



Johnson County Library

County Librarian Report

April 2013



Red, White and Blue: Thanks for all that you do!

That was the theme for the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. On April 19th, nearly 200 volunteers and staff members gathered to thank the volunteers for supporting the library. Also in attendance, three distinguished American icons.

Left to Right: Betsy Ross (Nancy Myers), Abraham Lincoln (Ken Werne) and Dolley Madison (Patty Grove)

INFORMATION ITEM

June 13, 2013

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

This Month's Highlights

Chris Koppenhaver (**Youth Services Librarian - Lackman Neighborhood Library**) reports receiving a request from Nancy Herther of the University of Minnesota: "I'm writing an article for Information Today's ONLINE Searcher magazine (www.infotoday.com) on Amazon's purchase of Goodreads and implications of the newer models for finding and distributing ebooks. I've read some of your work and wanted to ask if you'd be willing to consider commenting on this article."

Terri Bostic (**Information Specialist - Lackman Neighborhood Library**) reports a patron asked if we are open again on Wednesday nights. When told we were, the patron was very happy because that is when she tutored children and could resume using the Library."

Stephanie Bailey (**Assistant Branch Manager - Leawood-Pioneer Neighborhood Library**) had a conversation with a patron about the future of library services after setting up the patrons Kindle with ebooks. The patron was concerned that libraries would be going away because ebooks are growing in popularity. Stephanie asked her how she envisioned libraries in the future, and she wasn't sure. Stephanie continued the conversation about libraries becoming more interwoven into the community. The patrons left happy with an ebook, as well as learning something new about the library.

Vanessa Schneider (**Youth Information Specialist - Leawood-Pioneer Neighborhood Library**) reports a boy came up to her to discuss a book he had picked up in a book club the day before. He was really enjoying it and wanted to know how to review. The school librarian offered to help walk him through the process. The school librarian explained to Vanessa later that he has difficulty in school and was happy to see him excited.

Dorian Assenmacher (**Youth Information Specialist - Antioch Neighborhood Library**) reports a patron commented she could not say enough nice things about the 6 by 6: Ready to Read Early Literacy Space and Dorian's storytime. The patron commented she had lived in three states and had visited many libraries and storytimes but had never witnessed one like the one at Antioch. Dorian discussed the 6 by 6: Ready to Read program, which directs the Johnson County Library storytimes. The patron went on to say that it is obvious that Johnson County Library places a premium on early literacy.

Dorian Assenmacher (**Youth Information Specialist - Antioch Neighborhood Library**) reports a patron story that a mother shared with her. "A mother told me that they are playing library storytime at home multiple times a week and her son insists that she (the mother) play the role of Miss Dorian the Librarian. The child even corrects the mother when she does something he deems as "incorrect" (Miss Dorian doesn't do it like that) during these storytimes.

Stephanie Estes (**Assistant Branch Manager - Antioch Neighborhood Library**) reported one patron began clapping for the Library upon hearing that the Library would be restoring Wednesday evening hours.

I. Using Library Resources

A restaurant owner donated benches that were added to the Lackman Neighborhood Library teen area. The very next afternoon, a teen was spotted lying on one while reading.

Following patron recommendations, staff met with Bibliocommons to establish integrated eBook checkout into the catalog.

Amy Field (**Youth Information Specialist – Antioch Neighborhood Library**) reports: “A patron returned to the library after many years to get a new card. She said she loves the idea of making the library a regular part of her life now. She came back because she heard we now have audio books but was so impressed with our library that she said she’ll probably be stopping by often. Amy explained the ebooks classes and discussed Freegal. The patron expressed her happiness to be a part of our library again.

Leslie Nord (**Branch Manager – Lackman/DeSoto Neighborhood Library**) reports a conversation with a mother about not being able to bring her daughter to storytimes as her mother had done for her as a child. Leslie told her about our new evening storytime. She was very excited and said, “That is so wonderful! As a kid, the moms and grandmas didn’t work but now everybody is working. I am so glad you are doing this!”

II. Early Literacy

Katy Whim (**Youth Information Specialist – Lackman Neighborhood Library**) reports that the first evening storytime in several years had an audience of 33 children and parents.

Gloria Liposchak (**Youth Specialist – Lackman Neighborhood Library**) reports fielding several questions regarding storytimes in the summer. She informed these patrons about the weekly summer programs and there were several follow up questions. Many of the patrons were excited that Johnson County Library will have weekly programs.

Michelle Swiat (**Youth Services Librarian – Antioch Neighborhood Library**) reported a patron approached her following a storytime. She explained that she was a grandmother of one of the children and that her program was “Just wonderful!” She continued to say this was their first storytime but it definitely would not be their last.

