



Windham Public Library Report August 2014



Mission, Success, Measurement

One way that we define success at our mission is by providing a variety of library programs and services that inform the public and provide early literacy and other educational opportunities. This year we had very successful Summer Reading Programs for library visitors of all ages. The themes were Fizz, Boom, Read! (young children), Spark A Reaction(teens) and Literary Elements(adults). We kicked off the program with our participation in the year's Windham Summerfest parade and concluded with a carnival in the Children's Room and prize drawings in the Adult/Teen area for those who completed their Summer Reading bingo cards. This kind of literacy based programming supports our mission of providing literacy and educational opportunities for our library members. As you can see from our newsletter and our upcoming programs listed below, we continue to provide a variety of programs throughout the year that are timely, interesting, entertaining and supportive of our mission. Our programs are well attended and we continue to seek out and plan future programs that our patrons will appreciate.

What's going on?

This month I'm proud to say that the Children's Room completed re-barcoding all items in the Children's Library collection! The re-barcoding project has been a huge undertaking for all library staff members. Each item in our collection needs to be handled, given a new 14-digit barcode and updated in our software system. Library staff members have spent many hours reviewing our collection, making decisions on keeping or removing items from the collection, purchasing new items, replacing barcodes and updating records in preparation of joining Minerva. We have over 40,000 items in our collection and have just about 5,000 left to re-barcode. Congratulations to Laurel, Diana and Jeanne in the Children's Room for completing their collection. We continue to make huge progress toward overall completion of this project.

The preparations we are making by re-barcoding and replacing our patron barcode numbers have put us in a really good position to be accepted into the Minerva consortium. The Minerva consortium is a group of between 60-70 libraries of all sizes and types throughout the entire state. The libraries that participate in the consortium share a collection of over 6 million items via a van delivery service. Library patrons and staff members have access to these items through advanced software that is affordable due to the consortium's contract. Windham Public Library applied to enter the consortium this month. The application period closes in early September and we should know the results and a timetable for getting the system up and running soon after.

The Summer Reading program activities this month included Not Steve (aka Diana Currier) presenting two Steve Spangler Science Surprise days, Rebecca LaWind offering a session on yoga, a bird merry-go-round craft, our end of the summer Bedtime Math Star Party, and our final Fizz Boom, READ! Carnival. Many thanks to the Ice Cream Dugout who provided coupons for a free cone to all those children who met their summer goals.

The monarch caterpillars came on Wednesday, August 6 just in time to be part of the Steve Spangler Science Surprise program that morning. 70 arrived and within a few days half of them were picked up by 12 families who each had 2 or 3 to raise at home and release. This year's group was very healthy and the survival rate was much better than the 2013 season. Many thanks to the Friends of the Windham Public Library who have supported this Watchable Wildlife Program which began with Cornerstones of Science funding six years ago. In honor of the Fizz, Boom, READ! Summer program each monarch was given a name from the Periodic Table of the Elements.

Upcoming events:

Books and Babies—Fall hours change- Tuesdays at 10:15am.

Preschool Story Time--Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00am.

Bedtime Math Crazy 8's Math Club This fall, Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm. Start date TBD. Contact Mrs. Parker to sign up.

Knitting Group—Thursdays, September 11 and 25 at 1pm

Book Group—Thursday, September at 6:15pm. The group will read and discuss a book with the theme “Going Back to School”.

Russell Warnberg Book Talk—Tuesday, September 16th at 6pm

Genealogy Resources—Friday, September 19th at 1pm.

Scams, Fraud and Identity Theft—Wednesday, October 8th at 6pm.

<p><u>Monthly Statistics</u> Attendance: 5,631 Items circulated: 9,233 New library patrons: 76 New items added to collection: 235 Special Requests: 52 Reference questions answered:98 Computer sign-ins: 846 Meeting room usage: 41 Downloads used: 450 checkouts, 27 new user registrations Items repaired: 80 Bills for un-returned materials: 18 (<i>8 adult; 10children</i>) Volunteer hours logged: 137.75</p>	<p><u>Book Group: 12</u> <u>Knitting Group: 8</u> <u>Story Time</u> Preschool Story Time— 6 sessions, 27 Adults, 40 Children Books and Babies— 4 sessions, 37 Adults, 45 Children Children’s Museum – 8 uses Dundee Park – 8 uses Maine State Park Pass – 7 uses (3 days each), 2 uses (2 days each), 1 use (1 day each) Maine Wildlife Park – 23 uses Planetarium – 7 uses Willowbrook – 6 uses PASS USAGE SAVED PATRONS \$1,253 Items re-barcode:1,169</p>
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Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer A. Alvino
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Library Director
Windham Public Library