



# Johnson County Library

## County Librarian's Report

February 2013



### **Leadership 2013 is Underway**

**Front- Left to right: Robin Davin, Stephanie Estes, Board Chair Mitra Templin, Kristen Holdman-Ross**

**Middle- Left to right: Austin Johnson, Diane Haner, Joe Morgan, Kristin Whitehair**

**Back- Left to right: Dave Carson, Christian Madrigal, Michelle Olsen, Scott Stone**

## INFORMATION ITEM

April 17, 2013

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

### This Month's Highlights

The State Library has informed the **Cedar Roe Neighborhood Library** they will be honored for actively promoting Talking Books. They will be honored in the first week of March.

**Melissa Wolters (Youth Services Librarian at the Gardner Neighborhood Library)** reports helping a patron who was interested in PBS and History Channel DVDs. Melissa showed the patron how to search the catalog for both. She also showed the patron Access Video. The patron was very excited about the results of the search and saw even more production companies listed that drew his interest.

**Vanessa Schneider (Youth Services Librarian at Leawood Pioneer Neighborhood Library)** gave a tour for the Blue Valley North special studies group with 17 teens and 5 adults. They met in the meeting room and Vanessa showed the Johnson County Library catalog, databases, programs and eBooks. Vanessa spoke about the Johnson County Library system, including Library processes, holds, MakerSpace and volunteering while they toured the building. At the end of the tour, Vanessa had two teens say they would like to volunteer and another teen inquired about a Page position.

**Louisa Whitfield-Smith (Reference Librarian at the Central Resource Library)** received a patron phone call. She reported, "I just had a telephone reference patron cancel her eBooks class registration because of the excellent help with her Kindle she received at the **Leawood Pioneer Neighborhood Library**. The patron was extremely impressed and grateful and much more comfortable downloading eBooks from the Library."

**Gloria Liposchak (Youth Specialist at the Lackman Neighborhood Library)** reported, "I was sitting at my desk when I heard 'Quack, quack. Quack, quack.'" Next came 'Cock-a-doodle-doo! Cock-a-doodle-doo!' I looked over at the stage area, and there is a little girl and her mother. The girl had the puppets out and was having a wonderful conversation with them, while mom sat by and watched. The little girl explained why she had to wake up all the animals and what they were going to do for the day. It was so adorable to see a child so actively engaged in telling stories. It wasn't long before the mom had puppets on her hands and was taking direction from her daughter. At the end, the child said to the puppets, "Nice to meet you guys!" When they moved onto another section of the children's area, I went over to tell the mom about how her child did an excellent job of telling stories, and that Tell Stories About Everything was one of the six skills that kids need to be successful in learning to read when they start school. We talked about 6 by 6 for a while. The mother ended up taking a 6 by 6: Ready to Read brochure and one of the 6 by 6: Ready to Read DVDs.

**Corinth Neighborhood Library** reports, "On Friday, after the big snow storm, a patron told us that because we were closed on Thursday, she ran out of books to read and resorted to reading the manual for her clock/radio. She then checked out a stack of books and movies."

**Michelle Swiat (Youth Services Librarian at Antioch Neighborhood Library)** reports, "A patron commented that she didn't know that we had music CDs and was thrilled. I then proceeded to show her the new Freegal service we're offering online. She seemed to be very excited! 'WOW! That is great!' she said."

## I. Using Library Resources

**Antioch Neighborhood Library** reports the use of Easy Picture books has increased with the installation of the face-out display bins. There are many days where there is no overflow (spine-out display) on the lower shelves of the bins. They have also moved our 6 by 6: Ready to Read, Books to Go kits to these shelves to make them more visible.

Many locations report a continued increase in patrons using computers for job searches, responding to ads, completing online applications and creating resumes and cover letters.

**Corinth Neighborhood Library** reports, "A man came in on the last Monday in February, a little panicked because he was to read to his granddaughter's class the next day but the book he ordered from Amazon and paid for 2-day shipping had not arrived so he needed some immediate help locating possible titles to use. **Beth Markowitz (Youth Informational Specialist)** was able to pull a number of suggestions from the shelves.

Patrons continue to express happiness with the automatic book returns and even more happiness about their items being taken off their account immediately.

