



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report
For the Library Advisory Board
January, February, March 2021

Library Administration – Narinder Sufi, County Librarian

Grant Updates:

- **Book for Action Program-** Misty is leading our county team for Book to Action, a partnership with the State Library and California Center for the Book. More on that in next meeting.
- **Ready where you are-** Hotspot and Tablet Checkouts Update
 - Checkout of (6) Hotspots in Paradise
 - Checkout of (12) Tablets (Chico, Oroville, Gridley, Paradise)
- **Increasing E-Resources for Displaces residents-** Kenny is working on expanding our e-book and e-audiobook Overdrive Collection.
- **DIY Digital Preservation Lab** – Janae is beginning installation of this new grant.
- **Dia de Los Ninos** – This grant will help with programing in Spanish for kids and families
- **NASA STEM Grant** - The NASA themed project is underway and craft kits will be distributed starting 4/21 based on different astronomy principles. The community will be able to refer to instructional videos related to the activities after 4/21, and kit distribution will continue throughout the end of summer so as to be part of the summer library program.
- **Butte County Children and Families Commission/First 5** Grant – February 26th, Literacy was awarded \$145,000 for Dual Language Learner families with children 0-5 for digital literacy. More on this exciting project once the Contract and Scope of Work are in place.

Page | 1

Other Updates:

- **Mobile Library**
- **Strategic Plan**

Library Opening

- As a system, we are consistently working toward a gradual reopening plan. We have a team of staff and managers discussing issues related to reopening and troubleshooting these issues before presenting the plan to the entire staff and public.
- March 6th – Staff returned to their normal schedules, pre-COVID. There are no more work from home days or 4/10 schedules
- In April all branches will have Extended Open hours and will provide restrooms and limited seating for wifi use with their devices or to read for a limited period of time.

Coming up in next 3 months:

- April is being celebrated as Library Appreciation month.

- Staff will continue with the Grab-n-Go kits and Coloring/Activity packets, while planning for in-person activities and programs designed around COVID requirements.
- Summer Reading Program is the main focus.
- Applying for a grant from the Oroville Arts Commission to update the front planter.
- Focus on growth of graphic novel and naga collections for all ages.
- Tutor Training will be offered again via Zoom April 10 (pt 1) and April 28th (pt 2).
- Author and musician Jim Gill is returning to lead Butte County families virtually through making a book of hopes and dreams (virtual). Example can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gm_tak-bhMM and families who participate will receive their own copy of Jim's May There Always Be Sunshine for home.

Staff News

- Joseph Rogers promoted to Senior Library Assistant, Children's Services and will work closely with Sheryl Hubbard and Kimberlee Wheeler to promote and plan children's services in Chico Library. Joe is a former Library Assistant, who previously did a lot of work with teen services.
- Heidi Cress promoted to SLA; Splits her time between Gridley and Oroville
- Christel Gillespie rejoined Oroville as newly promoted SLA; Splits her time between the branch and technical services
- Volunteers are steadily increasing their service to the branches and we hope to have them back in full force soon.
- Welcome Frances Hebert, Assistant Director, began April 6. Hired additional new staff, they will begin their hours in April.

Branch Reports:

Biggs, Durham, Gridley and Paradise Branches - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

- Monthly seasonally themed craft kits for children and adults
- Monthly coloring/activity packets covering the months subjects/holidays for preschool, elementary and middle school/teen students
- Fandom Grab-n-Go kits for teens
- Themed book displays for all ages

Chico Branch – Misty Wright, Branch Librarian

- Children's Make and Take crafts are very popular. There is a different one every 2 weeks and they always disappear right away. Sheryl has also been making a monthly coloring page packet.
- February was Black History Month themed and March was Women's History Month themed. These are also very popular.
- Andrea and Joe are still doing great with their Fandom club on Instagram live and teen grab and go kits which are distributed to all branches.
- Sheryl and Joe have revamped their virtual storytime - Juicebox Jam takes place virtually every two weeks on Saturday, where Sheryl and Joe video their storytime outside, even having a guest reader, Sheryl's daughter, in one video!

Oroville Branch – Janae Kambestad, Branch Librarian

- Arranged children's section to highlight underutilized collections

- 20 new manga series added to Young Adult collection (they are flying off the shelves!)
- Oroville Friends approved \$2,000 for new audiobooks

Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator and Interim Assistant Director

- Weekly drop-in tutoring Mondays at the Sherriff's alternative custody division via Zoom.
- Virtual bilingual storytime provided weekly via Facebook
- Weekly Literacy Through Conversation 5:00-6:00 Zoom meetings. This service offers a pathway/introduction to Literacy Services for monolingual community members. Practice speaking English in this friendly group setting. All levels welcome.
- Tutor Training for prospective volunteers January 23rd/Part 1 and February 26th/Part II allowing time for online training via ProLiteracy Education to be completed.
- March begins scheduled Mondays with weekly WIFI access via the Family Literacy Coach at Sav Mor Market in Magalia and Feather River Bend Park in Oroville.
- Every adult learner continues receiving a mailed copy of News for You. This is a current event newspaper written for low-level readers.
- Family Literacy Services hosts Dial-a-Story 530 869-6999 and books are starting to be sent into homes that can be heard with a phone. Not all families have digital access but most all have a phone.
- 5 library staff have attended Literacy Ambassador training in an effort to help us spread the word that your library can help adults who struggle with reading and writing.

Heartwarming stories:

- We're happy to note that one of the participants from our Literacy Through Conversation class has enrolled as a literacy student. This individual's goal is passing the Citizenship test.
- Patrons continue to express their appreciation for the library being open and creating a safe environment for patrons and staff.
- It was the first time the patron had been back to the Paradise Branch since the Camp Fire. He is a collector of model train sets, with many that were lost in the fire. He was trying to remember the models in his collection, and we found a book on Lionel Trains Sets. He opened the pages and with a smile was able to recognize his model trains. The library was able to bring heartfelt memories back to a patron in his beloved community.
- A little boy asked came to the desk and asked staff for books on dragons. His mother had not been to the library since she was a child. After showing them around the children's section, staff later overheard the boy reading aloud to his mother. They both got library cards and the mother was surprised it was all free
- A father started coming to the library regularly with two young boys. The father would use the computer while the boys waited for him. Every time they visited staff mentioned they could get library cards and after about four visits the father asked how to get one. It turned out the father had an old account with a lot of fines, but he was still able to get cards for his sons. Now when they visit the

library the boys go straight to the children's room while the father uses the computer and each boy checks out one book before leaving.

- Since adding more manga to the young adult collection there have been a couple teens regularly visiting the library to check out the new selections. Staff asked one of the teens for her recommendations/wish list of titles to add which she enthusiastically provided. She was excited to see her recommendations on the shelf and to be the first to check them out.
- A children's book was returned with a family photo inside. Staff contacted the last patron to have it checked out and the patron said the photo was in the book when they got it. Staff then contacted the patron prior who confirmed the photo was indeed theirs. Library staff offered to mail the photo back and the patron was so appreciative saying, "Just one more reason to love the library!"
- Patrons have continued to be very thankful that the library is open and we have seen an increase in the number of families coming back to the library to sit on the floor and read or get books to take home. The Grab and Read Kits have been very popular.

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.