DIRECTOR’S REPORT JANUARY 2022


Buildings and Grounds

We have received the new furniture for the Pearl River Room. The chairs are a big success and a big thank you came from our Mah Jong Group! We reused some of the former wing chairs from the Pearl River Room in the Children’s Room, and our littlest patrons are thrilled!

The sidewalk has been filed and leveled as per the Town’s request.

Personnel

New FT Youth Services Librarian Kristen McIvor, started 12/28/22. Kristen has been a part time librarian in our Public Service Department for over a year, and we are excited to have her join us in a full time capacity. She is replacing Librarian Sarah Northshield, who left at the end of November. See attached resolution.

Circulation

The Tech Services Workflows Evaluation chart being changed and updated. Travel guides are in the process of being weeded. Sue DeFelice is working on updating the Baker & Taylor Standing Order spreadsheet and having Librarian Jim Cassetta review what we have and what additional items can be weeded.

Letters went out to digital only card holders whose digital cards had expired. They received information on how to obtain a real library card.

Collections have been weeded and books have been discarded. Especially the YA section.

Sue DeFelice has been working with Brodart to get past orders corrected and so that librarians and other staff have proper access to what they need to place orders correctly.

We are shifting books on CD/CDs to empty shelving in the back area in front of the Learning Lab.

Large Print items are in the process of shifting to give access to shelving that needs to be cut.

Pages have been rotating discarded and donated items in the lobby and maintaining the appearance of the shelves in the lobby.
Youth Services
This month, new Librarian Kristen McIvor weeded the non-fiction collection. This completed the evaluation of the entire YA collection. Cheryl completed weeding the JP's which is one of the children's largest and most popular collections. These projects are essential for maintaining order in the stacks, making it easier for the pages to reshelve books and patrons to locate items for checkout. Furthermore, it allows us to remove damaged, outdated titles and replace them with new ones. Collection development responsibilities have been reassigned and formal training was provided by Brodart to all staff.

New furniture purchased for the PR Room has allowed us to repurpose the older furniture as extra seating in children's. The cozy chairs are being enjoyed by kids and parents alike. Other updates to the children's room include the coloring table and dollhouse in the toddler area. New displays include winter, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Lunar New Year providing us further opportunities to highlight our diverse book collections. The return of preCOVID programs, including Come! Sit! Read! with the Therapy Dogs of Rockland and a practice ACT test with C2 Learning of Nanuet has been successful. The Mr. Kurt family concert had 78 people in attendance. The Wee Play @ the Library program had 60 and provided an opportunity for us to partner with a local business. Gracie Rose donated 2 dozen scones for us to offer attendees of this program.

Lastly, Laurie Wilson, Cathy Cawley, and Head of Youth Services Amy Chesman visited PRHS for outreach on 1/13. This allowed us to connect with students and faculty, introduce them to programming, and community service opportunities, as well as sign them up for library cards.

Our 6th Annual Learning Lab Tech Fair drew 100 people…of all ages!!!

The photo above shows some of our students and past students who were in attendance.

Katie Bertussi and Alicia Vonderhorst did a fantastic job organizing and running our 6th annual Learning Lab Tech Fair. It was an exciting evening of hands-on demonstrations
of the many varieties of tech and steam learning the Lab has to offer. Our youngest patrons, to our oldest, were all on hand, emphasizing the central and cohesive role the Learning Lab plays in the library and the community. Along with our young supercoders and their families, teen and tween alumni were on hand, as well as senior writers and our community partners, STAC Math Professor Meghan DeWitt, and Math Intern Samantha Frisbee. Like technology itself, which reaches into all aspects of our life, from education to entertainment, our booths showcased all aspects of STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math. The patron enthusiasm made clear that STEAM is a big, and exciting part of the future and that the Learning Lab is an essential ingredient for the longevity of the library.

P.S. At a recent High School Outreach, an 18 year-old patron, Jude Brereton, stopped by the library table to say thanks for getting him started in technology in our Learning Lab. In the fall he will be going to college for computer science.
December has become publishing month for Pearl River Public Library Press. In the past 7 years, we have published 9 books during the holiday seasons. Production gets smoother, more affordable and more manageable each year. And our book launches always draw enthusiastic crowds. Vol. 2 of a History of Pearl River, and Volume 6 of Writing from Life were out in print right on time to celebrate the end of a very productive 2022! Now that we have the process working so well, we will be adding a summer release this year - The Collected Writing of Local Author Jeanne Lyons, and Jim’s 2023 book will be a History of Pearl River Public Library, highlighting our 60th year on Franklin Ave.

Programming Overview
Despite a number of holiday closings and the usual seasonal slowdown, we had 107 programs in December, including everything from SRO Concerts, to one-on-one tech help, outreach programs and community partnership programs. The library also hosted numerous programs for outside groups - Cathey Cawley has been doing a great job booking and managing these groups!

New Community Partnership
The Rockland County Music Teachers Guild, previously an “outside” group, is now partnering with PRPL more closely, with plans to offer all their concerts at the library for free. This local organization is also working with us to keep our piano in great playing shape. Like our recent partnership with the Rockland Conservatory of Music, concerts by these groups bring in both familiar and new faces and provide us with great, free live-music programming that would otherwise be costly.
Outreach continues
Our twice-monthly outreach to the Senior Center at Temple Beth Am continues to be popular and has become a great way for us to introduce new staff, services and programs and library initiatives to a large group of the community (100 or more people usually attend). We see a very clear, positive impact on attendance at programs we promote to the seniors. We are also using the outreach to develop our staff’s tech help services by rotating staff members who attend the outreach events.

Incident Reports
1/11/23 Employee fell in the parking lot. No medical attention was required.