#### **APRIL 2024 LIBRARY REPORT**

Spring break means more time to read kids' books! **3,660 books for children and teens** were borrowed in March. The library was hopping with families reading together, playing board games, building with LEGO, and exploring our children's iPads while teens and 'tweens played computer games together or curled up with a book in the Teen aisle.

**32 people (18 children and 14 adults)** crammed into the Children's Room for the April 10 **Preschool Storytime**. More than one person was heard to remark **"We need a bigger library!"** Babytime, Toddlertime and Preschool Storytime has now ended for the season.

One local family checked out 100 children's books! With the average price of a hardcover picture book at \$22.50, that's a savings of \$2,250 in one visit. Their mother said she likes to borrow books so she doesn't have to read the same stories over and over again.



**Josée Gulayets** returned to lead a second **Art Therapy** session for teens, generously donating her time to provide this popular program. Thanks to Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation for supporting VolunTEENS.



The Tri-River Métis Association and Métis Nation British Columbia presented an **Elder Storytime** at the library during spring break. Thanks to these two organisations and their volunteers for the wonderful event, food, and their donation of a **Métis culture kit** for library members to borrow.



65 people attended the screening of Champions, a partnership event with Torben Schuffert, organiser of the Shine Together Project; the library; and the EdGE **Learning Centre**. The room was full, the vibe was jovial, and lots of folks stepped up to help with setup and takedown. After the movie, one attendee came up to library staff member Melissa, shook her hand, and said: "Thank you for doing this. That was amazing."

# Representation matters!



Organizer Torben Schuffert is screening Champions to show the community that Special Olympics athletes and other people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are amazing, capable individuals.













**RBC** staff assisted with the library's Story Nest, serving snacks to 20 kids and caregivers. (A young moose stopped by as well.) RBC also **donated \$1,500** towards the purchase of the new children's books through the Friends of the Smithers Library!







Joan Conway read from her memoir of healing, Weave As a River. This book tenderly reveals how an unexpected crisis can invigorate and shed new light on the stories that have shaped us. Jean Christian accompanied her for the poetic component of the evening. Joan was a lovely and generous reader who followed her reading up with a self-led Q&A that was very engaging. There were some transcendent moments as she read some of the poetry excerpts alongside Jean's improvised harp playing.



**Hilary Crowley** gave a reading and presentation detailing her experiences and adventures while living and working in South Africa. Hilary offered us a view into her *Mini Saga in South Africa*, which encompasses an over-arching message to seize every opportunity that comes our way.

## **Other News**

The Library's 2023 financial records have been submitted to the Town of Smithers for auditing.

Thanks to **Goodacre Place** and the **Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre** for leading library staff on tours of their facilities, programs and extensive services.

The Library has reserved a booth at the May 3-4 Northwest Trade Expo.

The Library Assistant II: Summer Reading Club Coordinator position has been posted.

Health, safety and accessibility building **renovations** are completed except for three exterior ramps, to be poured when the weather warms up. Thanks to the **province of BC** for the funding and **Glentana Contracting** and their sub-contractors for a job well done!

#### **KITCHEN BEFORE & AFTER**





## **WATER FOUNTAIN BEFORE & AFTER**



