

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT March 2010

Activity Summary

- ❖ The Deary Library is currently closed as scheduled for repainting and recarpeting. A team of library staff and community volunteers emptied the library on March 11th, and nearly every library manager is involved in some way with the project—rotating and weeding the collection, organizing new shelving arrangements, and supervising the work itself. The project is the second step in a refurbishment that has been two years in development and results from a successful collaboration between the City of Deary, the Friends of the Deary Library and the Library District. We are excited about the library's reopening on March 22nd and invite board members to visit the library and enjoy the improvements.
- ❖ Representing a second significant change for the District, Juliaetta Branch Supervisor Jan Welles has submitted her formal letter of resignation, announcing plans to retire on April 30th. A search committee is being formed and we are planning the process to allow for a two-week overlap of staff for the purpose of training and orientation.
- ❖ Genesee Branch Supervisor Connie Sobczyk, Business Manager Carol Kampenhout and I attended a meeting of the Genesee City Council at their invitation to discuss lease terms and provide an overview of the library. The meeting seemed very productive for both the city and library representatives; City Council member Linda James is the newly designated library liaison.
- ❖ The LCLD submitted a letter of support to the statewide BTOP grant proposal which aims to increase bandwidth and bring new computers to libraries throughout Idaho. All seven LCLD libraries are included in the proposal.
- ❖ The Trustee candidacy filing period opened March 8th and will close at 5:00 PM on March 19th. Two positions are open, a full term and a partial term, but both expire in 2015 due to operation of law.
- ❖ The grant proposal to the Inland Northwest Community Foundation for partial funding of the waterwise garden project at the Moscow Library has advanced to the second phase. Trustee Mary McGregor, Business Manager Carol Kampenhout and I met with their grant committee on March 9th.
- ❖ On March 11th and 12th, Outreach Services Manager Betsy Bybell attended a Read-to-Me meeting offered in Boise by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.
- ❖ VALNet directors met March 10th in Lewiston. The withdrawal of the Northwest Children's Home from VALNet has been completed without incident and the 2010-2011 budget is still in development.
- ❖ The semi-annual Friends of the Moscow Library booksale took place March 5th and 6th at the Latah County Fairgrounds. The sale grossed \$6,816.76; this compares to \$6,294.90 last March and \$6,843.37 for March 2008.
- ❖ Plans to begin collecting statistics on laptop Internet access at the libraries are still in development.
- ❖ Bandwidth at the Juliaetta Library was increased from 1.5 mbps to 2.0 mbps, bringing it up to the same level as other rural LCLD libraries. This was made possible through a new First Step Internet service.
- ❖ On February 18th I accompanied the LCLD courier on her rounds to the rural libraries.
- ❖ Outreach Services Manager Betsy Bybell submitted a column on early literacy to the Daily News.
- ❖ Trustee Sylva Staab and I co-authored a newspaper column on the upcoming trustee election.
- ❖ The library's annual staff evaluation process is scheduled to be completed by April 1st.

Department and Branch Reports

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- February was a typical month with computers busy and home schoolers keeping me hopping.
- Weather has been beautiful but I have had some mud issues on my floors so I have had to post a sign asking everyone to please remove their shoes and help keep our floors clean.
- Planning summer reading and getting performers lined up. Waiting for supplies to be delivered but it looks like a good share of them are on back order so we continue to plan and wait.

- Thanks to Connie S in Genesee for taking the lead on setting up a performer for us and getting that information distributed to everyone.
- Got word that there will be a White Family reunion here in town in July which means they are going to want to see the library that they have invested so much of their funds into. For me that means lots of preparing so we can show them how much we appreciate their contributions and how it has been put to great use in this community.
- As soon as it is possible the friends group will be donating the funds to replace the counter top in the kitchen. The counter that is currently there was only to be a temporary fix, after more than ten years it is time to replace it as it is really beginning to show its wear and tear. The goal is to have that project done prior to summer reading.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- ✓ It is getting very exciting to have the remodel so close. Signs for the closure of the library are up and The Deary Friends group, Carol, and George have meeting and coordinating the different parts of the Deary Remodel. Carol has put so much time and effort into the Deary project - It would not have happened without her skills and knowledge.
- ✓ Deary has seen a lot of subs working lately. When I have back surgery, there may be a few more, depending on how time, if any, I need to take off. We appreciate our subs.
- ✓ George is doing a physical inventory of every book and item in the Deary Library.
- ✓ We are coordinating with the appropriate managers for rotating books before the remodel. Takes a lot of thought and effort, I am learning!
- ✓ We plan to have an official "open house" during the Library week. We hope you all come see us then!

Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- Genesee's Story timers learned to identify and sound out letters "P, Q and R". They made penguins and decorated rabbits to take home with them. Story time participation has increased to about 20 listeners per event during the month of February. Must be the nice weather!
- I left the library in good hands with two very capable district subs while on a trip back East to deal with parental issues. It was a pleasure to return after 12 days and hear and see everything went smoothly and everyone had fun while I was absent.
- Opening and closing procedures and the Sub notebook are all up to date to aid any and all future subs at the library. Extra file cabinet key was made for headquarters.
- I have been busy developing ideas and researching possible programs for the 2010 and contacting programmers for the "Splash" Summer Reading program.
- Genesee City Hall has contacted LCLD for an open discussion concerning Genesee Library's "wish list" and lease reading. The meeting with the council and new mayor is set for the evening of March 2nd.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story times were well attended and lots of fun this month. There were 23 children and 15 adults at the 4 programs.
- Class visits were all on schedule except for 5th grade. They didn't make it down to the library this month. There were 62 students and 7 teachers visiting and checking out material in February.
- The Book Prowlers met on Feb. 9th and discussed "Tisha" by Robert Specht. The lady who led the discussion had a signed copy of the book given to her by the author and she had lived in Alaska so the discussion was very informative.
- The Friends sponsored Scrapbook class was held on February 13 with 2 young people and 8 adults in attendance.
- The Friends of the Library met on Feb. 16th. There were only 6 members in attendance. The group discussed ways to increase membership and revitalize the Friends. Next month they will change the meeting time to 4 pm since many people who work have expressed an interest in attending. Summer reading is on our minds already and planning for programs will be the focus of the April meeting.

- Kristine Grimshaw, a recruiter for the Census Bureau, has held testing for Census jobs twice at the library. One session, there was only one person who had driven down from Spokane to take the test. The second time she had four people show up.
- I proctored an exam for the High School Librarian this month. She is working on her MLS since the school district is required to have at least one degreed librarian on staff to keep the school's accreditation. Ann Anderson, who retired from the school district, was the previous librarian.
- I will be sending in my letter of resignation or retirement, as it were, the first part of March. Only four more time sheets!

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- Another very busy storytime month. Four programs with 79 kids and 40 adults attending
- Winter Reading has picked up and we now have 37 signed up. Reed Lewis will be here on April 22nd to wind up the program with his presentation on the Geology of the Palouse.
- Bought a nice new trash can with G&M money for the outside. Hopefully this one will not disappear.
- Conference room was scheduled 32 times in February. It is also used for my weekly storytime crafts.
- Friends met on Feb. 4th. We discussed how to boost attendance in the Winter Reading program and had some further discussion on the 10 year anniversary party.
- Updated the sub information notebook to include new procedures for keys and closing instructions.
- Tax forms are sailing out the door and we have been able to provide everything the patrons are asking for, either with paper copies or through the IRS and State web sites.
- Am close to getting all my programs scheduled for summing reading and am now waiting for all the materials to arrive.

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- Author Isabel Huff, George's mother-in-law, had a book signing, of her latest novel, *Say Goodbye to Gert*, on February 8th. Everyone that attended enjoyed themselves. Treats were provided by the Troy Friends of the Library.
- Still more Census testing on February 10th.
- We donated a box of juvenile books from our book sale to a local lady who is helping with a school in Morocco.
- Andrew was out; he moved the card catalog and fixed the Deep Freeze software on one of the public computers.
- Andrew brought out and installed the new copier/printer. Very nice!
- Doing some spring cleaning. Sorted through books from our book sale to send to Moscow's book sale.
- Working on a Local History section.
- Summer Reading supplies arrived. Yikes!!!