

OCTOBER 2020 LIBRARY REPORT

September Statistics:

- 1585 Visitors
- 5551 Circulations of physical items
- 1867 Circulations of digital items (eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines)

Programs

- Sandra's weekly **online programs for babies, toddlers and preschoolers** are being well-received with many views and positive feedback. Videos are being posted on Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day to support families at home. As with the Summer Reading Club, participants may pick up a complimentary bag of craft supplies from the library and follow along with the weekly activities from home. Once a month Sandra presents an interactive **Pyjama Storytime** in real time via Facebook livestreaming.

Today during Preschool Playtime, Sandra and Pete have fun with apples and bananas. Find the video link below.
Reminder: Craft bags with supplies to participate in the weekly crafts are available for free at the library.



[YOUTUBE.COM](https://www.youtube.com)

Preschool Playtime Oct 14

- Sandra hosted a Zoom gathering for seven **VolunTeens** at the end of September which included the teens and 'tweens brainstorming ways to attract more members. The youth said they had a great time and are looking forward to the October meeting. These monthly virtual meetings are generously sponsored by Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation.
- **Book Lovers' Night Out**, also sponsored by Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation, was held in the library this month with social distancing and optional masks. Melissa reports that seven people attended and another four read the book but sent regrets for the meeting.



Community Partnerships

- The library was proud to assist with the **Municipal and Provincial all-Candidates Forums** hosted by the Smithers Chamber of Commerce and moderated by Thom Barker of the Smithers Interior News. Events such as these are immensely helpful for voters and a perfect fit for the library's role in our community. Libraries support democracy through access to information, empowering people to make educated decisions.
- Northern Health Public Health nurses have received a fresh selection of **150 Books for Babies kits**. Thanks to Public Health for distributing the kits to new families and to the Friends of the Smithers Library for funding the project. This year's board book is Yoga Baby by Amy Hovey and the CD is Say Hello to the Morning by Kathy Reid-Naiman.



Health & Safety

- In light of recent studies and recommendations from the BC Centre for Disease Control indicating the low risk of COVID-19 infection through touching surfaces, we have **ceased quarantining returned items** and **resumed displaying pamphlets** and handling small amounts of cash (**charging our regular rates** for printing, photocopying and faxes).
- Library staff appreciate the **Plexiglas** barrier at the front desk. Although it is more difficult to hear through the glass, it provides considerable protection. Staff wear masks or face shields if they must work closely with one another or patrons.
- In order to keep the building's occupancy down and maintain social distancing behind the front desk and in the stacks, we have not yet been able to invite our wonderful Library **Volunteers** back. We miss their cheerful presence and helping hands and look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Collection

- We have used part of our **Provincial Technology Grant** to purchase **extra copies of the eBooks (36) and eAudiobooks (9) with the highest number of holds on them**. Our patrons have access to eltems shared by patrons in dozens of BC libraries which gives them a wide selection to choose from but waitlists of 6-12 months for the most popular titles. Only Smithers Library patrons will be able to borrow the copies purchased with the Technology Grant, significantly reducing wait times for our patrons on these high-demand titles.
- Thanks to the **Bulkley Valley Credit Union** and the **Friends of the Smithers Library** for funding the purchase of the **Little People, Big Dreams** series of biographies for children. Watch for them to arrive in November.