

Librarian's Report  
April 2025

**Statistics:** Year over year (March to March) stats are lower than last year, but have improved over February 2025.

**Programming:**

**Kids:**

- ✚ Spring session of programs are wrapping up and starting to prepare for summer.
- ✚ The Children's department will be at the Week of the Young Child Community Celebration at the Children's Museum this month.
- ✚ The Headstart parents will have their meeting at the Library, so we can talk about literacy and upcoming library programs.
- ✚ We will be hosting a program on savings for kids.
- ✚ The Egg hunt was held Saturday, April 12. There were roughly 4,000 eggs for the kids to find. Katherine got volunteers from Girl Scouts and SDSU to come and help "egg" the Library Friday night.

**Teens:**

- ✚ Coming up in April for teens is another workshop Wednesday, which will have teens making a floral sign cut on the glowforge.
- ✚ At the end of April, we'll have another Teens in the Kitchen, where teens will learn how to make a customizable burrito bowl.
- ✚ On March, 9 teens attended Workshop Wednesday's acrylic painting class, and 11 attended Teen Hang Zone. For the Teen Nostalgia Night, activities included easy coloring sheets, snacks from teens' elementary school days (goldfish crackers and fruit snacks), childhood games such as Sorry and Chutes and Ladders, and episodes of Phineas and Ferb. Unfortunately, no one attended (Thursdays aren't great days for teen programming), so I may just hang on to the ideas and try this program again later in the summer.
- ✚ Also in March, I participated in the Brookings High School Career Exploration unit, hosted by the freshman English teachers. I spoke to students about life after high school, choosing a career path, and soft skills necessary in the workplace.

**Adults:**

- ✚ Craft Swap: Year two was a roaring success. We had 328 attendees and raised \$1179 in freewill donations, which was split with the Brookings Arts Council. There were SO many donations and yet there was not much left when it was all over. Everyone who attended seemed pleased and many people asked when we would do it again.

- ✦ ASL Class: The American Sign Language Class had its last meeting on 4/2 and it seemed quite successful. Attendance held steady throughout and there weren't any hiccups with the hosting. The Brookings Disability Awareness Committee is looking to offer another 8-week course with the Library in the fall since there was so much enthusiasm this time around. After the fall course they hope to make it a yearly offering through the Library.
- ✦ Pie and Puzzles: We had 30 attendees and the Valley donated all of the pie for the event.
- ✦ VisABILITY Initiative Wrap Up: We had the last VisABILITY Initiative programs in March and so that's a wrap on these grant funded disability programs.
  - Between the accessible activities, the educational events, the read aloud book club and the ASL Class there were 54 events and 604 attendees total.
  - In the end, this Initiative was a great success, as it built many connections with local disability related groups and established a precedent for disability programming at the Library. We will work to rethink how we can incorporate similar programming into our schedule without the grant funds.

## Tech

- ✦ The full grant app has been submitted with 3 funding options. Option 1 – replace picture book shelving in kids and replace end caps in kids and YA. Option 2 – all of Option 1 plus some money for some new furniture in YA. Option 3 – all of Options 1 & 2, plus money for artistic entry points to the kids and YA section (see <https://www.janicedavisdesign.com/> for kids examples). Should hear back on grant in late May/early June.
- ✦ Nancy & Katherine participated in an hour-long ALA webinar called “What are obscenity law exemptions and what does it mean to remove them?”

## Other:

- IMLS has been shut down by DOGE. No word on what this means for South Dakota, as there is no staff to answer emails or phone calls. IMLS is the department that manages the LSTA Grant that pays for interlibrary loan and databases.
- Ashia, Nita, and Nancy will be attending a half day webinar on intergenerational leadership on Thursday, April 24.
- Friends of the Library Book Sale was April 9 -13. We will be submitting a wish-list to the Friends on Tuesday, April 22.