

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT August 2010

Activity Summary

- Thanks to everyone for a very successful "Make a Splash! Read!" summer reading program. We are now finishing up with the prize distribution and focused on getting ready for the start of the school year.
- On July 17th the Bovill library and Friends group sponsored a pie social and participated in the Bovill Days parade. A special tour of the library was held on the 18th for the White family, for whom the library building is named.
- Also on the 17th, the Potlatch library and Friends group hosted a celebration of the library's 10-year anniversary. Malcolm Renfrew, longtime library supporter, was a featured guest.
- The committee working on the waterwise demonstration garden project at the Moscow Library met several times this month. The library wishes to thank the Friends of the Library for their support, and to thank Living in the Garden, a Whitman County business that gave committee members a special tour of its gardens and greenhouse.
- Access Services Manager George Williams contributed a column on the Moscow library bookdrop fire to the local newspaper.
- On July 28th, I attended a Disaster Preparedness workshop at Washington State University. This workshop focused on handling water-damaged library materials.
- On August 9th I attended a meeting between VALNet and CIN board members to discuss the future of our consortiums and the possibility of joint planning. The group also discussed preparations for the next Washington-Idaho Network (WIN) board meeting, scheduled for September.
- On August 12th, I completed the Executive MLIS degree program at San José State University. The final project included a research study involving one-on-one interviews with a small group of Latah County leaders. The project made recommendations to the LCLD Planning Committee regarding its upcoming strategic planning process.
- On August 12th, I participated in the first online discussion group for new MLIS students in Idaho. I have signed up as a SWIM: Learning Cohort program mentor through the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

Department and Branch Reports

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- July was a pretty busy month with Bovill Days activities and the preparation for those. A lot of time was spent installing the new kitchen counter, painting out sign out front, cleaning and planning for parades and pie socials. Everything went fine and it turned out to be a wonderful day. The White family made a visit to the library and took a look around at some of what their donations have done for our community and our library. Loreca Stauber came to visit with us that day and meet some of the family members and I was very thankful for her support.
- Wrapped up summer reading programs and will just finish up with plans for a final party soon. Not seeing very many finishers at this point so it's to the point in the summer where I need to gently remind a few of the kids to get their reading logs brought in for their prizes.
- Sidewalk project is still ongoing out front, wishing they would finish soon. I asked to have the sidewalk brought up to the front steps of the library and it is under some discussion I understand with the state so will see how that turns out.
- Picnic table was purchased with funds from the friends and is now outside for use. We need to find a way to anchor it down so that it can't be moved. Probably will worry more about that next year as it is getting kind of late now in the summer and we will be putting it away soon for the winter.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- We appreciated having the Board come to the library for their annual meeting in Deary. They are an intelligent, dedicated and hardworking Board!
- Summer Reading Program is officially over. So far we have 53 signups and 33 finishers. This is a good ratio of signups to finishers and I am pleased the Friends group provided 6 big incentive prize packages for drawings for the kids who earned their free book. I feel it gives the kids an incentive to actually read after they sign up, so their name can be in the drawing. It was a great year, averaging about 20 children each program.
- With no air conditioning, we keep both doors open as much as we can but it still hits 85 degrees and above in here, even with the ceiling fan running. It gets unbearably stuffy with the doors closed.
- There are a lot of people putting in many hours getting the corner park ready for Deary Days. This will enhance the corner beside the library parking lot.
- We will have a Friends of Library book sale on August 6th from about 9:00 until about 2:00 in the library parking lot. The library will be open from 11:00-1:00 that day.

Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- The 2010 "SPLASH" Summer Reading Program ended with an awards recognition party on Thursday, July 29th. All 57 youngsters attending the festivities received their new book(s) which they had chosen upon goal completion during the program and a small gift from the prize table. A "SPLASH" cake, Popsicle and bottle of water was enjoyed by all who attended and also by those who are still working on their goals. The latter group has until the start of school to reach their goal and earn a new book of their own.
- There were 4 well attended programs at the library for the month of July. An average of 44 youth participated in each program during this month. Our programs featured storytelling, magic and water science. After asking the readers which programs was their favorite, it was determine they did not have a favorite; so hopefully they enjoyed them all!
- Story time for the preschoolers continued throughout the summer. It was the "5th" summer program and it averaged 14 listeners and 4 adults.
- The incentive punch card was not as big a hit this year as it was last year. I am making note to revamp that end of it for next year's program. I think the readers prefer something a little different each year to keep them on their toes. Those who did participate in the incentive card, however, wrote some very interesting stories beginning with "In the middle of the storm...."
- As the reading program progressed into the summer, the numbers of program participants did not slack off as they did last year. Families did take their vacations but we always seemed have plenty of participation during our programs this month. Genesee averaged 44 children and 15 adults for each of the four July programs. This is a 75% increase from 2009 July youth attendance!
- I am leaving at the end of this week for 10 days to visit my parents back East. Betty Leslie and Connie Esser will be tending to the library in my absence. I really appreciate such great helping hands.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Linda Dahl

- The hot summer days find the Juliaetta Community Library sheltering patrons with the coolness and comfort that a library provides. There has been a significant increase of patron use, everything from books to movies going out as fast as they come in. I get great pleasure in seeing patrons come in then find a cozy corner to sit and read as they escape the heat.
- I spent what little free time I could find, in between programs and summer reading, working in the juvenile fiction section. With the help of Cathy Ensley, Youth Services Manager, we were able to make room for new titles and books that come in on a rotation from the other Branch libraries.
- Summer Reading continued here in the Juliaetta/Kendrick area with many of our readers reaching their goals before the last program! Among those presenting for the programs were the local Hill and Valley Garden Club. They came with an "army" of volunteers which was much needed and appreciated as attendance was high for their "Make a Watering Can" craft project. The Palouse Discovery Science Center was a huge hit with their hands on presentations. Cecil the Clown not only brought the fun and curiosity of magic to the summer readers, but tied it all in by touting the benefits and wonders of reading! Our final Summer Reading Program ended with a "splash" as it included a picnic and a free swim session at the Kendrick Memorial Park and Pool. Great turnout and a wonderful picnic thanks to the Friends group of the Juliaetta Community Library! I have had a lot of fun with the Summer Reading Program, especially

getting to know the children and their families. I felt right at home when one of the summer readers, a little girl, saw me at the park and literally ran into my arms.

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- We had our final Summer Reading program on July 30th with a swimming party. Due to thunder and lightning, it looked like we might not be able to swim, but the skies cleared up and we had perfect swimming weather. So far we have 209 kids signed up and 77 finishers. They have until the end of August to fulfill their reading contract.
- We had our 10th anniversary open house and it turned out very nice. Not as many visitors as I would have liked, but it was still a success and I can tell you right now I don't plan to be around for the 20th anniversary.
- I had a very nice visit from Anne and we were able to get my evaluation done.
- The Boy Scout that is doing his Eagle Scout project at the library has been working on the weeding and finished one flower bed in the front with new bark. It looks really nice. He will be building a storage shed next.
- I already have a volunteer who is really excited about next year's Summer Reading theme "One World, Many Stories" and even though I wasn't even starting to think about it, she has me looking forward to it a little bit!
- I am looking forward to a quiet and uneventful August!

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ☺ The Friends held a reception at the Library on Troy Days for Dorothy and Ellis Anderson in appreciation for all they have done for the Library over the years that they have been Friends of the Library. Ellis and Dorothy rode in the parade in Ellis' Dads vintage car and passed out bookmarks. The Troy Friends had cake at the Library and presented them with a picture plaque of the couple that will be displayed in the Troy Library. There were approximately 60 friends and family that attended. Anne Cheadle, George Williams and Mike Brown were kind enough to drop by for a nice visit.
- ☺ ABM cleaned carpets for us. They did a great job.
- ☺ The air conditioning stopped working on the 22nd during a SRP. The City called Fork Refrigeration, they were out that afternoon. Luckily it was a condenser instead of a compressor. It was repaired the same afternoon.
- ☺ Friends meeting on the 28th. They discussed getting new book shelves. They asked me to contact Carol to see if she could contact the U of I Design Department to see if we could get the class to do some planning for us, since Deary had such nice results.
- ☺ The last Summer Reading Program was the 29th. We raffled off the bicycle and all the prizes in the display case. Everyone went home with a prize. Summer Reading programs have been well attended and the presenters were super. I have 139 sign ups and 81 finishers so far. They have until school starts to finish reading and collect their book.