

LIBRARY MANAGER'S REPORT – SUBMITTED BY PAMELA MORRIS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Circulation stats:

Physical items:

June	3,365
July	5,961
August	4,880

E-items (books, audiobooks, magazines):

June	1,231
July	1,438
August	1,405

What we've been up to at the library:

- The children's summer reading club was the main focus of operations at the library during July and August. We were pleased to see our registrations return to closer to our 'normal' numbers. This year 475 Children took part in the club. This is more than double the number of kids from 2020 when we offered a modified version of the club due to Covid-19 restrictions. There were several special event days held outside including the kick-off barbecue, bingo, dinosaur egg dig and a Clue game activity afternoon. We also teamed up with Tourism Dawson Creek for a scavenger hunt between the library and the Visitor's Information Centre. On the final day of the club we handed out participation medals and cupcakes and ice cream. We asked parents to fill out feedback surveys and we had some great comments and suggestions:
 - "She goes to bed earlier to spend extra time reading at night"
 - "Our seven-year-old has more confidence in the words she knows and sounding out the new ones. Our five-year-old wants to spend more time with books and working toward reading"
 - "Our youngest really got a zest of reading and grew so much over the summer"
 - "They find reading not as a school chore however now look forward to selecting a new book and actually enjoy it, thank you!"
 - "She takes out books at home more often on her own to read. She talks about the library in a positive way now and she's less afraid of the stairs."
 - "We enjoy the SRC because it also keeps us social during the summer. Meeting friends at the library every week for books and activities is lots of fun!"
 - "It continues to increase his interest in books and reading. He uses books as a strategy for calming down."
 - "We think it has been great! The availability and activities we were able to participate in during the last two covid years have been great and appreciated."
 - "Reading used to be a forced activity in our house. My daughter's confidence in her reading has improved so much over the summer. Reading is something we do for fun now."
 - "I bring a group of children from the daycare. We love picking out new books for the week and the kids always enjoy the games and prizes."
 - "This was our first time doing the SRC and it was awesome! Thank you!"

Some suggestions from parents included:

- Creating a book suggestion board to help other kids pick books – the library could make suggestions and the kids could post suggestions as well.
- Longer hours to make the SRC more accessible for working parents
- More activities for older kids
- Children’s programming will begin in-person in October. Babies and Books, Toddler Tales, Pre-school Storytime and Afterschool Kidz are being offered. Covid-19 safety plans will be in place.
- The library continues to follow public health orders. Staff and patrons must wear masks while in the building. Staff may remove their masks while at their desks. At this time libraries are not required to ask to see proof of vaccination cards to enter the building. There may be a requirement to show cards if the library holds an indoor event with more than 50 people in attendance. We are waiting for public health clarification on this aspect as the order is somewhat vague. Libraries across BC are helping the public access their cards by either helping them download the card to their smart phone or printing paper copies. Our library had helped 34 people during the first week of the card being available.
- The Friends of the Library are holding a used books sale September 23-25. We will finally be able to empty the library of the boxes of used books that we have been storing since Covid shut down their book sale in March 2020.
- The library will be creating a bookshelf in the children’s library that will be home to indigenous story books and/or books written by indigenous authors. We had a request from members of an indigenous family during summer reading club to create this kind of shelving so that these stories could be easily found and be in one place. We recognize the importance of creating a space that acknowledges the legacy of residential schools in Canada and sharing indigenous stories with our youngest patrons. We will be sharing this bookshelf on our social media leading up to the new federal holiday “National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.”

Dolly Parton fundraising:

- City council helped us raise \$2,000 by accepting the singing challenge – a local law corporation gave the entire \$2,000! The performance by some of the member of council was a huge hit on social media and it was a great way to promote the DPIL in the community while also raising a month’s worth of funding.
- ██████████ raised \$758.00 by donating a portion of the sale of hot wings and the poutine of the week during the month of August.
- The Friends of the Library donated \$2,000 in August! This is the second time they have made a donation to the DPIL.
- Canada Post has rejected our grant application submitted with the help of the Regional District grant writers last March.

Submitted by Pamela Morris, Library Manager