

February 2016 Library Services Report

Mission Statement:

The Burlington Public Library creates opportunities for people of all ages to connect with others, to learn about the world around them, and to imagine the futures before them.



Youth Education

Debbie and Amy visited six 2nd grade classes at Corse and Black Hawk to continue the Read Aloud program using the You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together books. During that trip, Amy visited a 5th grade classroom to demonstrate and explore ebook options using the public library resources. We look forward to continued collaboration with the school district.

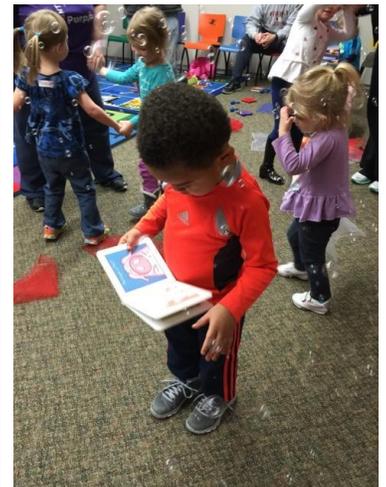
Library Aides Donna Koett and Melissa Nystrom are working hard with the planning of the upcoming story walk project. There is a waiting list for the March children's program Painting a Rainbow. The children will paint on canvas using paint colors and tracing cutouts similar to the ones that will be used on the story walk. We are making plans to have the Planting a Rainbow story walk set up in April or May, depending on weather.

Rhonda and Amy are collaborating with the Burlington Community School District and Public Works to promote free bus rides to connect with local programming (library, pool, park, YWCA, and summer school). The library is creating a magnet to hand out in the schools to link people to a Facebook page for summer that gives information associated with the bus routes and programs available this summer.

The AWE learning computers are located in the children's department. The early literacy stations offer a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities to promote lifelong learning. There were 137 sessions at the AWE station during the month of February. The new iPad station has been used frequently with children before and after programming as well as after school and weekends.



Weekly youth classes resumed in February with several classes being at capacity with young people and their families coming for fun and learning.



Adult Education

Specifically for Seniors presenter Russ Fry delighted his audience of 61 people with his stories about Chief Blackhawk and the mystery surrounding where he is buried, or not.

Representatives from State Farm met with people at the February How to Night to discuss Social Security changes and the impact that will have on folks thinking about retiring. It was an informal discussion focused on answering participant questions.

Stephanie's February Pinterest Night was a wine tasting program. She provided a list of resources and library materials and taught participants how to pair different wines with cheeses. The group experimented with wines with cheese and fruit to see what they personally liked. The steps to properly taste wine were introduced (Look, Smell, Taste, Conclude). We had nice feedback from participants, "we'll be back next month" and "I liked the small group so I could openly discuss and learn." Stephanie referred them to our non-fiction books on wine as well as our novels. She also referred them to our recipe books to use their new knowledge to enhance their meals.

Technology Access and Education

Lois met with two tech companies regarding the library's aging thin clients, current server configuration, and how best to serve customers in the future. Dell sent a newer model thin client to test out as a possible replacement.

SirsiDynix performed some upgrades to Horizon and Horizon Information Portal (staff catalog) on February 19. We have some new functionality within Horizon. For example, one update will allow our customers the option to receive an email receipt for items checked out at the desk.

Spring tech classes kick started this year in February with a Basics of Blogging class. Participants reviewed the history of online journaling, reporting, blogging and microblogging. This tech survey discussed the application of various information sharing platforms and methods. Discussion threads, MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses) and social media were covered and explored.

Professional Development

As a member of the Greater Burlington Leadership Class, Samantha represented Greater Burlington's key issues to legislators during Great River Region Days. Activities ranged from lobbying for education dollars, weighing in on Iowa's Clean Water legislation and brainstorming collaborative efforts with stakeholders in Southeast Iowa.

This experience has paved the way for Samantha to serve the Iowa Library Association in their Capitol Days next month where she will focus on two bills which will directly influence library services to Iowans: SF2280 Enhance Iowa Grants (continuation of funds for public programming and enhancements) and SF2191 Reading and Literacy Teacher Training (to support and provide the necessary tools and standards for librarians, media specialists and teachers as they navigate our youngest citizens through literacy and introduce them to the concepts of lifelong education). To track legislative bills important to Iowa libraries, check here

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1102478471782&ca=8fd6ef59-bfbd-4961-8e9a-61c5a7b50630>

Other Activities

Samantha presented on library services at a monthly senior event at Bethany Lutheran Church. Sadly, their senior event is also on the first Friday of the month, so enticing members to attend our Specifically for Seniors group was a hard sell. However, several in the audience were excited to learn about programming for their grandchildren as well as tech assistance for digital resources (magazines, books, music, streaming) through the library.

Rhonda attended the city department and leadership meetings.

Rhonda and Sam attended the mandatory workplace drug training for supervisors.

Rhonda attended all council meetings and work sessions in February.

Rhonda attended the monthly Friends of the Library board meeting. The board reported on their successful January book sale and planning for the group's annual dinner and meeting in April.

Rhonda met with the Community Volunteer Alliance team to continue planning for the Mayors' Volunteer Awards.

Rhonda attended the ASFME contract negotiations.