

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT January 2010

Activity Summary

- ❖ This holiday season was much less eventful than last due to milder weather, more convenient timing of the library closures and fewer staff emergencies. Thanks to excellent subs and good cooperation the libraries ran smoothly while still accommodating staff vacation requests.
- ❖ Co-sponsored by the LCLD and the Friends of the Moscow Library, Spokane-based teacher and naturalist Jack Nisbet, author of several books on Northwest history and nature, will speak on Thursday, January 28th, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the 1912 Center, 412 East Third St., Moscow. This event is free and open to the public. Book sales and signing will follow the presentation.
- ❖ Nationally-known writer Michael Pollan discussed the "Sun Food Agenda" on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Beasley Coliseum on the WSU campus. The talk is free and open to the public. Pollan is the author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, *In Defense of Food*, and most recently, *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual*.
- ❖ The Latah County Library District now offers its card-holders *Powerspeak Languages*, a basic language-learning database for Spanish, French, German, and Mandarin Chinese. The database is linked from the library's website at www.latahlibrary.org.
- ❖ Insulation was installed at the Deary library as improvements there continue.
- ❖ VALNet directors will meet January 14th in Lewiston. On the agenda is the withdrawal of Northwest Children's Home from the VALNet consortium, as well as changes to consortium electronic resources.
- ❖ The Friends of the Moscow Library netted \$325 from participation in the first Alternative Giving Market.
- ❖ Planning has begun for the 2010 Everybody Reads program. *Hearts of Horses* by Molly Gloss has been selected as the featured book.
- ❖ Access Services Manager George Williams wrote a column on suggested read-alouds for the local papers.
- ❖ The library's annual staff evaluation process continues.

Department and Branch Reports

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- December was a busy month for me personally with several trips to Seattle. Thanks go out to all the great staff that was willing to help me cover the Bovill Library so that these trips were possible.
- I had one story time that was well attended with 10 kids and 3 adults. After that people were busy getting ready for the holidays or traveling out of town to visit family so story times for the month were a little slow.
- It was nice to get together for a short time at the staff meeting on the 8th and touch base with a few people. It was great to have a little get together for Betsy's belated birthday party.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- ❖ The Country Pine Piecemakers Quilt Group continues to display a new quilt each month on the wall behind my desk. We get a lot of comments about them. Quilts are a fascinating hobby.
- ❖ Not a lot of remodeling got done in December because of the holidays.
- ❖ Christmas lights, decorations, cookies and beverages were the highlight of the Open House held on Dec. 10. We had a light turnout due to advertising issues, but it was still warm, cozy and fun! The kid especially enjoyed the treats!
- ❖ Sometime over the weekend of Dec. 12/13, someone entered the library through an unlocked window in the bathroom and stole \$35.00, including the cashbox.
- ❖ We are enjoying the warmer weather and the lack of snow to shovel!

Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- Genesee's Story timers brought in "lids" and "lamps" for the "L" train and chocolate kisses and green kiwi for the "K" Train. The energetic, younger than 5 group grooved to the reading of the "Pout Pout Fish" and music with Careen.
- Children made Christmas chains to mark the countdown to Christmas. I was surprised that none of the children, or parents, made this craft as part of their Christmas tradition. Now they will expect it every year!
- A Christmas party was held on Dec 18 at the library. An excited gathering of 15 listeners decorated slim pretzel snowmen with white chocolate and candy. Some preferred not to fully decorate but to eat the candy adornments. A Genesee quilter read "Santa's Stuck" by Rhonda Growler Greene, from the Quilters' gift of beautifully illustrated paperbacks. Afterwards, cider and goodies, provided by the Friends and others, were shared and enjoyed by all.
- First Step Internet was down on December 7 for an hour. Some of the PC users become a little frustrated when this happens. I have asked them if I could call them when it is up and running again. That usually softens the blow.
- We finally have a "new" printer for the public access computers. Genesee had been without one since October. Patrons have mentioned that they were happy to have a printer again for their usage, especially during Christmas card writing season.
- One painter came to the library in December to evaluate and provide an estimate for painting the library. It will be one of three estimates to be considered.
- A very generous Genesee Patron loaned Christmas quilt hangings for display during the holiday season at the library.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story times were well attended with 44 attendees for the three story times this month. Betsy came down and did the first story time for us on Dec. 3. The Kindergarten came in to join my usual story time crowd so it was a full house and lots of fun. Thanks Betsy!
- No class visits were scheduled for this month as there are always conflicts with other school happenings in December.
- Book Prowlers met on Dec. 8 with a Christmas Open meeting. Everyone brought a poem to share and Christmas goodies. David Walh came down from Genesee and shared his poetry with the group and they were so pleased that he made the trip down the hill to join them. There were 12 adults and 2 high school students at the meeting.
- Scrapbook class was not held in Dec. since everyone was busy with holiday things.
- The Friends did not meet in Dec. but they did send a letter to the City of Kendrick requesting that the city contribute \$400.00 from the library allotment towards the installation of the new lights. The city council approved the expenditure at the Dec. 8th meeting. The Friends will pay the balance of \$225.00 for the installation at their Jan. meeting.
- I took time off before and after Christmas and Jayne subbed and kept the library running smoothly.
- Hope everyone had wonderful holidays!

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Had a very nice staff meeting and birthday party for Betsy!
- Went to the library on the afternoon of the Christmas Open House to bring in supplies and lo and behold! Discovered there had been a break-in during the night and some very nasty Scrooges took all the petty cash, the Friends book sale cash and a plate of cookies! After the sheriff and the locksmith were done, I was finally able to get home for dinner and then back for the Open House. It was very well attended and the fireworks were amazing again. I highly recommend the drive out to Potlatch on the third Saturday of December!
- Three storytimes with varied attendance. December seems to be a busy time for everyone.
- Thanks to Diane Brady, Maxine Cole and Sally Hartman for holding down the fort while I was gone.

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- Our new signage has been installed. Thanks to Fern McLeod and Penny Rice for all of their hard work. The signs will be so helpful to the patrons. They look great.
- Staff meeting was very interesting. Mike Brown answered some very good questions about the policy. Pizza was very good, as was Betsy's surprise B-Day party.
- Preparing for the Winter Reading Program. It starts January 25th.
- Pre-school visited and we had 12 kids.
- The flu has taken a toll on our Story Times. Should pick up again after the Holidays.
- Happy New Year !!