



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: June 22, 2023

PREPARED BY: Carey Vance,
Library Manager
Ginger Antunez,
Youth Services Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Adult Programs

On May 12, staff hosted the third session of the monthly Dungeons & Dragons programs for adults. Three players enjoyed an evening of learning the basics of the popular, fantasy role-playing game; doubling the participants from the previous month. The participants got to enjoy a self-contained adventure to learn and experience the game over a two-hour period.

On May 12, Adult Services staff visited Brookdale Senior Living to facilitate a book club. The book club members are going reading *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. This book will be read together in 30-minute sessions, leaving time for discussion. A total of five people participated in this bi-monthly program.

On May 15, the library hosted its monthly Video Game Club, with three adults in attendance. They played Super Smash Brothers Ultimate on the Nintendo Switch while socializing and engaging in light and friendly conversation. This program is one of many the library has created in response to feedback from patrons asking for programs that allow them to meet others in a relaxing environment.

Novel T's Book Club met on May 23 to discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande. A total of 14 participated, 11 in-person and three via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *We Have Always Lived In The Castle* by Shirley Jackson.

Literacy Services

In May, a total of 71 Learners and Tutors participated in 10 programs. Culture & Conversation continues with weekly hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) meetings, Book Club continues as a hybrid biweekly program, and Write Club continues as an in-person biweekly program. Staff provided a two-part tutor training session led by Dianna Baycich, Literacy Projects Coordinator from Kent State University. Baycich instructed five tutors on the *Four Components of Reading*, helping them build their skills so they can share the information with their learners. On May 11, staff provided a library tour to 15 students from the Monrovia Community Adult School, sharing the resources and services the library provides the community.

Veterans Services

During the month of May, the Veterans Resource Center had a total of 130 interactions with veterans and their family members. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 15; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 30; and VRC staff 40. Staff also hosted a *Veterans Thank You Dinner* on May 3 for 45 veterans and their family members. The evening included dinner as well as information sharing from the center's CVSO and the VPAN representative. Currently, staff are hard at work preparing for the Community Picnic Celebrating Veterans event on Saturday, June 24 in Library Park. Over 20 community partners have already committed to supporting the event.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Wednesday Storytime

The library continued its weekly Wednesday storytime through May. Caregivers and children gathered for stories, songs and activities focused on early literacy skills and school readiness. Together we read stories about change, sharing and funny hamster stories. Children made a different craft each week and learned the importance of sharing supplies in a group setting. A total of 357 children and their caregivers attended storytime.

Baby Storytime

The Baby Storytime continues to be a hit. This program is designed to demonstrate early literacy practices that families, parents, and caregivers can continue at home to help their child 0-2 develop the skills necessary for literacy. Reading, singing, writing, playing, and talking are simple practices that caregivers can do to support their child's future reading and writing development. Short books are read with many songs and rhymes. Action songs and movements are incorporated with the use of beanbags, colorful scarves, and egg shakers. The storytime ends with free play allowing babies and toddlers to be imaginative through play, while families can socialize with each other. A total of 299 caregivers and children attended.

Bilingual Storytime

The library continued with its monthly bilingual storytime. Children were read books in Spanish and danced around to songs in both English and Spanish. One fun song was having the kids do *Head, Shoulder, Knees and Toes* in Spanish. A total of 20 caregivers and children attended.

Sensory Playtime

Children with sensory processing disorders and *Autism Spectrum Disorder* were invited to explore, play, and make new friends in a welcoming, accepting, and celebratory atmosphere designed specifically for this demographic need. Children practiced their experimentation and collaboration skills as they chose what and how they wanted to play with sensory toys and books, with a focus on sharing, friendly conversation, and fine and gross motor skills. Parents and guardians expressed their gratitude at having a specialized time just for their children that extended beyond the appreciated but unfortunately one-time Autism Awareness/Acceptance events held in April. Pre-registration for the event was encouraged, as attendance was limited for comfort and safety, though walk-ups were welcomed as space allowed. A total of four children attended the event.

Barks and Books

Collaborating with *Love on a Leash* and *Therapy Dogs International*, this literacy program offers young children a chance to practice their skills by reading aloud to a loving and attentive therapy dog. One pre-registered student sits for ten minutes while a furry friend lays next to them and listens. During the hour, at least six students have an opportunity to participate. This program is every other week on Tuesdays in the Library's Story Room – May 9 and May 23.

Innovation Lab

We held one Innovation Lab program in May, which drew in children between the ages of 6 and 11, and their families. The program attendees learned about a variety of STEAM-related subject matter, including circuits, robotics, coding and engineering. We will continue to offer an assortment of STEAM programming for school-aged children for the foreseeable future to ensure we are enhancing experiences, access and technology for the people of Monrovia.

LEGO Free Play

On Saturday, May 27, the library hosted a *Lego Free Play* event. There was relatively, large turnout for this event, 50+ people during the two hours. There were children between the ages of one and 13 who attended the program along with their parents and caregivers. The children built all sorts of different things at the program. Importantly, we are providing the children, and families, of Monrovia with an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, critically and creatively think, and improve concentration and focus, problem solve, develop spatial skills and boost self-confidence. The program offers an opportunity for attendees to engage and bond with their families and other members of the community. We are happy with the turnout and continue to have a very positive response to the program.

Monrovia Unified Parent Outreach Night

On Thursday, May 4, the school district hosted a *May the Resources Be With You* fair for parents at Monrovia High School. Staff participated in the spirit of the theme and had a Star Wars themed table with flyers for our upcoming programs as well as our Summer Events Calendar. Children were also given a free book.

Wildrose Elementary

On Thursday, May 11, Wild Rose Elementary Kindergarteners came to visit the library to enjoy a storytime, and tour the building. A total of 105 were in attendance.

To promote the 2023 Summer Reading Program, staff hosted a school assembly for Mayflower Elementary on Friday, May 19 at 12:00 p.m. All grades participated by attending three separate assemblies. The highlights of the Summer Reading Program and library facts are the main topics in an interactive and exciting game played with the students reminding them to read this summer and come to the library. A total of 450 students were in attendance.

Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC) Visit

Staff conducted a series of four storytimes for students at Canyon Early Learning Center. All students attending the school listened to stories, sang, danced, and practiced a variety of rhythmic and movement skills while reviewing concepts related to living things. A total of 150 children and teachers attended the program.

Mayflower Special Day Class (SDC) Class Visit

Students from Mayflower came to the library before opening to learn more about what a library does and how it operates, hear some stories, get a library card and check out books. The students were particularly excited about the variety of books the library offers, as well as the new responsibility that came with their library cards. A total of 18 children and teachers participated.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on May 1 in the Library Community Room and was led by the TAB officer board. During the meeting, TAB members received updates on volunteering in May. The teens signed up to help with storytime craft preparation on Tuesday afternoons, Innovation Lab, and Lego Free Play. After the regular meeting, an orientation was held for the Summer Reading Program volunteering. The teens were given an overview of the program and learned how they would be assisting at an information table in the Library Lobby throughout June and July. A total of 26 TAB members attended the meeting.