

**Homer Public Library
Director's Report
November 25, 2015**

This has been a quiet month in terms of adult programs. But between story times (three per week), Maker Club (once per week), and numerous school visits, the children's calendar has been chock-full.

Meetings in November

- Friends of the Library
- Town Hall
- City Council
- Staff (2)
- Department Heads
- Alaska Library Association Executive Council teleconference

Issues of Interest

2016 Budget

Staff members are quite concerned about the outcome of the upcoming election and the possibility of staff reductions, in addition to other substantial cuts. To clarify a statement in the Homer News, Budget B would eliminate one half-time and one 28-hour per week position, not "two half-time positions." Both these staff members work the front desk a lot and are integral to our operation. If these positions are lost, we will have to reduce our hours.

Summer Intern

The Alaska State Library has invited HPL to submit a grant proposal for a summer intern. The intern would be a student currently enrolled in a library science master's degree program, with travel expenses and a small stipend paid by the State Library for up to eight weeks. The local community must provide housing, which the Friends have agreed to assist with. The intern's work must be a project outside of the library staff's normal duties. We are submitting a proposal for a youth services intern to work on reclassifying the picture book collection by subject categories (something our children's librarian has been wanting to do but not had time to tackle), which we think will take about four weeks. A second project would involve working on a collaborative effort underway to create an up-to-date database of recommended titles for youth about Alaska and the North.

SAT Tutoring

Thanks to funding from the Friends, certified teacher Megan Bigelow is now offering tutoring sessions free to anyone preparing to take the SAT exam for application to college. Sessions are Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings, with breaks for the holidays.

Library Art

Public Works is trying to clean out their storage area on the old middle school grounds. The Library has some shelving, a cabinet, and leftover building materials there, most of which we

probably want to keep. There are also several boxes of artwork. After the holidays, I'd like to get a small committee together to go through it, as well as consult with the Public Arts Committee, to determine which items are worth keeping (if any). Is anyone interested?

Curiosity Creates Grant (Maker Club)

This weekly after-school program for upper elementary and middle school kids has been going great, thanks to librarian Claudia Haines and several community volunteers. So far it's been well-attended by a diverse mix of enthusiastic kids excited to learn new skills in a collaborative setting.

Behind the Scenes

Director: I've spent this month on general administrative duties, including staff evaluations, year-end accounting, the intern grant application, and collection development.

Staff: Holly Brennan worked with the IT director to update our library software. Staff members who order books, etc., and supplies have been busy placing final orders on this year's budget so items will be received by the end of the fiscal year (December).

Facility

- Windows to replace the two shattered by vandals are ready but installers are still waiting for favorable weather (i.e. not icy or windy) to make the switch.
- The Xerox machine is now charging correctly but scanning incorrectly. The repair person is waiting for more parts.
- Thanks to the assembly skills of the maintenance department, our new tables are in use in the meeting room. They fold up, they roll, they are easy to rearrange into a variety of configurations. Check 'em out!

**Please Note: We will close at 1 PM on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve
Closed December 25 and January 1
NO STORYTIMES Dec. 15-31 NO MAKER CLUB Dec. 24 and Dec. 31**

Ongoing

Aging to Perfection – Conversations about aging well. Saturdays 3:30-5:30.

Maker Club – Thursdays Dec. 3, 10, and 17 after school

Ham Radio Class – first Tuesday, 5-6:30 PM and second Saturday, 12-3 PM

SPARC Radio Club – first Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Story Times – Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10 AM. Small Fry Thursdays 11:30 AM

Knitting – Mondays, 3-5 PM

Book Club – Third Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30

Drop-In Tech Help – First Fridays and Third Saturdays, noon to 2

Maker Club – Thursdays, 3:30-5:30. 3D Design, Coding, LEGO

See our website for more information