



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report
For the Library Advisory Board
October, November, December 2021

Library Administration – Narinder Sufi, County Librarian

Grant Updates:

- **REACH** – The REACH (Reconnect, Engage, Adults, Creating, Hope) grant has begun and classes and one to one opportunities are available on the website: <http://www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary/Library-Services/Reach-Program>
- **COHS** – (Career Online Highschool) - October 22nd our first Career Online Highschool scholarship student was given. Student is progressing well!
- **Mobile Library-** Our mobile library project has been delayed. Summit our current vendor is unable to build the vehicle due to production challenges, we are working with GS to have another vendor take over the project.
- **NVCF(LAB) Grants-** reports are attached.

Page | 1

Library Opening

- For Current Hours visit our website at: <http://www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary/locations>
- In collaboration with Public Health the library branches made COVID-19 Home Testing Kits available to the Public during holiday season. There were about 450 kits made available for people to take home.
- Meeting rooms are still not open to the public.
- Large attendance programs continue to happen outdoors. Some small attendance programs are happening indoors.

Performance and Statistics:

- In the last quarter (October, November, and December), the total visits were 274,414 (58,471 in person and 215,943 virtually). Virtual visits include visits to OPAC and Website page.
- In the last quarter the total circulation was 94,662 (71,969 physical items and 22,693 online items circulated). Online Circulation includes Enki, Hoopla and Overdrive.
- Total number of physical items reserved in the last quarter was 12,962 items.
- Total computer use for the last quarter was 5,232 sessions and total wifi use was 65,250 sessions.
- We have had 906 New Patrons joining our Libraries.

Coming up in next 3 months:

- All Winter Programming is located in the Attached two flyers, one for Adults and one for Kids and Teens or can be found on our website at: <http://www.buttecounty.net/Portals/28/Flyers/Seasonal%20Programming%20Schedules/Adults%20Winter%202021-22%20Program%20Schedule.pdf?ver=2021-11-30-164331-450>

or

<http://www.buttecounty.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=7lexXzIJJoM%3d&portalid=28>

- Durham Branch is planning a teen event called “Game night” and an adult crafternoon once a month.
- Literacy Services Tutor Training February 12th, 9:00AM – 3:30 PM. Call 530-552-5650 to sign up.

Staff News

New staff

- Jessie Spragge, Branch Librarian for Chico, Paradise, Durham branches has started.

Staff who left

- Andrea Liao Library Assistant at Chico.
- Hannah Charlton Library Assistant at Paradise.
- Oliver Allen, Senior Library Assistant at Chico retired.

Recruitment

- The Library is in a process of hiring for vacant positions.
- Our new Children’s Librarian and Literacy services librarian will start at the end of January.

Branch Reports:

Biggs Branch - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

- Biggs Library is the only place in Biggs that offers public copying and patrons are utilizing this service.

Chico Branch – Misty Wright, Assistant Director covering Branch Librarian duties

- Fandom teen program is doing a hybrid of online and onsite programming, which started in November. Covid protocols are in place for onsite programming.
- Juice box Jam Storytime with Sheryl is continuing outside and still has great numbers, despite the cold, wet weather!
- Grab and Go crafts for kids continues to be popular with kits being distributed weekly.
- Thursday afternoon at the Movies have returned to in person programming.
- Youth Services staff have had a few class visits into the children’s room to learn about the library, including classes from Hooker Oak and Neal Dow elementary schools.
- Chico Book Club read the 2022 Book in Common “There There” in November, in honor of Native American History month and Butte College instructor Amanda Runyan was a guest speaker.
- Children’s Librarian Kimberlee Wheeler and SLA Children’s Services Sheryl Hubbard participated in an outreach for the Chico Creek Nature Center Family Day and gave out 100 craft kits and 75 books.
- In a partnership grant with Literacy, new toys and manipulatives were put out into the children’s area

Durham Branch – Misty Wright, Assistant Director

- Kid’s Crafternoon presented by Durham Friends of the Library. The program is successful with 15 kids on average.

- Durham Friends of the Library had a booksale in October, with plans for a second in February.

Gridley Branch – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

- In addition to returning families, there a few new families attending Friday morning Storytime
- Couple of families are starting to regularly attend Wednesday’s After-school drop-in program. Gridley schools are out at 1:45 every Wednesday. Parents say it is nice to have a program for their older children that they can attend during the week.

