



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report
For the Library Advisory Board
October, November, December 2020

Library Administration – Narinder Sufi, County Librarian

New Grants

We were successful in securing a few new grant awards.

- **Digital Lab Grant-** We have received \$20,000 in grant funds from the state to create a digital preservation lab. The nine-month grant project will enable the Butte County Library to create and establish a community digitization program. By providing digitization resources at the library, families will be enabled to save historically valuable information for future generations, as well as preventatively save critical documents important to their present lives.
- **NASA STEM Program Grant-** We have received \$20,000 in grant funds for NASA STEM program. Implementation of this project will meet the needs of Butte County's youth communities in particular, it will provide learning and education opportunities by way of space-themed collections, take-and-make kits, and virtual programs.
- **Libraries Transforming Communities -Small and Rural Libraries Grant -** We have received \$3,000 from American Library Association, which will enable us to have community conversations with the Gridley community to determine what adult and family literacy programs we can provide when we have new Mobile Library Bus on board.
- **Crisis Collection Grant-** We received \$5,000 from the state to add digital titles to our collection, this has helped us to expand our digital collections, especially in the areas of self-help and health and wellbeing.
- **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.

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Library Opening

- During this quarter, we were introduced to the new statewide tier system. Library services fall under retail and we were allowed to be open with modifications, 25% capacity. We were operating at that capacity already.
- On November 3, we opened computers back up to the public. A limited number of computers are available, only 5 adult, 2 teen and 2 children. Time is limited to one hour a day, with little to no staff interaction and cleaning procedures in place.

Staff News

- Chico Children's Librarian Kimberlee Wheeler has been promoted to County Wide Children's Librarian and will be staying in Chico as her home base. We are so lucky to have her staff with our community!

NVCF Grant Updates:

The Curious Minds Homeschooling Club (CMHC)- Kathy Brazil

- CMHC has expanded into Gridley
- CMHC now offers monthly enrichment kits
- See Appendix A for further detailed information on the CMHC Program

Ready Where You Are NVCF- Kenny Abramowitz

6 Hotspots will be for checkout in the Paradise Branch

- Purchased and received (T-Mobile) 6 hotspots
- Purchasing hotspot cases
- Creating written instructions for patrons
- Creating checkout parameters- requirements
- Marketing
- Catalogue and January launch for Paradise Branch

Increasing E-Resources for Displaced residents NVCF- Kenny Abramowitz

12 Samsung Tablets with data will be for checkout in Paradise, Gridley and Oroville

- Purchased and received tablets w/data (T-Mobile)
- Purchasing tablet cases
- Creating written instructions for patrons
- Creating checkout parameters- requirements
- Marketing
- Catalogue and January launch for Chico, Oroville, Gridley, Paradise Branch
- Purchased Overdrive/Libby e- and e-audio books

Branch Reports:

Durham Branch - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Library Programs -

- As patrons have learned that the library is open for limited visits, number of curbside pickup reservations has dropped
- Durham Children's Center has found the Story Time Grab 'n Read kits a helpful addition to their story times.
 - Elementary & Tween Seasonal and Holiday-themed Crafternoon kits – 107
 - Preschool Seasonal and Holiday-themed coloring and activity packets – 55
 - All Ages: make your Own Calendar kits - 22

Heartwarming stories:

- Patron very pleased that she was able to continue to read while recovering from minor surgery because Aiko Hori had placed books on hold for her and had them ready for husband to pick up curbside.

Biggs Branch, Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Library Programs:

- Fandom Club Virtual Grab-n-Go kits – 8
- Preschool Seasonal and Holiday-themed coloring and activity packets – 13
- Babies Love Books Grab-n-Read kits – 2

Heartwarming stories:

- Patron thankful Biggs Branch offers copying service. Needed to mail paperwork by end of day and didn't have transportation to Gridley.
- Three teens who regularly visit are pleased with selection of newly purchased titles
- Patron happy to find DMV Driver's Handbook at the library
- New public Internet printer, previous printer was purchased in the 1990s.

