

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT August 2008

Activity Summary

- ✓ Summer Reading activities wind down as preparations for the start of a new school year begin.
- ✓ It's been a month of well-deserved staff vacations and other planned absences. Hats off to the spirit of teamwork that kept the libraries running smoothly in spite of that—great job!
- ✓ The LCLD Foundation board meets Friday August 15th in Moscow. Agenda items include a report on the progress of a planned 2009 fundraiser and an update on a business marketing campaign.
- ✓ On August 14th I attended the VALNet Directors' meeting in Lewiston. The Washington-Idaho Network of Libraries (WIN) sent two representatives to elaborate on plans to increase the visibility of the WIN-Borrow service and discuss proposed upgrades and changes to the library consortium software.
- ✓ I returned from the San Jose residency program on August 11th. The two courses taught during the residency, Interpersonal Communications and Information Organizations and Management, were led by outstanding faculty and I feel very fortunate to have attended. The graduate program workload is heavier than I had been led to expect, however, and it will be a challenge to stay on top of assignments.
- ✓ Access Services Manager George Williams submitted a column to the Daily News and Latah Eagle.
- ✓ The committee to investigate heat pumps for installation at the Potlatch library did not meet in July.
- ✓ The library continues to work with Washington-Idaho Network staff on the first batch update of our library's holdings in the OCLC WorldCat catalog.

Department and Branch Reports

Outreach Services – Betsy Bybell

- Summer Reading continued at a breath-taking pace with storytimes, programs for Adventure Club at McDonald School, and storytelling programs for Genesee, Moscow, Deary and Bovill libraries. Handed out prize books to 381 finishers at 9 daycares. Helped Cathy with final spider party at Moscow.
- PIH reports and ILLs continued. Rewrote procedures for ILLs and trained George on those duties in preparation for 6 week recovery period from surgery.
- I'll be back in mid-September, ready to begin the round of fall storytimes, reference desk, and regular duties.
- Numbers for outreach visits for July are particularly high because I delivered the prize books the last week of July, instead of in August as I normally would.

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- ❖ Summer reading is going fine. Three programs this month with 53 children and adults in attendance. Everyone enjoyed watching our praying mantis egg hatch, our butterflies and our ladybugs hatch and fly away. The Palouse Discovery Science Center had a great program with their walking sticks and hissing cockroaches. Betsy put on a great show as always and the Bovill EMT's came to talk to the kids about summertime safety issues and each child received a new bike helmet.
- ❖ The computers are always busy and many times I have a waiting list for computer time.
- ❖ My volunteers are great as always with helping me shelve and do the weeding. We recently rearranged the JE section to make more room and spread things out so the shelves don't seem so full.
- ❖ Otherwise business as usual.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- July usually starts out quiet with no Summer Reading Program scheduled for the 4th. I had a medical emergency that resulted in a trip to the emergency room and a couple tests, so that week and the next are

pretty much a blur. I see a neurologist in Lewiston on August 11th. June and Gina kindly worked for me and kept things moving well. We have good people to work with!

- Summer Reading was very well attended in July. We had 4 programs with 43 adults and 164 children. The kids listened to "Batsy" the Storyteller, got tours through the ambulance and firetruck, loved the presentation from the Palouse Science Center, and were excited to win prizes and books at the final party hosted by Deary Friends of the Library. Avery Proctor won the hornet kite and was very pleased!
- More next month!

