

Educating Minds

Accomplishments

- We started the Little Kids Book Club which meets once a month. This is for early readers who read beginning chapter books and meet to discuss them. We had a great turnout of 10 kids and 6 adults. The children were really excited to share their opinions on the book. By putting into words their thoughts and feelings, these students are practicing their language and comprehensive skills, which is a pathway to academic success.
- The Adult Book Club met to discuss *Mexican Gothic*, their selection for Hispanic Heritage Month. We had 13 in attendance, and the book made us expand our idea of Mexico to be less stereotypical and incorporate mountainous regions with trees and fog. We also discussed colonialism, eugenics, and female empowerment.
- Our in-person story times continue to be well attended. We average 12 children and 10 parents. Not only is this educating parents and children, but it is also connecting people and building community. We've had new parents with babies get to know each other and discuss the trials and tribulations of their babies. One child came later in the day. She told me she was sad that she had to miss that day's story time because she had a dentist appointment and wanted to see what we read and what the craft was. We've heard parents and children singing the songs from story time later in the library.
- Our book displays continue to entice patrons to check out books of different interests. Including our Staff Picks displays, we have had around 75 books check out from displays.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- We are currently loading this year's batch of Student Internet Cards into the ILS which gives access to all Longview Schools students access eBooks and other online resources.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The MJO room may be getting too small to host the more active story times. We may have to have the craft component out in the hallway.

Empowering People

Accomplishments

- NW Voices held an evening event featuring poet and author Krysten Ralston. Our partnership with LCC enabled a workshop to be offered earlier in the day with Krysten.

- Our Saturday programming focused on all age activities including Crafternoons, game times, 3D printing demonstrations and movies.
- Thursday, November 10, the third-grade classes from Olympic Elementary School came to the library for a field trip to round out their library study unit. All students were able to get library cards!
- Sixteen readers participated in the Hispanic Heritage Month 2022 reading challenge, which ran on Beanstack from September 15-October 15.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- We have multiple day care visits scheduled for November, both at the library and out at the daycare center.
- The next NW Voices event is scheduled for November 16 with Sally Tisdale.
- We are currently running a Family Stories reading challenge on Beanstack for the month of November.
- The Winter Reading Challenge, which is a more library-directed reading challenge, takes place during January, and we will start getting ready for that challenge soon.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

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Building Community

Accomplishments

- We brought back Little Monster Mash! We estimated around 500 people attended the three-hour event.
- We installed the permanent StoryWalk at Archie Anderson Park. Our opening celebration on October 4 was a huge success with 65 people in attendance to do the StoryWalk, watch the magician and have a piece of cake. We have had two different stories so far and 11 responses to our survey. One person wrote "This was a very fun experience for my budding reader! It also helped us get out of the house and moving! My daughter says she wants to come back and read the story every day now!" Another says "This was amazing all the kids loved it. My 7-year-old read the story and we talked about each additional question at the bottom. That you so much."
- Our October newsletter was sent out to 11,650 people, view the newsletter here: bit.ly/oct2022newsletter
- The Art Speaks Volumes event was held October 1st with many great altered books for purchase.
- The Friends of the Library held a very successful book sale with many books coming from the weeding process the Library has been undertaking to discard books from the Library's collections.
- The Friends of the Library have organized weekly rose garden work parties to freshen up the space with staff liaison, Austin.
- In working with the Longview Kelso Chamber of Commerce, we created flyers on the Library and the Fuller Economic Development Center to be given out to people moving to our community and people starting new local businesses.

- We currently have 96 readers participating in the “Our Shelf” reading challenge, which reads along with our podcast “Your Shelf or Mine.” Our most recently posted episode, on Susan Orlean, has had 20 downloads so far.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

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Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Friends have expressed concern that the withdrawn library books do not sell well compared to donated books and we are looking for alternate ways of discarding them, particularly Better World Books.
- We have struggled to keep up with editing and posting new podcast episodes because of staff time.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- We’ve completed RFID tagging of the Biography and Large Print collections. Large Print has been moved to the Main Floor, and the Genealogy materials have been moved to the Mezzanine.
- We’ve added 2 “Staff Picks” a month to social media to encourage the community to read and engage in conversation around new books in the Library.
- We increased our Library building open hours to pre-covid levels including MT: 9-7pm, WTH: 9-6pm, Sat: 9-5pm.
- We updated our internal communications procedures to better support staff’s ability to share information.
- We completed the Library signage audit and have started a phased approach to updating the many signs in the Library focusing on the main floor first, then the mezzanine and finally the first floor as the collections get moved around.
- Jackie Hamm retired from the library October 31.
- Three open positions were posted: Adult Services Librarian, Library Technician, and Youth Services Page. Interviews have been complete for the former two, and page interviews are scheduled for November 19.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- RFID tagging has begun in the adult Fiction collection and hope to start working concurrently on the Nonfiction collection; those collections will be swapping locations on the Main Floor and Mezzanine.
- The Genealogy area will see improvements as space is opened for display and research areas.
- We’ve started the recruitment process for a muralist to update the children’s area around the stairs.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- RFID tagging is temporarily slowed by staff shortages and the relocation of Drive-Thru which prioritizes book drop duties over tagging. As we get catch up with bookdrop and shelving, there should be time for tagging.
- With three open positions (Adult Librarian, Clerk, and Page), we have had to be flexible with deadlines and tasks, so everyone is available to cover the expanded Library building open hours.

Photos of Activities at the Library

Monster Mash

Alysa Adams, of Washington State Parks, shows a curious police officer, Addison Lee, 6, a bat skeleton at the Longview Public Library's Little Monster Mash on Saturday, Oct. 29, in Longview. The event had crafts, dancing, a costume contest and a cider press for kids to celebrate Halloween.



StoryWalk Grand Opening

Our opening celebration at Archie Anderson Park.



Baby Storytimes

Jakob Collins shares a panda with Baby Storytime attendees.

