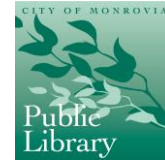




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Public Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: June 27, 2017

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Elder,
Adult and Literacy Services Supervisor
Elizabeth Schneider,
Youth Services Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

On Tuesday, May 9, adult services staff presented a finger knitting class to seniors at Brookdale in Monrovia. Over ten enthusiastic participants created finger knitted necklaces. The library outreach focuses on senior communities in Monrovia and delivers books, tech help, and creative activities to residents at several locations.

On Wednesday, May 10, adult services staff attended the 2017 Adult Services Symposium sponsored by the Center for the Book and held at the Torrance Public Library. The symposium offered free program ideas and training which was focused on adults and community engagement. Staff learned about innovative programming ideas, received free toolkits, and networked with programming librarians from libraries.

On Thursday, May 11, literacy staff attended the Southern California Library Literacy Network meeting at the Korea-Town Branch of Los Angeles Public Library. Area Literacy Program Coordinators meet monthly to share resources and address literacy issues. The April meeting focused on marketing literacy programs and the annual Writer to Writer Conference. The Monrovia Public Library will be hosting the monthly meeting in November.

On Monday, May 15, literacy staff partnered with the Monrovia Adult School to host an English Speaking and Pronunciation Class in the Library Community Room. The class meets Monday through Thursday from 8am-1pm for seven weeks. The Adult School provides an instructor and materials for the course. Over thirty students are registered for the course. The Library and Adult School partner each summer to provide life-long learning opportunities to adult learners in the community.

On Monday, May 29, the Veteran's Resource Center staff and volunteers attended the annual Memorial Day remembrance at Live Oak Cemetery in Monrovia. The event is hosted by the Allied Veterans Council. Staff and volunteers hosted a table with veterans benefit information from the library's Veteran's Resource Center. Library staff attends this annual program to provide outreach and support to local veterans and veteran's organizations.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Library staff developed an early literacy support program called *On the Road to Reading* in 2015 and are continuing the program annually. The program is available to children ages 0-5 and exists to help families

work with their child to practice literacy and school readiness skills. Children could sign up between September and April with the goal of reading 50 books together with their family members. This goal could be repeated as many times as they could within the time period, and included repeating books, books read in storytime, books on CD, eBooks, and any book from home or the Library. Reading together helps children hear the smaller sounds in words, learn concepts and names of things, hold a book and discover print, and distinguish letters and sounds. This year the program was moved from the online software system to paper in an effort to engage the children on a more meaningful developmental level. Every time a child finished a book, they could color in a space on the form, making the goal reaching more tactile and participatory for both adult and child. During the 2016-2017 school year, 151 children registered for the program, as compared to 131 participants in the past year. Reading increased this year from 20,150 books to 32,000 books read. Book bags, educational toys and books were given out as incentives.

Librarians visited all of five of the elementary schools in Monrovia in May to inspire kids to join the Summer Reading Program. Children played a robot building game while learning facts about the program such as the first day to sign up (June 12) and how to keep track of the books they read (online through the Library website). These Summer Reading assemblies are great promotion of the use of the Library during the summer months and encourages kids to participate in free, engaging, design-thinking programs. Both Clifton and Santa Fe Middle Schools were also visited by librarians. Middle Schoolers played scattergories in teams and listened to booktalks on new and exciting books to read this summer. Most of the books were checked out from the Library the day after the visits.

The youth services department partnered with Monrovia High School's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) over a two month period. The partnership produced the creation of *True Colors Storytime* in recognition of June as Pride month for the LGBTQ+ community. Mr. Michael Wagner, sponsor of the GSA, was a positive influence throughout and provided a great path for communication with the teens. The event included seven teens from Monrovia High participating in a variety of ways. Three teens read stories to the children, and two teens presented a flannel board called "*Rainbow Stew*". The teens all participated in decorating the room for the event, assisting younger children with crafts and singing songs throughout the program. Teens expressed gratitude for being able to show their pride at Monrovia Public Library and engage with younger children in a positive way. One student said it was hard for him when he was younger because he was not shown that it was okay to be LGBTQ+ and that he felt this storytime could help others who might be afraid of acknowledging their true feelings.

Summer Reading will kick off at Station Square Park with the hilarious all-ages show by Michael Rayner on Thursday, June 15. Participants can look forward to outrageous jokes, and wacky tricks like wheelbarrow balancing and flying cheeseburgers. Sign-ups for the Summer Reading Program will be available, along with dancing tunes from Disney girl DJ Bree.

Summer programs will begin the week of June 12 and include some exciting design opportunities for children. Create Crew is a design and engineering program with the goal of facilitating design thinking and problem solving in children. Our first week's challenge focuses on space travel and the International Space Station (ISS). Children will learn about NASA's deployment of solar arrays to the space station, and will have the opportunity to think like a NASA engineer. They will work in teams to design mock solar panels that can fold to a small size and be opened one-handed on the space station. This activity uses the engineering design process to brainstorm, design, build, test, and evaluate to achieve a successful result. The projected outcome of the program is to give children an opportunity to practice and gain confidence in problem-solving and engaging in the design process, which are skills crucial to succeeding in STEM careers.

Coding Club will focus on video game design using Google CS First. Offered by Google and using MIT's Scratch programming language this program is designed to create tech-savvy leaders of the future. Using simple block based coding, the program aims to instill confidence using computers, courage to experiment, grit to tackle difficult problems, a sense of community for underrepresented youth and provide memorable connections to real life opportunities that can impact children's future careers and communities. The program is open to children ages 9 to 14 years old. The program has reached a maximum limit of ten students, but more participants may join if they have their own laptop. The wait list is currently full, showing this is a program that is useful to community members.

TEEN SERVICES REPORT

The TAB Recognition Party will be held on Friday, June 16 from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Library Community Room. Teen Advisory Board members have voted again to have Costco Food Night and enjoy their favorite kiosk treats from the warehouse store. Five teens were selected as Teen Volunteers of the Year based on most participation in the past year and dedication throughout their career as TAB volunteers. The following teens will be awarded this prestigious honor: Wendy Woerner, Megan Matthiesen, Logan DeBetta, Ani Hambarzumian, and Kate Samaniego. All are passionate, dedicated, hardworking teens who help the Library continue to offer great programs and services to the public.