Genesee Branch Report – Sharon Steiger

- July has been very busy here, just as June was.
- Summer reading activities on Wednesdays as well as maintaining story time for the younger children have kept the library a busy place.
- I really appreciated having Corlene here on Wednesdays to help with the desk and the piles of books going out as well as coming in.
- 91 children signed up for the program. At this point 67 finished up by meeting their reading goal and claiming their prize book. Program attendance was good.
- I had local people as program guests either reading or leading a craft activity. The children were very receptive to this and I liked having these people be a part of what's happening here.
- As usual the computers get heavy use and many people are taking advantage of our "hotspot". People bring in their laptops and I've noticed during closed hours when I'm out and about that people are parked in front of the library or in the lane working away on their laptops.
- I was able to get a big paperback order done in between book rotations and all the regular chores. People will be happy when the new paperbacks start arriving just as they are when we do a movie rotation.
- We'll see what August brings.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- ❖ Summer reading dominated the month of July. We have 93 kids registered this year. They can continue to read until August 25 to get their prize book and a couple of local food coupons. Final numbers on finishers will be reported at that time when all the names of those who finished will go into a drawing for special prizes.
- ❖ Summer reading programs this month included:
 - July 10- Buggy crafts. We had six different bug crafts for the kids to do and take home. 20 kids and 10 adults attended.
 - July 18- The Idaho Repertory Theater group presented the musical "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" to an audience of 51 kids and 49 adults. Because of the small space at the library we had this program at the Centennial Park located a short distance down the road from the library. The outdoor venue was great and the play was a huge success.
 - July 24- Katrina from the 4-H extension office came down in place of Bonnie Waldemarson, who has taken a job with the Disney Corp. Unfortunately, Katrina knew very little about bugs but she did a short program on the sense of smell and how bugs use this sense. Then we made butterflies. Our butterflies that were in our butterfly gardens were also released at the Centennial Park a few days before this program.
 - Our final program on July 31 was the picnic and swimming party at the Kendrick Park which was attended by 32 kids and 14 adults. Once our final prize drawing is held on August 25 summer reading will be wrapped up for another year!

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- We had great attendance for 3 programs in July with 128 kids and 51 adults. After having 63 people for the Palouse Discovery Science Center program, I realized I needed more room for the Idaho Repertory Theatre's final program and quickly arranged to have it in the high school gym. They did a tremendous job! George came out and worked the circulation desk during the performance and then we had a very cute

cake (on the website) and a drawing for some great prizes including an IPOD Nano Shuffle provided by the Friends.

- This is a comment I received from a patron via email *"I also wanted to tell you that the kids have loved all of the programs this year. They are going to be bummed that this is the last one. Thank you for such a great library program!"* It is going to be hard to top the bug theme.
- I have 181 signed up for SR and 74 have finished. They have until the end of August to fulfill their contract.
- I have started to clean up the workroom and begin to prepare Storytime programs that will start on September 5th.
- It has been pretty comfortable in the library with the temperature not being as hot as last year and cooler nights. Hopefully this will continue through August!
- The ants are gone but the grasshoppers have moved in!

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ✓ The Fred Meyer books were delivered and the kids are enjoying them as prizes for Summer Reading Program
- ✓ I used my two hours of staff development time to go to the Potlatch Library. I came home with a lot of good ideas from Donna. Cross-library sharing is a good idea.
- ✓ Troy Old-timer's Day was the 19th. We had a book sale during the 2 hours that the Library was open. The Girl Scouts helped set it up. Angela Rich and her grandchildren entered a float in the parade for the Library. They threw candy and "bugs".
- ✓ The Friends of the Library decided to have the patrons fill out a survey to get the community's opinion of what they would like the Library to look like inside. It will be interesting to see the outcome.
- ✓ We are doing a book reviews from the patrons. They can fill out the review forms and I will post them.
- ✓ Summer Reading: One of my presenters did not show. First time this has happened. One of the mother's volunteered to read bugs stories and I threw together a craft. The kids did not suspect a thing was wrong. The final program was Thursday the 31. We had raffle prizes and treats provided by the Troy Friends. The kids have until school starts to finish their goals.
- ✓ Puzzle update: It is hanging on the wall in the children's section. Very nice!
- ✓ We are proud to have on display the Palouse Empire Girls Softball Association trophy. The trophy was won by the girl's softball team in Troy; they are the JR League Tournament Champions of 2008.