kits; and a Snap Circuits Rover).

Publicity

- Staff member **Melissa Sawatsky** promoted the library program **Book Lovers' Night Out** as a guest speaker on **CICK Radio's Art Beat** program.

Professional Development & Training

- All staff have viewed a webinar on **managing challenging patron behaviour**. The director has participated in webinars on **how small libraries can deliver community value, re-visioning public libraries**, and our library's computerized **circulation** system.
- Thanks to the **Smithers RCMP** for attending the library's January staff meeting to advise us on safety, loss prevention, and handling incidents. The library has been a target for thieves recently and is taking steps to improve safety and security.