Oroville Branch – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

- Tuesday's After-school drop in program and Lego Saturdays are a big hit with families.
- Children are enjoying the new puzzles, blocks, magnetic mazes, etc. from the Rural Roads to Library & Literacy Shared Vision grant. Staff sometimes hear squeals of delight.

Paradise Branch - Misty Wright, Assistant Director

- Storytime has been taking place since September 2021, on Saturday mornings. Attendance has been low overall but we have had returning families.
- PFOL member, Amy Sperske has been responsible for the success of the book sale. Two sales were held in December due to a surplus of donated materials.
- Residents seem to be returning and we are updating out of date accounts for Paradise, Stirling City, and Magalia residents.
- Patrons taking advantage of computer use and printing, still filing claims for construction permits, PG&E claims, job claims, etc. The computer lab is still very much needed. There have been some setbacks with the printer and coin intake that have been addressed. Many residents ask for scanning services that were once available here following the Camp Fire.
- New trash service has been established with a Tuesday morning pickup.

Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator

- October 24th was our first tech-connect session for Dual Language Learners. Working closely with partner referrals and translators from the Hmong Cultural Center and Northern Valley Catholic Social Services devices/tablets with 2yr data plans are being sent into homes of caregivers of 0-5 children. This is a part of the \$145000 Dual Language Learner grant received from First5.
- November 3, 4, and 5 (2 events) Literacy Services and Children’s Services (part of Shared Vision grant) celebrated the new early learning materials arriving at all of the branch libraries. Our partners in Family Friend and Neighbors network/BCOE attended 4 of the events.
- November 13th, we conducted Tutor Training with 16 potential volunteer tutors attending.
- December 2nd at the Gridley branch library the Countywide Librarian, Branch Librarian and Literacy Specialist enjoyed conversation with the Program Director of Northern Valley Catholic Social Services focused on welcoming dual language learners to their library.
- December 9th at the Oroville branch library the Countywide Librarian and Literacy Specialist enjoyed conversation with the Program Director and Specialist

of Hmong Cultural Center focused on welcoming dual language learners to their library.

- December 17th Literacy continues to offer Pathways classes at the Jesus Center.
- The Family Literacy Coach is once again out providing services to the early care centers. Staff have shared social emotional focus services while sending 551 books and early learning experiences into homes.
- Tutoring continues to be offered at the Sherriff's Day Reporting Center. Student has reported reading has improved and understanding as well (comprehension).
- We continue to be thrilled with the new data collecting for instruction hours and Roles and Goals with the acquisition of America Learns platform. This will save considerable amount of staff time for reports to California Library Literacy Services.

Heartwarming stories:

- If the number of treats received by staff during the holidays is any indication, the Durham community is very happy having the library back and offering programs.
- One family with teens at the Biggs Branch who are avid readers are enjoying the new selection of YA fiction. They are also reading some of the classics we've been replacing with newer copies.
- A staff member was helping a mother over the phone who was wanting to use the library with her 7-year-old son. She was very scared to do so because they were living in a shelter after getting out of an abusive household. Staff assured her the library could help even if she was in a shelter or protected environment (i.e., not a permanent address, and a transitioning family). The mother came to Chico branch with her son and staff worked together to get them set up with new accounts. The mother felt really welcome and safe ultimately and was so happy with her service. Staff presented her son with a reading medal for his immense bravery in the face of adversity, and for not giving up on his love of reading. Now whenever he comes to the library, he thanks us for the medal.
- It was about 4:30 on a Tuesday and it was a normal quiet Biggs Branch afternoon. Outside, I hear a loud scream of excitement, "HEY!!! THE LIBRARY'S OPEN!!!!" Soon after an excited kid came in with his adult. The adult read while the kid played a bit in the kids' area. After about 5 minutes they left and continued on their way. So much joy and excitement just to have the library open.
- While staff prepared to welcome families for storytime at opening on a Thursday at Durham Branch, staff was met by 2 regularly attending families with 4 kids total, who came bearing gifts of home-baked goods and treats. The children presented the goodies and looked us in the eyes and said, "Merry Christmas." We received cards and warm comments about how much the library means to all of them. This was followed by a wonderful storytime session in which the kids listened to the stories with more awe than ever.
- A Chico Branch Patron left the library a wonderful note on the outdoor post with the statement, "Thank you for working so hard. We appreciate and honor you!!!"

Public Participation: It is the policy of the Library Advisory Board, and a requirement of the California Open Meetings Law, to allow members of the public the opportunity to comment on all matters before the Board. Public participation is limited to matters within the subject matter presented pursuant to The Brown Act.