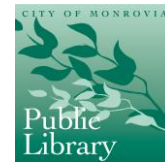




**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



**DEPARTMENT:** Public Services, Library Division

**MEETING DATE:** August 24, 2017

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

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

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**ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

On Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Adult Services Staff held a *Keeping Your Balance Workshop Series* with certified instructor, Kim Pasamonte. A total of 37 attendees learned tips essential to fall prevention and an improved sense of balance. This 4-week hands-on series promoted safe independence for older adults.

On Tuesday, July 11, Adult Services Staff presented *Decluttering & Downsizing Your Home* with Wynesta Dale of Caring Transitions. Participants were given tips for a smooth transition for moving to a smaller home or assisting the older adults' transition to senior living.

On Friday, July 14, Adult Services Staff offered *Farmer's Market Shop & Cook* with Chef Alex Reyes of the local Saute Academy. Ten participants learned how to cook a Mediterranean inspired meal using ingredients purchased from the local Friday Night Fair farmer's market. Surveys have indicated patrons' high interest in culinary programs and the library saw this as an opportunity to form a partnership with a local organization in the community.

On Tuesday, July 18, Literacy Services Staff held a tutor orientation for potential literacy tutors. Seven participants learned about the literacy program and the process for becoming a tutor. Regularly scheduled tutor orientations are essential in recruiting tutors to work with adult learners.

On Wednesday, July 19, Literacy Services Staff attended a workshop for *Xprize*, a technology based approach to adult literacy learning. The program will offer low literate adults the needed skills to improve their literacy. The literacy services staff are always seeking opportunities to expand services that support adult learners and best practices in the field of literacy.

**YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

The hands-on healthy cooking program titled Kids Kitchen is very popular with families and has been repeated with new recipes in the winter, spring and summer. On July 20, 65 children and adults worked together to make watermelon pizza and banana pops. Participants were given recipes and ingredients, and then asked to experiment. Some children chose to use yogurt on their bananas instead of frosting while others were introduced to the greatness of coconut for the first time. The program enforced healthy eating and independence in the kitchen, but had an unintentional outcome of encouraging adult involvement, creating an atmosphere of intergenerational learning.

Coding Club focused on video game design using Google CS First. Offered by Google and using MIT's Scratch programming language, this program aimed to create tech-savvy leaders of the future by instilling confidence in using computers, encouraging experimentation to tackle difficult problems, as well as improve access to computer science as only 1 in 10 K-12 schools offer computer science classes. While the tech industry is overwhelmingly male, the Library coding club was 54% female, helping to bridge that gender gap. Throughout the program they coded a variety of activities including racing games, maze games, and quest games. In addition to learning new skills, participants were able to build friendships and learn from one another. In total, 13 children participated based on the number of laptops available.

Night Owl Bilingual storytime features books and songs in English and Spanish. Set during the evening, working families and school-aged children were able to attend the program, and Library staff met new families who do not regularly attend library programs. During the storytime, staff shared Spanish versions of popular storytime songs as well as traditional Spanish songs. Library staff enforced early literacy and language learning by teaching Spanish versions of favorite songs such as Wheels on the Bus, and answered parent questions on how to support dual-language learning at home, such as singing the songs at home. More than 40 people attended each of the monthly programs, and expressed their interest in further bilingual programming at the library.

The Library provided a free family friendly Movie Night every Monday this summer. With the valuable help of teen volunteers, Library staff handed out popcorn to all in attendance as they enjoyed the following films: Princess and the Frog, Trolls, American Girl, Secret Life of Pets, High School Musical, Finding Dory, and Pete's Dragon. This traditional summer program is a great way for families to beat the heat while watching family movies without the high cost of movie ticket prices. The Library hosted seven Movie Nights during the months of June and July, with a total attendance of 683.

On July 27, the Library Bards gave a concert at Library Park for the Summer Reading Finale. Seventy participants of all ages joined us with their picnics to enjoy the sounds of the nerd-parody band. In addition to the concert, several prizes were raffled off and patrons were able to check out books that inspired some of Library Bards' songs. Parodied songs included "Geeky Girl" a parody of Aqua's "Barbie Girl", and "Gandolf" a parody of Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off." The program was a fitting end to the Summer Reading Program celebrating books and nerd culture.

The Library applied and received solar eclipse viewing glasses from NASA to share with patrons. On Saturday, August 5, Library staff organized a Solar Eclipse Party for families to prepare for the upcoming eclipse. Two NASA Solar System Ambassadors, Jessica Rowshandel and Brandon Easton, were invited to speak to large crowds. From Jessica's presentation, children learned about the history and science of the solar eclipse, as well as instructions on how to safely view it. Brandon is an artist and writer whose presentation focused on educating kids about space travel by showing how movies accurately or inaccurately portray space travel. Children learned a lot about the solar system and space travel from his exciting presentation. The hands-on part of the program included engineering solar ovens to make sunbaked s'mores. Children used boxes, foil, and plastic wrap to harness the heat of the sun. They learned how NASA uses solar power in solar cells and the history of harnessing solar power. While they waited for their s'mores to cook, they looked at the sun through telescopes. The Sidewalk Astronomers had 5 solar telescopes set up in front of the library with various filters for watching the solar eclipse, and gave patrons the opportunity to look through the telescopes and ask questions. Patrons left with solar eclipse glasses to use on August 21.

## **TEEN SERVICES REPORT**

The Library turned into a Laser Tag zone at night on July 20 and brought in 30 teenagers. As a suggestion put forth by TAB members, this program helped to realize teen's valuable input and also promoted the library as a fun place to spend time. Before the program, teenagers came in early to help set up and plan the game structure. Teens flipped over tables and chairs to create obstacles and decided to play "capture the flag". Participants broke into teams and took turns to play several games. While promoting physical activity, the program also encouraged design thinking and strategic planning for developing the game and playing with a team.

Youth Commissioners and Teen Advisory Board members who volunteered 50 hours or more last year were awarded a Laser Tag party at Ultrazone in Alhambra on August 2. Twenty-two TAB members qualified, and 10 members were able to attend. Teens enjoyed a pizza party at the Community Center and then took the bus to play unlimited Laser Tag. Youth Commissioners and TAB members partnered together to take on other teams at the Ultrazone, and teens worked to improve their personal scores by experimenting with different strategies such as guarding bases and working as individual verses team members.

Summer teen volunteers helped to put on the Summer Reading Program for almost 3000 participants. In appreciation of all their hard work, teens that volunteered at least 14 hours during the summer and attended one TAB meeting were invited to the Scavenger Hunt Challenge. Breaking into teams, participants had to complete the following challenges – the Bookshelves of Death Scavenger Hunt, a Harry Potter word search, Hula Hoop Skee Ball, the State Capitol word scramble and Pool Noodle Sword Battle. Winning team received 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place got 3 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place made 1 point and 4<sup>th</sup> place did not acquire any points. All teams received certificates with the hours they volunteered this summer.