

Director's Report June 2024

Overheard at the library: Toddler says, "I love library!" Grandmother says, "yea me too!"

Little kid came in and got prizes for reading and said, "This is the best day of my life!"

Personal message emailed to me: "Thank you so much for all the help you have given me on my many adventures. Libraries have always been one of my top favorite places and I love the community we have in Hampstead. I love how my kids get excited to go to the library and that you all take the time to know us. I appreciate all of you and your hard work."

- Doing inventory now which helps us find lost books and keep track of our collection. Pages primarily perform this task.
- Joe and I are reviewing the Master Policy Book to make sure it is all up to date. As I find ones that needs review or updating, I'll bring them to your attention.
- Summer reading is going gangbusters. For kids and adults, we are finding our programs are full or nearly full. The first 2 Wednesday concerts went great without any known traffic or logistics issues. Participation Adults= 238, kids= 267 teens= 47. There are many generous donors that make summer reading prizes and events amazing, most of all the Friends!
- NH State Librarian Michael York announced he will retire in December. He has served NH as the State Librarian since 1999. He has also just announced his candidacy for NH State Senator.
- Since mid-May I have been working on filling a Library Assistant position with the help of Merrily and Julie. We interviewed 5 candidates. We hired one but that candidate needed to step down after first day of work for personal reasons. The 2 other candidates that we felt would be a good fit had already taken other jobs, so we will table hiring until September. All the staff believe we are sufficiently covered.
- We will be hiring a new library page this month hopefully. Typically we hire people in high school and this is their first job. Our page Sophie has graduated high school and will be leaving for college. Her last day of work will be August 8.
- Our new Kids' email Newsletter is starting. April has been working on this for us.
- To help keep costs low for our statewide shared downloadable books consortium from Overdrive, State tech Librarian Bobbi Slossar is requesting that we limit any paid non-resident card holders from using our digital resources. Staff have discussed it, but I'd like to hear your thoughts. That budget process is starting now and I'll keep you informed of the discussions.
- Next month I will bring a draft library budget to you.
- Girl Scout troop that meets here often planted apple trees on our front lawn as part of GS USA Plant 5 Million trees by 2026 badge.

- Janet has set up a pilot program with the NH State library to borrow a selection of large print books from the state library to augment our collection. Patrons can now browse a special cart of books we've borrowed for several months from the state.
- Lions Club has graciously donated \$500 toward our large print collection. We were able to buy more new popular books. More and more patrons are looking to the large print collection and I'm proud we have a robust collection for our size library.
- Library is hosting several events for the 275th celebration this year. Next is July 25 at 10AM "Hampstead Then and Now" compares historical pictures with current day photos, with Jim Wilkinson.