



Johnson County Library

County Librarian Report

May 2013



**In Honor of Children's Book Week,
Johnson County Library hosted Make a Story**

To promote Children's Book Week and the new MakerSpace, families were invited to the Library for a day of fun. Families were invited to make puppets, music, stories, illustrations, videos and even play with props and costumes. Events were held from 10:00 am through 4:00 pm.

INFORMATION ITEM

July 11, 2013

TO: Members of Johnson County Library Board of Directors
From: Sean Casserley, County Librarian
Re: County Librarian's Report for the Month of May 2013

This Month's Highlights

Beth Markowitz (**Youth Information Specialist at Corinth Neighborhood Library**) reported a Grandmother was visiting her Grandchildren. The Grandmother was from Texas, but brought her 2 ½ year old Grandchild to the Library. "If I had to read those same books one more time, I am going to burst!" the Grandmother stated. They two patrons selected 8 books and happily skipped to the elevator. "Really! They skipped!" reported Beth.

Melody Kazmi (**Information Specialist at Shawnee Neighborhood Library**) reports a conversation with a patron who recently moved from Texas. In this conversation, the patron explained she had lived in several places throughout the country. The patron explained Johnson County Library is the best Library system she had seen.

A **Shawnee Neighborhood Library** patron was very happy to hear the Wednesday hours had been restored and he could resume using the Library until 9:00 pm on Wednesday. In this conversation, he explained that he hoped the Library could continue serving setting the bar for service in Johnson County. He explained he does not mind paying taxes for two services. MEDACT and the Library are the two services for which he enjoys paying taxes.

Kathleen Byrd (**Youth Information Specialist at Shawnee Neighborhood Library**) recently received a large envelope filled with heart-warming thank you letters and drawings from the Hope Lutheran Third Graders after bringing her sled dog library program to their class. This class follows the Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Alaska every year, and each student is assigned a musher to follow. They incorporate reading, math, science and writing into this unit. Kathleen took her two Siberian Huskies, sledding equipment and books and DVDs about the Iditarod to their class.

Debbie Frizzell (**Youth Information Specialist at Gardner Neighborhood Library**) reports that her application for the Wal-Mart Foundation grant was accepted. The Gardner Neighborhood Library received the grant in the amount of \$1,000, which will be used to fund the "Read to Me" program.

The **Edgerton Neighborhood Library** reports, "On the first "official" day of summer (school's out and Summer Reading begins), there were 70+ patrons in the library shortly after the Library opened.

An **Oak Park Neighborhood Library** patron commented, "I am always glad to come here. They are all cheerful, welcoming, helpful and energetic. They keep things organized and have the best and most wonderful service anywhere. The best!"

I. Using Library Resources

Melody Kazmi (**Information Specialist at Shawnee Neighborhood Library**) reports having a conversation with a patron who came into her location. This patron had picked up the new May issue of BookPage. The patron explained she loved this publication and looks forward to the new author suggestions.

The Summer Reading campaign has made great strides toward an online format. By utilizing Bibliocommons (already being used for the Johnson County Library Web Catalog), Summer Reading is a much more convenient way for every member of the family to participate. This site went live just before the end of the month. Johnson County Library staff are hard at work in the last stages of planning Summer Reading and getting everything tweaked the way we want/need.

Margaret Ohmes (**Information Specialist at Gardner Neighborhood Library**) reported helping a mother who came in the library with her 5 year old son. The mother asked for any books on divorce that focused on children. After pulling several books from the shelves and ordering several more through ILL, Margaret looked online for a website that might also help approach this topic for young children. Before the mother left, the patron tearfully told Margaret, "Thank you. I am not sure how I would have done this without your help. Now I think I might be able to help my son through this."

II. Early Literacy

One staff member overheard a conversation between a mother and her three young children as they walked into the 6 by 6: Ready to Read space. "Oh, my goodness, look at that! This library is way cooler than the other one!"

The Antioch Neighborhood Library reports serving 3,762 people in the 6 by 6: Ready to Read area in May, 2013. This is an average of 130 people each day. This is an increase of 24.2% from April.

III. Serving Children & Teens

Kathleen Byrd (**Youth Information Specialist at Shawnee Neighborhood Library**) reports the Mill Creek storytimes at Mill Creek Recreation Center has been a big success. The attendance has been great, and they have had excellent feedback from attendees. She helped present each one, whether it was with Kathee Goldsich (**Youth Services Librarian**) or Bradley Debrick (**Early Literacy Coordinator**).

Barbara Brand (**Youth Services Manager**) reports that Elementia submissions have been completely moved to an online format. The online format will allow us to not only accept submissions, but judge and edit submissions online.

IV. Serving Adults

Chris Koppenhaver (**Youth Services Librarian at Lackman Neighborhood Library**) reported helping a patron after being approached with a question about same-day holds. He explained that he had been to the Central Resource Library and requested a hold. After Chris helped the patron find his book, the man stated, "Oh my gosh, this was the easiest thing that's ever happened to me!"

Vasu Chakravathy (**Library Clerk at Lackman Neighborhood Library**) reports a patron expressing his appreciation for the ease of picking up his holds.

"You look like a friendly face" one patron commented to a staff member. "Where can I pick up an item placed on hold?" After staff showed the patron how to pick up and check out their holds, the patron commented, "You are all so kind. I called (about this item) on Monday and here it is. And they were so amazingly kind on the phone. Thank you again."

Staff began promoting Summer Reading through word of mouth, with an emphasis on the new adult portion of the Summer Reading Club. Many staff report receiving compliments about this addition and staff report genuine excitement by adults.

V. Interlibrary Loan

ILL borrowed 2,459 items in May 2013 and loaned 1,711 items.

8 new libraries requested materials from Johnson County Library in May 2013.

VI. Early Literacy Outreach

Bradley Debrick (**Early Literacy Coordinator**) held his 5 monthly storytimes at Head Start in addition to spending time in the office as a resource for patrons. Head Start posted a photo of Bradley and a thank you on their Facebook page.

VII. Outreach

Jennifer Mahnken (**Associate Director for Branch Services**) reports working with the DeSoto School District to get library cards to students. To date, 255 applications have been returned. Chris Carleton (**Circulation Supervisor**) reports his staff are working diligently to process the applications and mailing the new card, summer print calendar and a welcome letter to these new patrons.

VIII. Marketing and Community Engagement

Marketing and Communication department staff continues to work with the Web Content team to ensure consistency in promotions.

Kasey Riley (**Director of Communications**) contracted the services of Mindmixer and worked with Mindmixer staff to build a site to solicit input from the public for the strategic plan. Library staff and the public are encouraged to share their ideas at www.jocolibraryconversation.com. The library's Mindmixer site is being promoted through Facebook ads that Marketing and Web Content are testing through June of 2013.

UPDATE: Mindmixer has been an extremely successful tool for soliciting public input. www.jocolibraryconversation.org saw so many registrants the first few weeks that Mindmixer asked **Kasey Riley (Director of Communications)** to be a "success story" by sharing how she promoted the site. By the end of May, Mindmixer had nearly 1,500 active users.

Cindy Frazer and Jennifer Taylor (**Creative Services Coordinators**) continue working directly with the Web Team and Kasey Riley to re-work print pieces that promote library services. The new version of the print calendar of activities will drop in May 2013.

Working with Sean Casserley (**County Librarian**), Kasey Riley (**Director of Communications**) is working to "Give the library a soul – to move it from a governmental institution to a place people want to be." Changing printed materials is a large part of the initial steps. The Summer Print Calendar will be one of the first steps in this process. The Summer Print Calendar will be magazine size, 8 ½ x 11.