

Hunterdon County Library Director's Report September 2018

Buildings and Grounds

Major success: The entire Non-Fiction collection and Biography collection are now together on the lower level in order. Staff worked diligently weeding and shifting the collection for over three months; there have already been two pick-ups of books by Better World Books from where the weeded books will be redistributed.

The library has re-designed the first level at Headquarters as well. The new books are more easily browsed while the magazines return to a more visible locations in the front of the library. We were also able to open up two reading areas.

The library has scheduled installation of new carpet at the Ringoes location for the South County Branch. The library director has also met with a library mover for a quote for moving the collection and furniture to the new location. The Friends of the Library (FOHCL) have approved funding to cover the carpet and at least part of the moving costs.

Finances

Despite advocacy efforts Per Capita State Aid (PCSA) for libraries was not increased in the state budget. As a result, we expect our PCSA to remain approximately \$51,000 for CY 2019.

In the Libraries

September is National Library Card Month. HCL celebrates by partnering with local businesses to offer discounts by showing your library card. Between September 1-30, stop by over 40 businesses in Hunterdon County and save money. Stop by any of the county libraries for a list of participating businesses or go online at hclibrary.us.

This July and August, listeners to the local community radio station, WDVR 89.7, heard a 30 second PSA promoting HCL's summer reading club and special summer programming.

Summer Children's Programming - The summer NCB Tweenz programs started with a Rainbow Fairies program in June where the children made fairy wings, magic wands, and rainbow bracelets. In July, the HQ and NCB Tweenz enjoyed a STEAM program by drawing a Minecraft character with "Young Rembrandts" and continued this idea to a 3-dimensional Lego activity with "Bricks 4 Kidz". The second program in July was a science program with "Mad Science". "Sonic Sounds" helped the children to learn about the different properties of sound, how sound travels, and how household items can be used to create amazing movie effects. The last program for the Tweenz in July was "Acts of Kindness". Tweenz decorated bags and made paper flowers for "Meals on Wheels". They also made a variety of pictures for the Hunterdon Developmental Center to use to brighten up their rooms.

At NCB, learning electronics was a lot more fun when it resulted in a working game. Building an operations game was one of the many youth services programs offered this summer at NCB. The children 3D printed game pieces for their games.

NCB had two beautiful nights for Outside Bedtime Storytimes. One was held in July and another was in August. Each time, the NCB lawn was full of pajama-clad kids and their parents.

Anyone who passed by the meeting room at the NCB on Monday mornings in July was treated to the amazing sounds of a group of kids learning to play the ukulele. By the end of the month the group had learned basic strumming techniques, several chords, and a selection of songs which were played for friends and family during the last class.

The new NCB monthly Lego Club got off to an impressively creative start! 24 participants named their creations and complimented each other's work in the end.

Summer Teen Programming - July 10 (tweens) and 11 (teens) - A SLIME program was well attended on both days. Kids made various kinds of slime that they could take home.

On July 17 Karen L and Aimee W coordinated a tween 'Music Craft' program. Kids could pick one or all of the various music crafts to make, take, and enjoy.

On July 25 we had another Pokemon card trading night. We had a large turnout again for this "no registration" event.

Staff Updates

The Cross-Training Task Force met in early July. The group developed some initial recommendations for cross training opportunities and will meet again this fall.

Outreach/Partnerships

The bookmobile continues to visit schools and nursery schools in late summer and early fall. There are several more currently scheduled before the colder weather arrives.

Technology

The new online meeting room booking and program signup service has been opened up to the public. The library has made some adjustments as we learn more about the product but overall the initiative has been a success. Holland Library is also utilizing this service to provide online registration for their programs.

The Website/Social Media Task Force has now met twice as we discuss plans to update the website and create a coordinated social media plan for the library. Two meetings have been held and a lot of new ideas have been presented. Some of the ideas have already been implemented on the current HCL web page. Look for more changes soon and eventually a whole new web page.

Affiliates

The Affiliate Services Task Force met on July 18th. The task force will be visiting all of the affiliates this fall.