



Windham Public Library Report September 2019



Children's Room News

After the frantic pace of summer reading, we took September as a recharging month in the children's room. We kept our usual storytimes, which are still drawing good crowds. Our special program of the month was Talk Like a Pirate Day on September 19. Staff were encouraged to dress like pirates. In the meeting room, you could make your own pirate hat, treasure map, parrot and eye patch, in addition to being able to walk the plank! In the children's room, we had a treasure hunt, pirate books, and a choose your own pirate name game. Families seemed to really enjoy the program and had a great time sharing in the pirate-y fun. Our science topic of the month was math and technology, and for fun, we decided to put out some old landline phones in the Cornerstones of Science area, including a rotary phone. Kids have loved being able to "use" the phones, and many interesting conversations have taken place. Another one of Sam's favorite holidays is International Dot Day, inspired by the picture book "The Dot" by Peter H. Reynolds. In the story, Vashti feels like she isn't creative at all and makes an angry dot on a piece of paper. Her teacher frames the dot, and Vashti is annoyed because she knows she can do better, and goes on a dot-making spree. The holiday encourages people of all ages to be creative with dots, and we had a beautiful rainbow of dots made by library patrons on the glass between the children's room and the circulation area. In October, we'll start our monthly afterschool programs of STEM Club and Busy Builders, open to students in grades K-5. If the student is under the age of eight, they need to have adult supervision.

Reference/Technology News

There were two Author Talks this month. The first one on the eighteenth anniversary of September 11th was aptly timed in that the discussion by Mary E. Plouffe, a clinical psychologist, was focused on the impact of early parental loss. The discussion was "heavy", but powerful and well received by the audience. The second one on September 18th was with Susan Conley. She gave an enthusiastic talk centered on her novel, *Elsewhere Come Home*, and focused on the painstaking process of writing and publishing a novel. The Book Group had a great discussion about Elizabeth Bowen's *The Death of the Heart*, and the participants continue to be jazzed about reading titles that are on the "best 100 novels lists."

From the Director

September is Library Card signup month and is aptly timed at the beginning of the school year. During the month the American Library Association and libraries all over the country, including Windham Public Library, remind parents, caregivers, and students that a library card is the most important card in your wallet and is a great first step toward academic achievement and lifelong learning.

In addition, during the month of September two new exciting initiatives began. The Windham Public Library is now fine free. In recognition of the financial barrier library fines may be on access to information, the library is no longer charging fines on items returned late. Library staff will still send out reminders for overdue items and expect that the items will be returned in a timely manner. However, as long as they are returned in good condition no fines will be charged. Bills for lost and damaged items will still be in effect. Secondly, the library has joined a Maine State Library pilot program called Shared Borrowing. You may now take your Windham Public Library card to a number of other libraries in the state, browse their collection, and check out an item. Items may be returned at any participating library. A list of all participating libraries can be picked up at the Circulation Desk at the library.

Other news

A popular program for adults at our library is the weekly Movie Time event. When Sally began the program in late 2014, she only averaged 3 people for the monthly movie and it remained that way for the next several years. She tried different days of the week, different times of the day, and different types of movies but nothing seemed to click. Then in 2018 she began showing movies weekly instead of monthly. Since then she's had a regular and growing group attending the program. The program now averages 10 or 11 attendees each week—sometimes filling the room with nineteen (for the 2019 blockbuster "The Upside") or twenty (for the Neil Armstrong biopic "First man.") See the library's online calendar for upcoming movie selections.

<u>Monthly Usage Statistics</u> Attendance: 5,088 Windham items circulated: 7,344 Items received from Minerva libraries: 764 Windham items sent to other libraries: 727 New library patrons: 43 New items added to collection: 283 Special Requests: 17 Reference questions answered: 424 Computer sign-ins: 743 Meeting room usage: 40 Study Rooms: 36 Download Library: 1,123 RB Digital Magazines: 24 Comics: N/A Universal Class Lessons Viewed: 45 Universal Class Videos Watched: 25 Items repaired: 33 Volunteer hours logged: 56.5	<u>September 2018</u> Attendance: 4,855 Items circulated: 6,301 Items received from Minerva libraries: 786 Windham items sent to other libraries: 611 New patrons: 27 Items added: 297 Special requests: 3 Reference ?'s: 96 Computer sign-ins: 696 Meeting room usage: 47 Study Rooms: 28 Download Library: 924 RB Digital Magazines: 23 Comics Plus: N/A Universal Class Lessons Viewed: 0 Universal Class Videos Watched: 8 Repaired items: 50 Volunteer hours: 40.25	<u>Other: September 2019 Stats</u> Book Group: 9 Tuesday Afternoon Knitting: 62 Author Talk: 10 Movie program, adults: 57 Teen Scavenger Hunt participants: 3 Wii and rec equipment: 4 Tech Help: 7 CloudLibrary training: 2 DigitalMaineLibrary training: 0 Catalog training: 1 Chess Club: 1 Talk Like A Pirate Day: 30 <u>Story Time</u> Programs: 12 Children: 124 Adults: 113 <u>Pass usage</u> Children's Museum – 1 use Dundee Park – 0 uses Maine State Park Pass – 7 uses Maine Wildlife Park – 4 uses Planetarium – 0 uses PASSES SAVED PATRONS \$174.00
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