## II. Early Literacy

**Bradley Debrick (Early Literacy Coordinator)** reports, "the planning for the Storywalk project at Antioch Park is moving along. Johnson County Park and Recreation has plotted out a course for the signs and **Jennifer Taylor (Creative Services Coordinator)** is working on a mockup of the signs.

**Don Martin (Information Specialist at Antioch Neighborhood Library)** constructed some handheld word wheels for the 6 by 6: Ready to Read area.

**Dorian Assenmacher (Youth Information Specialist at Antioch Neighborhood Library)** reports, "Two parents commented to me after storytime today how much they appreciated our reminder call. At the end of our storytime sessions in November each parent was given a survey. On this survey, parents were given the option of receiving a reminder call prior to storytimes resuming.

## III. Serving Children & Teens

**Dennis Ross (Youth Services Supervisor at Central Resource Library)** reports, "Most staff time and energy was occupied by the Walter Dean Myers visit and *elementia* reception. More than 300 people attended the reception at Central Resource Library. **Bradley Debrick (Early Literacy Coordinator)** presented a special storytime in the Carmack Room that evening, as well. Mr. Myers also spoke to Head Start families the previous evening, and students at the Juvenile Detention Center and Horizons Academy.

Soon, a new laptop will be ordered for the Homework Help program. There will also be wall mounted activities for the new half-wall, and a new activity table or two to replace the aging existing furniture.

**Kate McNair (Young Adult Librarian)** reports, "On the way back to Mr. Myers hotel from the *elementia* reception, he reflected on the evening's events. He made two comments that stood out to me: *elementia* is a very professional and gorgeous publication. He commended us on making something so wonderful He also said that teens like those

who were published in *elementia* and performed at the reception are why he writes. 'They get it' he said. 'They get what I am trying to do with my writing.' He felt reinvigorated to go home and write."

## IV. Serving Adults

Staff continues to report a large number of patrons using public PCs to search for jobs, responding to ads and completing online applications and creating resumes and cover letters.

One patron commented, "I love the smooth setup. I have done IT work at a lot of libraries and this one by far is the smoothest. You drop off your books [sorter] when you first come in, you get your books from the hold shelf then you check them out."

**Joy Heffron (Youth Information Specialist at Leawood Pioneer Neighborhood Library)** reports, "A patron walked in and started laughing. When she got to the desk, she told me that she came here to look for a funny book and said (gesturing to the teen 'funny reads' display) 'It's like you are reading my mind!'"

## V. Interlibrary Loan

ILL borrowed 1,586 items in February 2013 and loaned 2,056 items.

14 new libraries requested materials from Johnson County Library in February.

## VI. Early Literacy Outreach

Johnson County Library continues working with the Kansas State Library regarding the expansion of the 6 by 6: Ready to Read program. This month, **Bradley Debrick (Early Literacy Coordinator)** provided the State Library with 6 by 6: Ready to Read activity kit plans.

The **Antioch Neighborhood Library 6 by 6: Ready to Read space** had 1,984 visitors. This breaks down to 79 people each day. Currently, visits to the 6 by 6: Ready to Read space are down 28% from 2012. **Ken Werne (Branch Manager at Antioch Neighborhood Library)** reports that snowstorms and Library closings might have played a part in the lower attendance.

## VII. Outreach

This month, the **Cedar Roe Neighborhood Library reports the Outreach volunteers served 137 seniors at 8 Johnson County Library senior sites.**

**Antioch Neighborhood Library** reports that after months of not being able to perform as much outreach as in the past due to staff shortages, they are finally able to discuss resuming outreach efforts into the community.

## VIII. Marketing and Community Engagement

The Youth Services staff at Johnson County Library brainstormed ideas for interactive Caldecott related activities to share with the patrons in 2013. Staff have enthusiastically created a myriad of activities based on these ideas and are keeping a display up all year at all 13 locations, rotating activities in and out.

Promotional plans are being developed for events/programs being offered by Johnson County Library. These plans include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Mill Creek Storytime
- ✓ Hours restoration
- ✓ Pinnacle Awards
- ✓ MindMixer
- ✓ Strategic Plan and Community Planning

Kasey Riley contracted the services of MindMixer, a local software company that has developed a site for Johnson County Library to solicit input from the public for the new strategic plan.

The Marketing and Communication Department is working to complete the Annual Report. The deadline has been set at June 2013.