DIRECTOR’S REPORT AUGUST 2023


STATISTICS

Databases (comparison is to Aug 2022)
- Ancestry  
  ○ Total searches up 75%
- Hoopla  
  ○ Ebooks up 89%
- OverDrive  
  ○ Usage up 22%
  ○ New users ups 25%
- August 2023 Adult Summer reading: In Person: 22 participants (340% increase from 2022) / 33 entries (371.4% increase from 2022); Online: 11 participants (1,000% increase) / 28 entries (2,700% increase). **Total: 33 participants (450% increase) / 61 entries (312% increase)**
- Adult Nonfiction circulation was up 7%
- Audiobook circulation was up 400%
- Video game circulation was up 50%
- Adult reference service was up 18%

ADULT SERVICES

Adult Summer Reading at Pearl River was very successful. See the picture of the board highlighting our winners behind the Information Desk.

With our new Adult Volunteer Policy, our first adult volunteer clocked their first shift.

YOUTH SERVICES

In the past month, we wrapped up our summer reading program with a special guest at storytime - Library Trustee Mike McCue! During the past 3 months, we have joined forces with local businesses and community organizations for this program. We have also been able to connect with...
families who aren't regular library users during the school year. Lastly, the teen volunteer program has grown exponentially with a momentum that is continuing into the fall.

Overall, we have received lots of positive feedback about this year's Summer Reading Program (SRP) from families and staff. Patrons have also expressed enthusiasm about our many upcoming programs.

Our outreach efforts included participating in Evans Park's Kindergarten Orientation and Lincoln Avenue's Back-to-School Night. Our fall programs have begun with more morning programs for preschools, as requested by patrons. Another offering, that came from a patron suggestion, is our brand new 2nd & 3rd grade book club.

The Loeb family have donated a total of $5,000 in honor of their mother’s 90th birthday. This money will be allocated to fund a 1,000 Book Before Kindergarten program that will kick off on September 18th.

**LEARNING LAB**
While most patrons are ready to jump into tech, some parents want their kids to learn STEAM concepts without adding screen time. Our 2 Challenge Island, hands-on engineering programs (grades 3-7) were hits with parents and kids for that reason. Alicia Vonderhurst did a great job finding these programs, promoting them and helping out!

Our longest continuously running program, Writing from Life, just got a bunch of new recruits, and younger ones at that. Our writers now range from their 30s-through 90s, and they’re now working on Writing From Life Vol 7!

Even though the senior group at Temple Beth Am is closed for the summer, seniors are still pouring into the library for Tech Help Sessions with Alicia. She does as many as 5 a day and the seniors absolutely love her!

Our App Developers Coding Camp quickly filled to capacity with kids of every skill level, suggesting room to teach multiple levels of the class as staffing permits. Robotics classes had substantial waiting lists as well. Our Teen Game Developers Camp had a great turnout. The program used software from Carnegie Mellon (Alice) that patrons had to download to their own laptops, making clear the need for more substantial computing power in the Learning Lab in the future. Our Chromebooks are affordable and have served us well but have kept us limited to using cloud based platforms to teach STEM, coding and 3D animation.
As part of PRPL Summer Reading, the Learning Lab encouraged patrons to read STEAM-themed books, try our digital services (Vidcode, etc.), check out something from the Library of Things, or, of course, sign up for Lab programs. Patrons charted their participation on Learning Lab Bingo Boards. Lab Bingo winners won STEAM-Theme prizes provided by the Friends of PRPL. Thanks, Friends! Above are some of our winners.

INCIDENT REPORTS
8/30/23 8 AM Patron called a staff member at home to voice a complaint. Staff member did not give patron their number.
9/11/23 11:30 AM Agitated patron walked into library with large, open beer can. Staff escorted patron out.