

# Latah County Library District

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT February 2010

### Activity Summary

- ❖ The mandatory annual report to the Idaho Commission for Libraries was submitted on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ I spoke to a League of Women Voters group on behalf of the library on January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ As part of the First Book grant, a Parents' Meeting for HeadStart was held at the Moscow library on January 20<sup>th</sup>. HeadStart provided the pizza and publicity and LCLD Youth and Outreach Services Managers talked about services and materials the library provides. The evening was an amazing success with more than 42 adults and 30 children attending. There is talk of making this an annual event.
- ❖ The latest update of the library catalog authority files was completed in late January. Updates are funded by VALNet and managed by the Washington-Idaho Network staff.
- ❖ Planning continues for the Deary library improvements.
- ❖ The LCLD was featured in an article in the Lewiston Morning Tribune on February 6<sup>th</sup>: "The Latah County Library is Thriving."
- ❖ VALNet directors met January 14<sup>th</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup> in Lewiston. Discussions included the withdrawal of Northwest Children's Home from the VALNet consortium, development of the 2009-2010 budget, changes to consortium electronic resources, and improvements to the online catalog. One of the group's priorities is keeping consortium costs affordable for member libraries.
- ❖ Jack Nisbet's presentation on January 28<sup>th</sup> drew nearly 200 people to Moscow's 1912 Center and the February 8<sup>th</sup> talk by Phil Deutchman on "Hawking Radiation" drew 75. Both events were sponsored by the LCLD and the Friends of the Moscow Library and were very well-received by their audiences.
- ❖ District libraries began circulating a customized survey on library technology use. Results will be used as part of an academic research project.
- ❖ We are routing computer usage statistics to the Idaho Commission for Libraries so that LCLD libraries can participate in a prospective grant project to upgrade bandwidth and technology in libraries statewide.
- ❖ The semi-annual Friends of the Moscow Library booksale will take place March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Latah County Fairgrounds in Moscow. The public sale will be held Saturday morning and the Friends presale will take place Friday night from 6:00-8:00 PM.
- ❖ Working in conjunction with First Step, the LCLD plans to begin collecting statistics on laptop Internet access at the libraries beginning in March.
- ❖ The library's annual staff evaluation process continues.

### Department and Branch Reports

#### Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- The library remains busy most days.
- Continuing to offer story times, some days are well attended and others are not. Seems to be a hit and miss type of situation with my home schooling families in town.
- The black box for the technology survey is out and people have been taking time to fill out the forms.
- Got my order in for summer reading supplies from Highsmith, looking forward to better weather and planning summer reading programs.

#### Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- Tax forms are already being requested by patrons, so we were happy to see them on the courier run. Thanks, George!
- Tara Reeves, Principal for the elementary grades from Deary and Bovill Schools, is applying for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant for their afterschool program. By partnering with the Deary Library, it is a win-win situation for both of us, giving the younger children a chance to become familiar with their local libraries.
- This nice weather contributes to the increase in patrons in all the libraries.

### Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- Genesee's Story timers brought in "money, mice, noodles and ovals and sang to music; crafted naughty and nice monkeys and owls, and served oranges and Oreos for January letters, **M**, **N**, and **O**.
- A \$500.00 gift from the BP Fabric of America Fund was donated to the Genesee Library by a former patron and resident. The check will be deposited in Genesee's Gift & Memorial Fund until new painting and flooring purchases have been satisfied in 2010. I wrote and sent off a card of appreciation to BP's Fabric of America for their generous support.
- First Step Internet was down on January 7 for 45 minutes. It was not a significant interruption to the number of patrons present at the library.
- Genesee Union donated the necessary 2X4's to slant the existing book shelves. A Genesee patron volunteered to cut the boards to the desired 35" length. Presently, half of the designated shelves have successfully been tilted (worked on this Jan 18) and are very patron- friendly. Patrons have remarked how the shelved paperback books and DVDs are much more accessible and easier to see. This is really a great change and I look forward to finishing the remaining shelves this spring.
- I worked with another district sub to get her more familiar with the duties at the library this month. She will help out with library duties when I take personal time to address family issues back East in early February.
- It was agreed to begin leaving the outdoor light on when I leave the library in the evening after closing. It was consider a prudent and safe decision until the City purchases a motion detector light and put in its place. It is too dark for couriers, patrons dropping off books in the drop box and the librarian when leaving after locking up for the night.
- Prepared and updated Sub Notebook and updated opening and closing procedures for the Genesee Library

### Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story times were well attended in January despite the constantly changing weather. There were 46 children and their caregivers in attendance at the 4 story times.
- Class visits were better this month with four of the six scheduled classes making the trip down to the library to check out books. The two classes that didn't come had subs and chose not to visit. There were 59 students and their teachers checking out books in Jan.
- Book Prowlers met to discuss "My Place" by Sally Morgan with 13 members in attendance including five new faces.
- A representative from the Census Bureau held testing for people who wish to help with the 2010 census. One young man drove down from Spokane to take the exam.
- The Friends sponsored scrapbook class met with eight adults and four young scrappers in attendance.
- The Friends of the Library met on the 19<sup>th</sup> with 12 members attending. They discussed the new light installation and wrote a check to reimburse the District for the cost of the installation. The City of Juliaetta gave the Friends \$400.00 from the library allotment towards the cost of the installation.
- On Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> I attended the Kendrick-Juliaetta Community Development Association annual meeting to report on the library and the Friends. The K-J CDA is a community organization sort of like the Jaycees. They help local businesses and organizations with grants and hold various community activities and make an effort to attract new people and businesses to our area. I was chosen as a "Star of Our Community" this year and received a lovely certificate of recognition from the K-J CDA.
- My countdown to retirement continues!!

### Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Winter Reading began. We have 24 signed up so far and are trying to get an author for a spring finale.
- Friends still working on the anniversary party in July.
- Storytime has been very busy. 63 kids and 34 adults attended 4 programs in January.
- 15 meetings in the conference room. That will pick up in February with some tutoring and baseball meetings.
- George and I have been training Potlatch resident Jean Millheim as a new sub for the district.

### Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- Census testing was held in the Reading Room on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and more scheduled for next month.
- Seventh graders have been coming in to get library cards. The teacher is giving them extra credit for having a library card. They also need them because they are using our databases.
- The Troy Friends held their first meeting of the year. They elected new officers. We will miss Betty Leslie being our secretary. She will still be involved with the group.
- The Troy Pre-school is still visiting the Library once a month.
- Story Times are still thriving; we have had from 4 to 13, depending on who has the flu or chicken pox.
- Adult Winter Reading Program started on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We have 12 signed up.
- Carol, The Plant Lady, stopped by on her way back to Moscow. The plants were very glad to see her. ☺ Thanks Carol.
- Preparing for a Book Signing on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.