

Abington Township Public Libraries
Executive Director's Report
August 24, 2020

Personnel and Library Business

Please note that tonight's meeting was advertised in The Intelligencer on Friday, August 21, 2020.

What a difference bringing back three part timers and two full timers makes! We are able to keep up with curbside, which is going like gangbusters. Last week we checked out our 10,000th item, along with celebratory balloons and a photo op for the very adorable little library user. Our patrons are so very appreciative of our staff's efforts: we've received many nice notes, phone calls, and candy.

We finally got caught up with the holds for Abington cardholders, and now we are filling holds for other libraries. They are being processed chronologically. We've made our way through June and July. All staff continue to assist Circulation with curbside pickup.

Book Bundles are very popular, with 49 requests to date.

Mimi Satterthwaite and Carolyn DuBois met with Ashley McIlvaine, Abington Township's Communications Manager, to discuss coordinating our marketing efforts. Ashley would like to include Library events in the Townships Parks and Recreation guide (hooray, finally!) this fall. We determined we could start by promoting Library electronic resources, then add programs in as we are able.

Information/Technology

Mimi Satterthwaite reworked the 2020 materials budget based on the Library's revised 2020 budget, which was presented at last month's Board meeting. Funds were reduced across all formats.

Staff created 35 social media posts in July. The Summer Reading Challenges for adults (79 readers) and teens (85 readers) saw some engagement but, of course, the numbers are down compared to last year. Staff answered 182 reference questions over the course of ONE WEEK in July. This is of particular note because we are fewer hours to answer the phone.

Programming included our Dungeons and Dragons group (24 attendees) and our One Summer, One Author event, attended by nine teens who were able to interact (via pre-recording) with each other and author Jon McGoran. College Essay Boot Camp for teens drew 16 attendees. College Essay Boot Camp for Parents drew 12 attendees. Finally, College Admission and Financial Aid event drew eleven attendees.

Re/the MCLINC hack: Lois has been spending her time rebuilding 21 staff computers. MCLINC staff were able to offer an initial boost of help one Monday. Staff computers still need the printers and personal settings restored, remote access needs to be restored, as does Wi-Fi at Roslyn Branch. MCLINC has issued a new policy re/passwords, with stricter parameters, more restrictions, and a mandatory password change every six months.

Children's Department

Our summer program schedule is winding down. In the past four weeks, Children's staff held twelve virtual programs, with a total estimated attendance of 346. Programming included Virtual Story Times, Family Fun Nights and Doggone Good Readers. Our final summer program was held on August 18 – the Hoopla Graphic Novel Book Club. Twelve children discussed this year's Newbery Award winner, New Kid by Jerry Craft.

Participation in our elementary and preschool Summer Reading Challenges has increased since my last report. We now have 165 registrations and 107 active readers. Of course, this is a far cry from the more than 1,000 participants we see in a normal summer. Fingers crossed for summer 2021!

We were thrilled to be chosen by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries as a Summer Relief Grant recipient. The \$740 could not have come at a better time.

Children's Department staff created eleven social media posts to promote programs, and they are now working on the children's version of Abington's Favorite Book Competition.

The staff completed a much-needed shift of the juvenile magazine and graphic novel sections. It all looks so much better now, and we know returning children will be impressed!

Technical Services

Staff was challenged to keep up with their work load after the MCLINC hack resulted in minimal access to Polaris. Thankfully, TS staff are now back up and running to pre-virus standards.

TS recently attended their first Database Committee meeting since April. I am the MCLINC Board representative to that committee, and it has been a real pleasure to serve. I started my career in Technical Services as a cataloging assistant, and I have always had an interest in and been an advocate for quality cataloging.

Jeanne Zucker is also working on some of the library's archival material in a frantic effort to get through some of the years from the 1990s (I can help her with identifying people and events in our scrapbooks). Of course, I will help her even after retirement, if needed.

YTD, we have cataloged 3,875 items and imported 1,514 new bibliographic records into the catalog, and we withdrew 2,381 items.

Facilities

Steve Trader's report is attached. Highlights include:

- Social distancing, sneeze guards, directional arrows installed
- Lobby repainted and carpet tiles replaced
- Annual inspections for elevator and backflow preventers
- Additional shelving installed to accommodate hold requests for curbside pickups

In addition to their regular responsibilities, our custodial staff is in charge of emptying the book drops, preparing the 1,000 items returned daily for a minimum of 72 hours quarantine, then putting the materials on book trucks and getting them back up to the Circulation Department. It involves a great deal of extra work and time, however Steve and Bill are doing a good job keeping up and keeping track.

Roslyn Branch

Wireless is still out at Roslyn Branch, which affects Meg Mitchell's ability to attend Zoom meetings and prevents people from using the Wi-Fi in the Branch parking lot.

Roslyn Branch staff came up with an innovative and engaging program idea: they are packing up "Light Science" kits for scheduled pickup. Forty children have signed up. We will distribute the kits this week and post the instruction on August 22. The children will click on bright squares on the website, and using their special glasses, they will see rainbows and watch beads change color, while learning the scientific methods of comparison and testing theories. This is another example of something we are able to offer because of the returned furloughed staff.

Roslyn Branch staff has seven people registered for "Organizing for Home or Cyber School." "Stitch and Chat" Zoom attendance continues with seven people attending regularly. Some of the attendees live alone and have expressed how important this is to them.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hammeke Marshall, Executive Director