

Library Report July/August/September 2017  
Wendy Wright, Library Director

**Programs, Events & Community Outreach**

- The library partnered with the **Spirit of the North Classical Music Festival** in hosting **Orchestra North** on the patio and **"Children's songs with Jeremy"**.
- The second annual **Teddy Bear Sleepover** was hugely popular!
- An afternoon of **juggling workshops** & a public performance with CirqueWorks drew 92 attendees.
- The **3<sup>rd</sup>. Annual Campfire Cookout & Singalong** was fun for all ages, with a wiener roast, tug-o'-war, piñata, and singing. Thanks to the **Friends, Smithers Community Services Association**, and **BV Wholesale** for donating food; **New Directions Holdings Ltd.** for making the beautiful piñatas; the **BV Literacy Coalition** for free Witsuwit'en-English children's books to take home; and **Birdy Markert** for teaching staff the words to "Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes" in Witsuwit'en.





- SRC students visited Smithers playgrounds this summer with **Stories in the Park**, reading tales and distributing free books from SCSA.
- The library shared a **Literacy Tent** at the **Farmers' Market** in June with Summer Step-Up Tutoring. Summer Reading Club students provided a craft and Storytime to market-goers.
- Library staff put on a **scavenger hunt for 600 Girl Guides(!)** at this summer's SOAR Camp Fox Fest on the BV Fairgrounds.
- 100 people joined esteemed journalist and author **Gwynne Dyer** for his lecture "The Trump Era: Barking Up the Wrong Tree" at the Della Herman Theatre. His talk was followed by a Q&A and book-signing with Interior Stationery. Mr. Dyer's perspective kindled small group conversations lasting well into the night. The event was sponsored by the Northwest Library Federation and Hazelton Public Library, Smithers Secondary School, BV Museum and Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation.
- The **H.R. Macmillan Space Centre** held two workshops for children featuring **littleBits** circuitry and **Ozobots**, then donated a set of Ozobots to the library's collection of circulating Tech Kits.
- **AFFNO** (*Association des francophones et francophiles du Nord-Ouest*) visited our patio in September and read children's stories in French.
- The library's tent was at **Celebrating Together**, a one-day Indigenous music festival at Bovill Square. 120 people enjoyed having their faces painted.

- **Summer Reading Club** participants this year benefitted from the cultural enrichment brought to the program by Alannah Markert, our first **SRC Indigenous Student**. Many thanks to all of the sponsors for this position. Alannah wove Indigenous stories, crafts, speakers, artifacts, and language into the program, engaging the children and nurturing cross-cultural understanding within our community. This year's Medal Ceremony and Wrap-up Party had the highest attendance ever (80 people!)



- Our **BVX Parade** theme this year was the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Thanks to Alannah, Tina, and Sandra's Volunteers for enchanting the crowd with an imaginative float, and to the Friends of the Smithers Library for funding sticker giveaways.
- A new season of **Babytime, Toddlertime and Storytime** began in September. Already the Babytime program has outgrown the Children's Room, with **16 moms and 17 babies** at a September session.
- At the request of the **American Library Association** we submitted a **program model** of this June's Truth & Reconciliation in Our Community on their website to inspire other libraries and will present an **ALA webinar** about the event in November.

- Local entomologist and library volunteer **Ken White** shared his knowledge with SRC attendees at an exciting **butterfly release** event.



### **Ongoing Programming & Facility Usage**

- **The Gaming Group, Book Club, LEGO & KEVA** regular programs continue.
- **Book Lovers' Night Out** at the **Alpenhorn Pub** resumed in October, gaining new members.

### **Staff & Training**

- **Jessica Weeres** has joined our team as a Library Page.
- The director participated in webinars on collection development and building community partnerships, while some staff learned about database management, attended the web conference "Libraries of the Future", and an in-person conference for early childhood educators.

### **Reports & Funding**

- **BVEDA** sponsored Sphero programmable robots, building kits using gears for young children, and 3-D pens.

- The library's free community **Computer Tutoring** service is down to a skeleton schedule for the fall. Thanks to the **Bulkley Valley Economic Development Association** for keeping it going until 2018. This popular service is highly valued by many community members and we hope to find increased funding for it in the future.
- Due to reduced donor funding, the **United Way of Northern BC was unable to renew our teen program funding**. The annual **\$5,000** contribution from UWNBC has been the library's sole source of money for teen programming and its associated wage costs. As a result, regular teen programs such as Dungeons & Dragons are **cancelled**.
- **Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation** generously agreed to fund a **Program & Event Coordinator** again this year, enabling Melissa Sawatsky to return to the position. The next major project will be a Human Library in spring 2018.
- The first year of **Munchkin Storytime**, a summer program for babies, toddlers, and their caregivers funded by **Hy-Tech Drilling**, was well-attended and enthusiastically received. Parents reported how much they enjoyed sharing the songs at night time as a family, and a couple of grandparents attended as well. Two moms mentioned that they felt isolated and this program was their only social time. **Smithers Community Services Association** has committed **Literacy Outreach** funds to support this program in the summer of 2018.