Gridley Branch – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Library Programs:

- Elementary & Tween Seasonal and Holiday-themed Grab-n-Go kits – 68
- Preschool Seasonal and Holiday-themed coloring and activity packets –65
- Pre-Teen, Teen & Adult – Write Your Own Book kits – 10
- Pre-Teen, Teen & Adult – Decorate Clip Board kits – 12
- Pre-School & Elementary – Make Your Own Calendar kits - 24
- Pre-School & Elementary – Crate Llama Ornament – 15
- Patrons use of lockers to pick up holds - 72

Heartwarming stories:

- Grandmother brought in ten year old grandson who was visiting for a few weeks to the library. She explained that he was a reluctant reader. Katy Azevedo recommended Lemony Snickett's "A Series of Unfortunate Events" books. Volume 1 in the series was a big hit with young patron. Before he returned home, he read the first six books in the series.

Paradise Branch - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Library Programs:

- Fandom Club Virtual Grab-n-Go kits - 7
- Preschool Seasonal and Holiday-themed coloring and activity packets – 37
- Pre-school & Elementary - Build a Snowman kit - 15
- Tween & Teens - Create Mosaic Tea Light kit - 4

Heartwarming stories:

- Kenny Abramowitz helped a patron who lost all of his model train sets in the Camp Fire. He had been trying to identify the models he had lost, but hadn't been having any luck. Kenny was able to find him a book in the Paradise library that had pictures of certain model trains, and the patron was able to use the book to identify some of his lost models. The patron was very excited to have this starting point!
- Several families come in regularly who have preschool aged children. Two families in particular have told Hannah Williford that they appreciate everything we are offering in terms of themed displays and grab-n-go kits that help them with at-home learning. One took a picture of her daughter holding the November grab-n-go craft she made so they could show Hannah the finished product.

Chico Branch – Misty Wright, Branch Librarian

Library Programs - mostly virtual

- Weekly story time programming has continued.
- Adult programming is being planned with a committee of staff representing all branches.

- Make and Take Craft kits available twice a month and are being created by Kimberlee Wheeler and Sheryl Hubbard
- Andrea Liao and Joe Rodgers continue to host their virtual Fandom club on Instagram, and produce grab and go kits for teens based on the theme of the month. November was NaNoWriMO and December was Disney.
- Chico Book Club is still taking place virtually with about 10 consistent participants
- The week before Thanksgiving, we put up a Christmas tree, no decorations, and cut out colored leaves, inviting patrons to write what they were thankful for and hang on the tree. This proved to be very popular. After Thanksgiving, staff cut out winter shapes and asked people to write their favorite Christmas memory or something they liked about the holiday season. There were so many great answers! This was a great way to passively involve the community!
- Volunteers are back in limited capacity.

Oroville Branch – Janae Kambestad, Branch Librarian

New Programs:

- Monthly virtual book club (hosted by Library Assistant Katie Anderson)
- Bi-weekly adult writing group (hosted by Katie Anderson)
- Bi-weekly teen writing group (hosted by Katie Anderson)
- Grab-and-go Curious Minds Homeschooling Club kits (hosted by Library Assistant Kathy Brazil)
- Ms. Thu's Craft-a-Thon with take home crafts (hosted by Senior Library Assistant Thu Tran)
- Public computers are now available for general use with a maximum time limit of one hour (many users have been people affected by the recent fire needing to fill out forms)

Heartwarming stories:

- We have had several new patrons at the library:
 - Two brothers in their early twenties got library cards telling staff that they had not been to a library since they were kids. They now come in every week.
 - A young mom got a library card so she could read books to her new baby. She and her baby come in every few weeks to get new things to read.
 - A lady recently moved to Oroville from out of state. When she visited the library, she told staff that her first order of business to settle into her new hometown was to get a library card.
 - A long-time patron told staff that he keeps his two most important items at the front pocket of his wallet: his Costco and library cards!

