



Director's Report November 2025

1. Circulation update (from Alanna Maddox, Circulation Supervisor):
19 of the 24 Circulation Staff members were able to attend Staff Training Day on 10-10-25. A representative from the Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company provided two free workshops - *Time Management* and *Stress Management*. That was followed by the Wauwatosa Fire Department who gave a presentation on first aid and fire safety.

November is a content checking month for juvenile books. Circulation staff are busy flipping through every juvenile book they process for any signs of damage. The Children's Librarians can then assess the book and decide whether or not to replace it.

2. Adult Library update (from Shellie Anderson, Adult Library Supervisor):

Programs and Displays

Wisconsin Lighthouses: Ken and Barb Wardius presented photos and stories from their travels and book, "Wisconsin Lighthouses--A Photographic and Historical Guide." They shared stunning images in a combination of lecture, storytelling, and music. The presentation covered one-third of the lighthouses in the state, including Cana Island Lighthouse, Wisconsin Point Light, Sand Island Light, Rockwell Lighthouse, Rawley Point, and Milwaukee North Point.

Dark Skies: Learn about the dark sky movement, light pollution, and how it impacts fireflies, pollinators, and humans alike. Sam Saegar from Dark Sky International joins us to talk about the efforts to preserve darkness and establish Dark Sky preserves in Wisconsin.

The display in the atrium this month celebrates Native American Month. We are featuring stories by and about indigenous people, as well as non-fiction about this topic. We also have books about Thanksgiving and pie making in the Student Commons hallway.

Document Station

The new credit card terminal in the adult library is working out wonderfully. Patrons can pay for copies, prints and faxes right there at the Library Document Station. We are seeing well over 200 credit card transactions each month. Previously, we would have to send people downstairs to pay with a credit card.

The faxing option on the Library Document Station is heavily used: In October there were 50 fax sessions and 223 pages were sent. We are able to charge much less for faxing than our previous service, and they include a cover page for free.

3. Young Adult Library update (from Katie Jentges, Young Adult Librarian):

During October we hosted our first Pumpkin Book Character Contest. We provided small pie pumpkins for patrons to decorate themed according to their favorite book or movie.

Patrons of all ages came up with creative submissions including Snoopy (who was part butternut squash) and Woodstock, Daniel Tiger, *The Little Prince*, Narwhal and Jelly, and Jasper Rabbit from *Creepy Carrots*. The pumpkins were on display in the Student Commons hallway where patrons had the chance to see them. Each participant won a small prize.



On a no school day, Brianna and I co-hosted a combined tween and teen printmaking party. Participants received canvas tote bags, created their own stamps out of Styrofoam, used a brayer to apply ink to their stamps, and then stamped their tote bag. We had eight participants who had fun designing their stamps, painting them with puffy paint, and then stamping away to create their own unique tote bag.



4. Children's Library update (from Abby Bussen, Children's Library Supervisor):

In-person Programs: 53; Total attendees: 2,153

Passive Programs: 5; Total participants: 498

October was our busiest month of the new school year, with 10 class visits ranging from in the library to in school classrooms. Students were welcome to checkout on their own library cards or use school cards to check out books – 143 students used the school card checkout option. We interacted with 437 students through this outreach, reaching an additional 28 through our Intergenerational Story Times at Oak Park Place and a visit to PIWI, a Parent and Infant re-integration program for babies leaving the foster system and coming back to their born families.

Our biggest event was Costumes & Cuentos, a fun family story time with Halloween and Dia de los Muertos stories and trick or treating around the Library.

5. I attended the Wisconsin Library Association's Annual Conference in Middleton, Wisconsin. Session attended included Introducing the Intellectual Freedom Toolkit; Planning for People: Renovating a Library with the Community and Staff; Care Less: Change the Way You Work Not the Work You Love; Let's Roll! Supporting Outreach and Engagement Through Mobile Services; Overdue Wisdom: Library Leaders Share Their Best Advice and Hardest Lessons; and Navigating the Legal Landscape: Records Retention, Open Records, and Open Meetings Laws.

6. November staff anniversaries:

11 years Tony Handzlik, Shelver

10 years Carolyn Witt, Circulation Attendant

5 years Robbie Locher, Circulation Attendant

7. Upcoming meetings:

Planning Committee: Wednesday, January 21 at 5:30 PM

Library Board: Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 PM

Finance Committee: Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 PM

Library Board: Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 PM