

Librarian's Report
May 2024

Programming:

Kids:

- ✚ Last month we finished up the spring sessions of music and story times and are preparing for our summer program.
- ✚ Katherine has been busy visiting all the elementary schools and Camelot to talk about the summer reading program.
- ✚ As part of the theme "Adventure Begins at You Library", we have partnered with a large number of organizations to create a series of scavenger hunts to encourage families to have an adventure together all over Brookings.
- ✚ Registration will open next Monday, May 13, and programs will begin on May 28.
- ✚ we celebrated May 4th with our first Star Wars party since Covid. The families had a good time and we had 135 in attendance.

Teens:

- ✧ Summer Reading Program planning is in full swing!
- ✧ The Hunger Games Escape Room was a success! 22 teens participated and all but one group made it out!
 - Jenny and Mikaela are working on planning a larger – scale escape room for teens this fall.
- ✧ Jenny and Mikaela are partnering with SDSU Japanese Club to host Japanese appreciation night on April 30.
- ✧ The last Middle School Graphic Novel Club meeting for the school year is April 25. We're finishing with a manga that all the kids are really excited about!

Adults:

- ❖ Many successful programs in the last month and beginning of May:
 - 31 people attended the Swing Dancing class
 - 27 people attended the Two Spirit 101 talk
 - 96 people attended the All Ages Japan Appreciation Night
 - 139 people attended the "upstairs" activities at Fandom Fest
- ❖ Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Event Series kicked off on May 6 with a talk by Lisa Heth from the Pathfinder Center on the intersection of MMIP and sex trafficking. There are 3 more opportunities to attend an MMIP event, though!
 - In June, the book club will be reading Highway of Tears by Jessica McDiarmid and will discuss it on June 24.
 - In July, we'll be hosting a talk by Brenda Hill from the National Indigenous Women's Research Center who will be talking on MMIP's connection to intimate partner violence from a tribal perspective on July 23.

- Finally, in August, we will be screening the film “Rustic Oracle” and discussing it on August 15.

Tech

- ☞ Due to overwhelming usage, we’ve had to drop the number of checkouts per month for our patrons in our new service, hoopla. Patrons can now check out up to 4 items per month within the service, instead of 7. We’re charged a fee for each checkout on the service, and usage is drastically outpacing our budget. Staff are looking for additional funding within the budget to help supplement, and will be requesting higher funding for the service in 2025.
- ☞ The new microfilm reader is set up and ready to go in the Historical Room. It’s an updated version of our older one, and it should make viewing microfilm easier for staff and patrons. If we decided to take the project on (and it would be a large project), it would also help with digitizing existing microfilm.
- ☞ Nancy is working on getting a quote for a PA system throughout the Library.

Other:

- We have filled our 3 open positions.
- Alice Hayes, Circulation Manager, has put in notice of her retirement in September. We will begin updating the Circulation job description and start the hiring process in early summer.
- Lisa Solum, Outreach Services Coordinator, has tendered her resignation, effective Thursday, May 30. She plans to spend time with family and spend more time on her art. We will be evaluating the outreach position.
- All Library staff have now gone through the 3.5-day High Performing Organization training implemented by City leadership. HPO training helps organizations build a participative culture where staff work off the same values, beliefs, and behaviors that enable effective results and employee growth. Now that all Library staff have completed the training, we’ll be finding ways to mindfully incorporate it into our regular functions.
- During the latest legislative session, the SD legislators passed HB 1197, which requires public and school libraries to have policies to limit minor access to obscene materials by January 1, 2025. The SD State Library is holding information sessions for libraries on the impact of this law on policies, and Ashia/Nancy/Nita plan to attend then explore the impact on BPL policy. This is eligible for continuing education credits, as it has to do with policy. Board members are highly encouraged to attend.