What is coming up in the next three months:

- Katie Anderson is partnering with Joe Rodgers and Andrea Liao at the Chico branch to launch a new teen book club
- We are continuing our expansion of the teen area to include more shelving for the growing collection and increase the size of the space
- Work will begin on the new do-it-yourself Butte Digital Preservation Lab which will allow the community to digitize photos, documents and home movies

- We are considering options to revitalize the large planter under the front windows and hope to make it more vibrant and friendly

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

- October 23rd released Trivia Bee for Literacy celebration available on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEXRXpXZz2o>
- October 21-23rd Literacy Specialist joins the Butte Thrives cohort and receives training on Neuroscience Epigenetics Adverse Childhood Experiences Resilience (NEAR an ACES interface)
- October, November: Literacy Mondays in Chico volunteer tutoring hours 3-5:00 and Oroville 9-11:00. Safety measures according to Public Health are being taken.
- November, December: tutor/learner pairs are provided writing kits (stamps, cards, envelopes pens etc...) to practice their writing skills while not able to meet. Some continue to call each other each week and even provide instruction via phone.
- October, November, and December: Literacy through Conversations every Thursday 5:00-6:00 practice speaking English in this friendly group setting. All levels welcome. Currently, over 60 are signed up. This service offers a pathway/introduction to Literacy Services for monolingual community members.
- October, November, December; continue to mail our easy reading News for You current event newspaper to each Literacy Student.
- October, November, December; Virtual Family Literacy Services bilingual story times and “field trips” via Facebook.
- November; Let’s Keep Booking/Family Literacy Services via the Literacy Coach at each library to provide book Actual Size by Steve Jenkins and tape measure for a home learning/literacy experience.
- December: Family Literacy Services provided home literacy/learning experiences to the homes of 100 families (Paradise, Chico, Gridley, and Oroville) with children attending State Preschools.
- December: Family Literacy Services provided books to homes of 115 families attending Headstart preschools.
- December: Family Literacy Services purchases Dial-a-Story 530 869-6999 with the intention of providing stories just with a phone call since not all families have digital access but most all have a phone.
- December; begin offering Literacy Ambassador training for library staff. Available for LAB too!!

Heartwarming story

- To enhance home literacy learning and offer continued support for caregivers who may be low-literate we supplied Family Literacy Services (FLS) materials to partner sites right before Winter break. As FLS staff arrived in Magalia at Pine Ridge to deliver some family fun he was delighted to see all the children/teachers faces lining the windows happily waving and shouting “thank you, David!”

What is coming up in next 3 months

- Tutor Training will be offered again via Zoom January 23rd.
- Drop-in tutoring via Zoom will be available at the Sherriff's Day Reporting Center for those seeking help with reading/writing on Mondays.

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.

Appendix A:

The Curious Minds Homeschooling Club (CMHC) – Kathy Brazil

CMHC is a unique part of the Butte County library's youth services programming. It launched in the spring of 2018 and expanded in the winter of 2020. In order to adapt to COVID, the expanded CMHC now offers monthly enrichment kits. The kits support curiosity and encourage family time together with a variety of ideas and activities. The reinvented CMHC program is offering twenty pick-up kits each month from December 2020-May 2021 and are available for pick-up at both the Oroville and Gridley branches.

The creativity and interest of library patrons and homeschoolers in the resources the library offers continues to grow through the Curious Minds Homeschooling Club. New connections between the communities of homeschool families and the Butte County public libraries has been established, addressing the unmet need of creating a sense of place and a welcoming partnership with homeschool learners.

The NVCF endowment grant funds were utilized to purchase supplemental supplies to create take-home enrichment kits. In the first two weeks, thirteen CMHC kits were picked up by library community members, reaching twenty-seven homeschool patrons. The kits included: a reusable bag and folder, learning enrichment ideas and activity guides, reference to library materials and resources and a craft idea. Kits include the concept from the book; *The Webbing Way* by Susan Hughes which encourages exploration of a particular theme through activities in a variety of subjects (such as art, math, language arts, and science). Each month features a different theme and activities. The December kit theme was winter, and upcoming themes will be (learn something new, exploring cultures, nature, trees and birds and more).

We see the Curious Minds Homeschooling Club becoming an ongoing sustainable part of the youth services programming.