

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Anchorage Public Library hosted bestselling children's graphic novel author and artist Raina Telgemeier May 17-20. She held four events at three Anchorage Public Library locations- including a presentation for homeschool and private school students, four presentations for Anchorage School District students, one event at Bosco's Comics, and one event at Wasilla Public Library. **Over 2,300 people** attended these events. Repeatedly we heard that this was the "best day ever" or "this is the book that made my child a reader". These events were funded by Friends of the Anchorage Public Library, a grant from Alaska State Council for the Arts & National Endowment for the Arts, Friends of the Wasilla Public Library, and Bosco's Comics. - Elizabeth Nicolai (Coordinator), Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations), APL Youth Services. **(See full recap attached, video available at <https://bit.ly/APLThankYouRaina>)**
- Summer Discovery kicked off inviting families to read and discover all summer long once again. Library summer reading programs are one of the few research proven ways to combat the "summer slide" - the phenomenon where students can lose up to three months of academic progress over the summer.
 - Reading Rendezvous kicked off Summer Discovery at Loussac Library with a four-hour festival celebrating reading and learning.
 - 46 community booths
 - 48 volunteers giving 166 hours of service
 - 2,600 people attending
 - 2,530 people registered for Summer Discovery in May including 1,117 people in our target population of elementary school students, who will be most impacted by summer reading.
 - To promote Summer Discovery, Loussac Youth Services staff made a number of school visits and welcomed classes into the library.
 - Huffman Elementary – Elizabeth Nicolai, 182 kids
 - Chugach Optional – Kelsey Skrobis, 230 kids
 - Spring Hill visit to library – Lisa Bricker 20 kids and chaperones
 - Chester Valley and Muldoon Elementary—Red Coffey (Muldoon) 400 kids and teachers
 - Homestead and Eagle River Elementary visits to the library-Sue Sommers (Chugiak-Eagle River) 74 kids and chaperones
 - Airport Heights Elementary – Keelin Baughman (Mountain View) **300 students and teachers**
- The Gerrish Library was visited by the Girdwood School for a summer reading promotion and scavenger hunt. The 1st and 6th graders, who are reading buddies, came and learned about signing up for summer reading and had a fun time looking around the library for the scavenger hunt. We had a total of 43 individuals.
- Mountain View librarian Keelin Baughman hosted 4 classes of Clark Middle School students in the Community Room to help kids begin research projects on the works of William Shakespeare. Students attended 2 class sessions each over the course of a week for a total of 8 class visits.
- Mountain View librarian Keelin Baughman went to Clark Middle School to work with a Public Speaking class researching argumentative essays and helping students with their presentation skills.

- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) kicked off the Growing Together summer gardening programs. Program-To-Go kits were distributed to all five APL locations, and in person programming saw a 10% increase in participation over 2022.
- Using Public Library Assistance Grant money, we launched a new database, Scholastic Teachables. This includes over 26,000 printable resources for pre-K to 6th grade including decodable books and readers, flashcards, practice tests, lesson plans, worksheets, maps, and so much more. While it only launched mid-month with very little fanfare, the first two weeks of usage saw 341 documents downloaded. We look forward to marketing this towards families for summer learning opportunities and teachers and homeschoolers in the fall. (Elizabeth Nicolai)

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Every week, in June and July, all 5 APL locations will have a different featured summer program for elementary school age children. These include a science program, art program, puppet show by Krumbambuli puppets, comics workshop with Lee Post, visit from Alaska Zoo, birds with BirdTLC, and more. (Elizabeth Nicolai and youth services staff)
- Teen Life Skills returns this summer with programs on first aid, job interviews, and other great skills for teen. These events will be at all locations. (Jon Ebron, Teen Services Librarian)

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Youth Services selectors spent Public Library Assistance Grant moneys from the State of Alaska on a number of collection increases this month including more children's nonfiction (Kelsey Skrobis), and more audio-enabled books from WonderBooks and Vox Media (Red Coffey and Samantha Blanquart). This extra \$10,000 allowed us to refresh and increase our collections in areas that are hard to cover within our regular budgets due to their higher cost.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Library is resuming service to the Dimond Center Express Library this June after a considerable length of time. The locker has left the Transit Center and resumed a place in the Dimond Center inside one of the Dimond Boulevard entrances. Staff are doing training the first week of June and patrons will be able to place holds beginning June 5th.
- Animal Care and Control continues to table at Mountain View, providing information on adoptable pets, licensing laws, and information on lost & found pets. AC&C brings a furry friend to every visit that patrons are welcome to engage with.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Computers were unavailable May 11-May 18 due to a server crash. Celia Hartz and Robert Zammaron (Automation) worked quickly to restore service, but patrons were unable to use computers or print during that time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Jon Ebron (Loussac Teen Services) partnered with a teacher from Benny Benson School to set up a study hour for teens on a weekly basis.
- Muldoon hosted a mural “unveiling” for ASD art teachers and students. Jen Joliff—the local artist who oversaw the project—spoke glowingly about the student participation and our partnership. 55 people attended the event.
- Chugiak-Eagle River tried a new program, Preschool Playtime, to try to keep preschool families engaged while Storytime was on a short hiatus. Early literacy toys and activities were placed around the program room and caregivers and children could socialize with each other during these free play sessions. Each session averaged 25 caregivers/children with one mom commenting that the program was really appreciated and did we offer more frequently.
- Mountain View hosted the 11th Airborne Division Band from JBER. 30 people attended from both the military and civilian communities.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library will be participating in the Bear Paw Festival by hosting a table at popular Teddy Bear Picnic July 14.
- While the building will be closed, Gerrish Library will still be participating in the Girdwood Forest Fair, hosting a parking lot table to sign visitors up for Summer Discovery July 7 and 8.

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Staffing Updates
 - Muldoon Library is fully staffed for the first time in over a year, with the hiring of Kim Cameron as a Library Assistant I
 - Adult Services (Loussac) is fully staffed for the first time in two years with the recent promotion of Amanda Andros to a supervisory position and the return of Meghan Malone as a Reference Librarian I in July.
- Decorations for Summer Discovery at the Mountain View branch were featured in the iREAD (national theme coordinating vendor) newsletter. Thanks to Tammi Mohr for putting the Facebook post together that featured the decorations.
- Collection Management Services “By The Numbers” for May.

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	303
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	48
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	3,107

- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) provided the following trainings to APL staff, and the ALC (Alaska Library Catalog) work group that provides our patrons with access to the state-wide catalog.
 - Social Media for Gerrish (Girdwood) Library
 - Logo design and marketing for the ALC

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The search for an assistant director continues, including nationwide promotion of the position.
- Celia Hartz (Automation), Mollie Roache (Budget), Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations), and Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services) will be wrapping up the final stages of an APL CARES Act project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services this summer by implementing a marketing plan for Northstar Digital Literacy and purchasing new laptops with Microsoft Office licenses, for patron use within libraries.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Numerous positions from Range 6-15 are continuing to be posted and filled. However, many duties remain assigned to other staff members while positions are vacant, limiting some library internal workflows.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- The Friend of the Library hosted their annual spring book sale May 5-7 and continue to see an increase in support from the community.

Social Media/Photos

Facebook posts from community members and organizations

