

# Latah County Library District

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT August 2009

### Activity Summary

- Summer Reading Program (SRP) activities are wrapping up throughout the district as school approaches.
- Youth Services Manager Cathy Ensley is writing thank-you notes to her 25 SRP volunteers. She will meet with Paul Gathercoal to discuss 12 U of I Education majors and the 20-hour service project each will be doing with the library, and is developing a youth/teen library blog.
- Outreach Services Manager Betsy Bybell has returned from her Africa adventure. She is delivering summer reading prize books to daycares.
- Library staff is still working with WIN and VALNet to address the estimated 600 items accidentally deleted from the LCLD collection during the withdrawal of Walla Walla Community College from VALNet.
- The heat pump for the Potlatch library has been ordered and should be installed within a few weeks.
- The junipers alongside the Moscow Library entrance have been removed thanks to a group of volunteers. The area will become a native plant demonstration garden.
- Thank you to the Friends of the Moscow Library for new DVD shelving that was purchased and installed in July. The old shelving is being saved for the Deary Library remodeling project.
- Adult Services Manager Chris Sokol announces an upcoming program: Meghan Nuttall Sayres, who lives near Spokane and is a weaver as well as an author (her *Anahita's Woven Riddle* was a 2007 ALA Best Book for Young Adults), will talk about her recent experience in Iran, where she was the first American to weave on Iran's "World Peace Carpet". Moscow Library, Tuesday, August 25, 7:00 p.m.
- Access Services Manager George Williams has also returned after his five-week absence. He is working with other managers on addressing the deleted items problem.
- Technical Services Manager Jeannie Haag reports that exam proctoring is increasingly popular. In May she proctored six exams, in June five, and in July nineteen.
- Currently the Deary Branch Supervisor is working with others to assess how well the library's summer hours work for the community.
- Youth Services Manager Cathy Ensley and Outreach Services Manager Betsy Bybell submitted columns to local newspapers, Cathy's column was titled "It's Not Too Late to Be Creative @ Your Library" and Betsy's connected her Africa adventure to reading.
- Adult Services Manager Chris Sokol met with the VALNet OPAC committee at the Genesee Library.
- There will be a meeting of the VALNet Directors on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The LCLD Foundation is scheduled to meet August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Foundation continues to work on developing a business identity package to include a logo and letterhead.

### Department and Branch Reports

#### Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- July stayed busy with summer reading and kids on computers.
- Had two well attended programs, Palouse Discovery Science Center and local artist Lisa Beyer
- Gritman Medical Center had a representative here for a few hours on July 13 to talk to people about their services and have folks fill out an online survey. Once she got here and sat up her computers none of them would work for her so she stayed just to talk to people and hand out fliers.
- Friends had a sale on Saturday July 18. Items included old paperbacks, unclaimed items out of the storage shed, donated huckleberry jelly and a donated huckleberry pie. Friends earned just about \$200 so they were happy with that.
- Will have one more party to finish off summer reading in August and will let the kids have the opportunity to finish up their reading for a prize through the month.

#### Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- ✓ Summer Program went well this year. We had a lot of talented people work with the kids in different art forms. The lady from Palouse Science Center was so good, as was Abby Blevins with clay and Wendy Gunter with colored pencils. Lynn Rains and Sue Mitchell taught paper quilting. I was able to use the masks from the Idaho Library Association for two different programs because we had different kids at each one. They were thrilled they got to take the little paint containers home. One child creatively opened his up and used it for a cell phone! Michelle Ross won the essay contest for the tickets to the Theater. We offered 8 programs with 135 kids and 46 adults total.
- ✓ Now that everyone's very busy summer is coming to a close, we plan to have a meeting with the all the entities involved in the Deary remodel project. We need to find out who has what money for what. Even if we can't do everything we dream of, we could maybe concentrate on paint, new signage, carpet and some shelving. Also, we need to talk with the City about new parking curbs.
- ✓ We were open for a few hours in the afternoon on the Saturday of Deary Days. The Friends annual book sale that coincides with the parade and festivities was cancelled this year, due to lack of volunteers to set up, sell, and cleanup, etc. A lot of people were out of town! The Friends still plan to have their annual winter book sale the first Thursday of December.
- ✓ Lynn Rains and Nancy Hoobler planted flowers in the boxes in front for Deary Days. Nancy Swanson brought her "Palouse" quilt to hang in the library for the month of July. It is truly a work of art!

#### Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- The 2009 "Be Creative" Summer Reading Program ended with an awards recognition party on Wednesday, July 29. Gifts and treats were given to the 47 readers who met their goals.
- There were four creative programs at the library for the month of July. An average of 25 youth participated in each program during this month. Our creative programs of chromatography with the Palouse Science Center, fabric art to make quilt blocks, Mancala game making from recycled materials and cake decorating were enjoyed by all. The cake decorating program received the most anticipated and "most fun for all" nomination at the finale party. The library also smelled the best after that project!
- The incentive punch card was also a big hit for the readers this year. Readers were able to earn more awards by participating in other creative projects such as reading joke books and telling them to the librarian. Some checked out books on dance and music. Our readers drew pictures, wrote stories, poetry and even essays! Readers who participated in the incentive cards stated that it helped them learn the process of requesting books, CDs and magazines from other libraries in order to complete their card.
- As the reading program progressed into the summer, the numbers of program participants slacked off some as many families began taking vacations and swim lessons. Yet, many patrons checked out numerous books and audio books for their travels.
- The waddler and toddler group met for the month of July as a trial. It was well received by the few that attended. Families traveling, naptimes, and illness may have contributed to smaller numbers. Those who did attend said that they would like the event to continue but alternate with music or craft every two weeks.
- The second "Read to Me" gathering for the underserved at the Genesee preschool has been postponed to a later date in August. The daycare provider is recuperating from surgery in July.
- I put Jeannie's new deletion procedures into action twice during this month. The results worked great both at her end and mine.
- I wrote and delivered a grant proposal to Wal-Mart. Hopefully they can help us in providing tension shower rods for our patron friendly shelving units.
- I am leaving at the end of this week for 10 days to help drive daughter cross-country. I am hoping for a cool, uneventful trip. Betty Leslie is in charge at Genesee. She visited on Monday and showed her the ropes. Genesee is in good and capable hands. I so appreciate her helping me out!

#### Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- ❖ Summer Reading dominated the month of July with the following programs:
  - July 9<sup>th</sup>-Hill & Valley Garden Club helped 21 kids and 12 adults make pressed flower book marks
  - July 16<sup>th</sup>-Mabel Vogt and Alice Spitzer entertained an audience of 23 kids and 10 adults with their wonderful cowboy music and sing-along

July 23<sup>rd</sup>- Teri Hornberger brought her wonderful Yupo magic art to 26 kids and 15 adults. They all enjoyed painting.

July 30<sup>th</sup>-Our final summer reading picnic and pool party was attended by 26 kids and 9 adults.

- ❖ Juliaetta ended up with 80 registered for summer reading this year. The readers have until August 24 to complete their contracts and receive their prizes.
- ❖ Anna Bruce, who works in Juliaetta library for two hours on Wednesdays, is expecting her third child. She has offered her resignation as a sub as the extra work is becoming too much for her. There is another person who is interested in becoming a District sub so that she can help out at Juliaetta as well as other branches. Jayne Foote has been coming in as a volunteer to help with shelving and to learn more about the library. I am enjoying having her here and think she will be a good sub to have on board.
- ❖ The new lights have been delivered except for one fixture that has yet to arrive. As soon as they are all here, Kim Cannon will start the installation. We are excited to have them installed since they are more energy efficient than the old ones and also should provide better lighting for the patrons as well as anyone who works here!
- ❖ It will soon be time to start planning for story times and class visits but for now, I am just happy to have made it through another summer reading. I plan to take some vacation time at the end of August/beginning of September.

#### Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- We had our last program on July 31st with someone from Festival Dance teaching hip hop and jazz then cake and a drawing for prizes at the library. We had some great help from the Potlatch Arts Council on our programs. 175 sign-ups and 67 finishers so far. The kids still have until the end of August to finish.
- Getting closer to having the heat pump in the library. I don't know how much it will help for cooling this summer, but it should help with heating bills this coming winter.
- I put in for a small grant to Walmart for material costs for my intermediate puppet making program. I haven't heard from them yet.
- Friends haven't met for the summer. We will have a meeting in August just to go over details for the Dinner Theatre.
- The front door broke and I called the city maintenance guys and they came within a couple of days to fix it. Unfortunately, Cal the courier didn't realize it was broke and had some problems with it! Sorry Cal!
- Have enjoyed Jeannie's visits to the library. It is nice to show the library to Moscow staff.
- Ready to tackle some projects now that Summer Reading is over, such as clean the workroom, weed the J non-fiction and paperbacks, do some shifting, try to get some volunteers to do some garden clean up with me and prepare for storytime.

#### Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- Mary Yenny, from Designs by Mary, installed the blinds on the 1<sup>st</sup>. We can certainly feel the difference in the afternoon with the hot sun being kept out. They also look very nice. The blinds were purchased with a matching grant from the Troy Rec. District and the Troy Friends.
- Jodi Walker, from Gritman Medical Center, was here to encourage patrons to take a Community Health Survey on lap tops.
- We had a very nice visit with Jeannie on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- George was kind enough to be the official SRP photographer on the 16<sup>th</sup>, since Betty was working at the Moscow Library. Faye and baby Marie were visitors, too. Thanks George.
- Wendi Gunter, local artist, brought her painting supplies and held an open studio. She worked on one of her projects while here and will be visiting the Library the first Wednesday of the month.
- Troy Old Timer's Day was the 16<sup>th</sup>. Angela Rich and her grand kids decorated a float for the Library with the "Be Creative" Theme. They handed out book marks and of course threw candy. Thanks Angela! The Library was open 10:00-12:00.
- The last Summer Reading Program was on the 30<sup>th</sup>. "Batsy" entertained the kids with puppets and a few tales from her African trip. The Troy Friends provided refreshments for all after the raffle drawing. We had a good final party with 44 kids and 7 adults attending.