



Director's Report January 2025

1. Adult Library update (from Shellie Anderson, Adult Librarian): We continue to add to our Library of Things. Our book club kits have had renewed popularity, so we added seven new titles and weeded three underperforming kits. Many senior living facilities have book clubs and are utilizing these boxes. Each box contains ten paperbacks, one large print book and a folder containing discussion questions, reviews and information about the book.

The display in the atrium focuses on self-care—A new year, A new you. This features books on sleeping, meditation, and personal development. We also have a table in the student commons area with our BIG art books featured. These tend to get lost on the bottom shelf in the regular stacks; so this is a great way to get them noticed.

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

December programs

In-Person Programs: 36; Total Attendance: 1,276

Passive Programs: 5; Total Participation: 766

2024 Total In-Person Programs: 380; Total Attendance: 12,436

2024 Total Passive Programs: 63; Total Participation: 6,589

Though our December statistics may look huge, December was a bit of a reprieve from an incredibly busy November. Over 12 class visits during the month of November, the Children's Librarians Jennifer Hron, who coordinates visits for grades K4-3, and Sharon Long, who works with grades 4-5, welcomed in 576 students, plus their educators and chaperones, for stories and book talks. After book talks, it was "all hands on deck" as every member of the Children's staff jumped in to help students find just-right books to check out before they took the walk or ride back to their schools. These class visits require significant coordination between myself and Circulation Supervisor, Alanna Maddox, as well as her circulation staff, who always serve our young patrons with cheer and positivity. Other programming "wins" include another round of our popular, annual Holiday Ornaments & Cocoa, an all-day event which this year allowed 348 children and their grownups to make festive, illuminated tree sculptures. (photos attached)



We also focused on developing our involvement in the Library of Things, adding no-screen, low-tech robotics kits, 2 Yoto Mini Players with 20 story cards (image from Yoto), and are in the process of adding 3 Toniebox kits (image from Walmart) and 70 individual Tonies. Both of these audio players allow families to experience screen-free audiobooks for young children. They are also items we get questions about frequently — families have to drive to Franklin or Brown Deer to check them out as neither Library allows their Tonies collection to be sent via transport. Adding these popular materials to our local Library of Things allows us to expand our range and meet the evolving needs of our community. We hope to continue to find areas where we can grow while not stressing the capacity of our storage space.



3. Circulation update (from Alanna Maddox, Circulation Supervisor):
We hosted Jill Lininger and Sarah Corso (Library Director and Access Services Manager, respectively) from the Oak Creek Library to give them a tour of our new sorter. They also

shared with us their magazine and Library of Things procedures. We are grateful for the insight as we are adding and updating our own procedures.

We strategized and came up with a solution for storage of additional Library of Things items. These Things include large and hard-to-store items such as tools and yard games.

Shellie Anderson, Abby Bussen, and I met to come up with ideas for our upcoming Staff Training Day to take place in October. We reached out to the Brookfield Public Library for a contact with CVMIC - a group that they used to facilitate staff training. We will be looking through the CVMIC catalog to determine if/what training would be most beneficial for us.

4. December and January Anniversaries:

- 18 years Susan Zuern, Technical Services Aide
- 11 years Tracie Peksa, Circulation Aide
- 10 years Marty Fudge, Technical Services Librarian
- 8 years Jeff Paxton, After School Library Monitor
- 2 years Katherine Krueger, Shelver
- 2 years Deborah Cincotta, Shelver

8 Upcoming meeting:

- Library Board: Wednesday, February 19 at 6:30 PM
- Library Board: Wednesday, March 19 at 6:30 PM