



December 2018 Library Services Report

Youth and Family Services

Pizza Ranch is our new **storytime sponsor** and they provided the 321...Blast Off reading club a pizza party and coupons for kids who checkout 10 books or more during storytime sessions.

Children and families gathered on December 15 to share holiday cheer at the annual **Holiday Sing Along**. We sang familiar songs, as well as performed a library version of the 12 days of Christmas that invited children forward to hold signs for each day. The children ranged in age from 1.5 to 12, resulting in a cute and humorous rendition of the song. Children also enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies, followed by a visit by the man in red.

School day out movie day turned into quite the event when just under 100 people participated in our first ever **Grinch Fest**. We created a fun "Grinch globe" (think snow-globe, Grinch style), did coloring and activity sheets, drank Grinch punch, enjoyed green snacks, read the original "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss, and followed all that with a showing of the live-action movie with Jim Carrey.

Pardon My Fines on two afternoons during break gave kids a chance to read to reduce their fines. Jill Moore from Big Red Dog AAT brought in Sadie to read with them. A total of \$25 was reduced for participants.

Over 100 people gathered for an afternoon celebration at the library's **New Year's Eve Party**. It was quite the lively bunch with kids of all ages and their families playing a variety of minute to win it games, snacking, playing board games, and participating in our giant countdown with balloon drop! Video of the balloon drop is on our Facebook page!



TICOS had a fun Holiday Party at their December meeting to celebrate a busy year of service to the library and the community. The group also got together at the comic book store downtown to host a stop for the **Living Windows event**. The teens led children and families in making Golden Snitch ornaments.

The Mother Daughter Book Club finished their most recent book selection, *Snow Lane* by Josie Angelini. The next Mother Daughter Book Club starts in February.

Tween enjoyed the **Light-Up Block Night** where they created a gift to keep or give. By filling up a glass block with a variety of fun craft materials and lights and adding a bow, they made a light-up present.

STEM: Paper Circuits class showed tweens and teens how to light-up objects using LED lights, batteries, and copper. They made holiday cards and gift bags with light-up elements.

For the **Little Bits and Minecraft** sessions, we tried out a ticket system instead of registration. Kids checked in at the youth desk thirty minutes prior to the event for a ticket. We plan to use this idea for July summer reading programs to reduce the number of people who register far in advance and don't come to the event when others weren't able to get a place. These Little Bits and Minecraft sessions are always popular.



Community and Outreach

Amy completed her visits to all the **4th grade library classes** to highlight resources for youth and distribute Grayhound library card applications.

We had an **elf on the shelf** share information about library services on social media throughout December. Several people were not aware of the IDOT kiosk which was one of the services that we featured.

A local crochet group that meets at the **library yarn bombed** the library with decorations. They also had a tree of beautiful scarves that people who needed one could take. They restocked throughout the month.

Melissa decorated a library tree as part of the Festival of Trees at the Burlington Apartments. The event collected food items for local pantries.



Adult Education

First Friday in December was "Christmas at Balmoral" presented by Jessica Michna. Jessica portrayed Margaret Cummins who was in the service of Queen Victoria. Seventy-two people were in attendance to learn about the life of Margaret Cummins and the responsibilities of those who were in the service of the royal family.

That's Yesterday's News looked at holiday issues of the newspaper over the decades. The group enjoyed seeing pictures, looking at ads, and sharing memories.



An after-hours **Fortnite tournament** brought in a wide range of ages to share this popular game together.

Bel Canto visited for their annual holiday performance. While 75 people came in to enjoy the event in-person, others watched through Facebook Live. There have been over 850 views of this beloved holiday tradition.

Professional Development

In December, Becky participated in 2 **STEM webinars** associated with the STEM Scale-Up program. On December 4, the topic was Technology in the Maker Space and, on Dec 18, the topic was challenges and outcomes of maker education. Both webinars stressed innovation as a huge part of the jobs of the future. The webinars focused on encouraging kids to be inventors rather than have all the steps laid out for them. Creativity and access to the tools/technology during programs are key. They noted that it can be a challenge to think this way because, as adults, we are used to following directions step-by-step and have a tendency to want all finished products to look alike.

The staff had a very productive annual staff development day with trainings on resources, policies, collections, and more. It is the one time a year where nearly all staff members are together. We did our staff service project this year to collect items for S.O.F.T., a local group that prepares care packages for deployed service members.

Other Activities and News

Rhonda participated in city department meetings and the CARE and Leadership interdepartmental meetings. She attended the council meetings and work sessions. She also coordinated the city staff Adopt-a-Family project with Tammy from Public Works.

Rhonda and the chair of the Board Finance Committee met with the City Manager and Director of Administrative Services to discuss the library budget for FY20.

Rhonda attended the Friends of the Library board meeting as a liaison. The board approved a donation of \$3,100 for newsletters, presenter fees, program supplies, and a light table for the youth area.

Looking Ahead at Your Library

First Friday for February falls on the 1st and will be “Songs and Stories from the Civil War” presented by Michael Anderson, the dulcimer guy.

Tech Tuesday @ Hy-Vee on Agency will be on February 19 at 8 a.m.

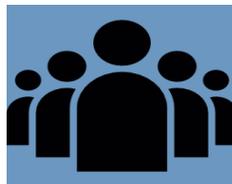
The February Family Night Unplugged will bring back the Stuffed Animal Sleepover for our third year in a row! Participation has grown exponentially since its birth, and we're looking forward to seeing what shenanigans the kids' stuffed friends will get into this year. Kids come in their pajamas with their stuffed friend the evening before to enjoy snacks, stories, songs, and activities. They return the following morning to have breakfast with their animals and see what kind of trouble they got into the night before.

In January Tweens/Teens STEM is the Cardboard Construction Challenge using a variety of materials with different shapes and sizes. A board displaying example projects will guide and inspire youth.

December 2018 By the Numbers

Visitors

0 1 2 2 7 1



319

Meeting Room
Reservations



108 Laptop Checkouts



2,042 Wi-Fi sessions



3,126 Database Uses



4,189 computer logins

Classes and Events

Adults 7

Youth 74



Participants

Adults 231

Youth 1958

Nonprint Items

Borrowed

Adults 9,974

Youth 1,107



60

New Borrower
Accounts Opened

Books & Magazines

Borrowed

Adults 7,424

Teens 579

Tweens 312

Children 4,819



Downloads

Books 1,031

Music 951

Audio 747

Magazines 218