The Antioch Neighborhood Library reports serving 3,555 people in the 6 by 6: Ready to Read area in April, 2013. This is an average of 118 people each day. This is an increase of 9.9% from March.

III. Serving Children & Teens

Blue Valley Neighborhood Library reports meeting with Julie Schultz from the Blue Valley School District. Julie oversees high school children enrolled in special education. The Library is working closely with the Blue Valley School District to allow several of the students to have authentic work environments to prepare them for graduation from special education.

One young patron (10 years old) commented to a staff member that he was looking for a book on birds. He was clear that he wanted an adult book, because “Adult books are better.”

Lackman Neighborhood Library received an email from a Guys Read Book Club participant's mother: "We're immersed in *Vordak the Incomprehensible*. Working through book one, and then we'll hit book 3. (My son) is looking forward to the next Guys Read. I am so glad you created this program, it's such a neat way for (my son) and his dad to have their own time together, just the two of them."

Barbara Brand (**Youth Services Manager**) reports a change in the outreach program to the Juvenile Detention Center. "In the months of April and May, Gardner staff and Kate McNair will be performing Outreach all day, every Tuesday. Staff will facilitate Read to Succeed and Speak Out during Language Arts. The schedule will be challenging. Staff will meet in May to reassess how this worked and decided if they would like to keep this schedule next year."

IV. Serving Adults

Blue Valley Neighborhood Library reports a successful program on volunteer opportunities in Johnson County. This program resulted in a new volunteer and new connection with a senior living center.

Lynda Hetherington (**Information Specialist – Gardner Neighborhood Library**) reports helping a patron at the copier. While they were talking, the conversation changed to cross stitch magazines, but Gardner does not have any cross stitch magazines. The patron was looking for a specific pattern in a specific magazine. Lynda explained that she had a personal subscription to that magazine and took the patron's name and number and explained that if she were able to find the pattern, she would call her. The patron seemed very surprised but extremely happy Lynda was willing to go to these efforts.

V. Interlibrary Loan

ILL borrowed 2,561 items in April 2013 and loaned 2,160 items.

15 new libraries requested materials from Johnson County Library in April 2013.

VI. Early Literacy Outreach

Dorian Assenmacher (**Youth Information Specialist – Antioch Neighborhood Library**) visited with teen moms and their children at Horizons High School, the Shawnee Mission School District's alternative high school. Dorian discussed the 6 by 6: Ready to Read program and how important these skills are for children.

Sandra Sutter (**Branch Manager – Leawood-Pioneer Neighborhood Library**) reports Outreach Storytimes at Crème da la Crème. This storytime was on "rain" and staff shared Summer Reading Club family storytimes for June and July.

VII. Outreach

Staff utilized a table at the Shawnee Civic Center during their Healthy Lawn (lawn and garden show) to reach members of the community and promote Johnson County Library. Staff created "fortunes" and placed them into plastic eggs. The "fortunes" were facts about the Library. For example, "Do you know that you can now download music on

Freegal off the Johnson County Library website?" Some of these plastic eggs indicated the recipient had won one a prize. The prizes were to go to the Shawnee Library (located across the parking lot) to receive the prize, thus getting them into the library.

Leslie Nord (**Branch Manager - Lackman/De Soto Neighborhood Library**) reports meeting with the Human Resources Manager at Huhtamaki. Plans were discussed for the upcoming program at DeSoto on how to find and keep a job. Also, they discussed library services and 6 by 6: Ready to Read. Leslie seized the opportunity to offer 6 by 6: Ready to Read skill training for their employees.

Roxanne King (**Youth Services Librarian - Leawood-Pioneer Neighborhood Library**) organized Summer Reading Club materials for 19 Leawood Schools. These materials were distributed to the schools by volunteers.

Cassie Coles (**Youth Information Specialist - Gardner Neighborhood Library**) reports staffing a Library booth during Literacy Night at Wheatridge Middle School. She talked about the Summer Reading program. There were 350 people in attendance for this event, including 175 adults, 100 youth and 75 teens.

VIII. Marketing and Community Engagement

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

Director of Communications, Kasey Riley 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: Contracting MindMixer has been great. We are receiving a great deal of feedback with ideas and suggestions. We are currently keeping a list of these ideas to begin reviewing.

Creative Services Coordinators, Cindy Frazer and Jennifer Taylor have been 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.

Kasey Riley (**Director of Communications**) was asked to give a marketing workshop at the Mid-Continent Public Library Staff Day with Jim Staley (**Marketing and Communications Director - Mid-Continent Public Library**).