

Parkland Regional Library Newsletter - Issue 2 - Summer 2021



Learning in Libraries

Libraries should be a key knowledge center in our communities. They should be the place that everyone feels safe and welcomed. This summer we had the opportunity to learn from Wade Houle, of Bright Sky Consulting. Wade led our team through two Anti-Racism workshops. This opportunity helped us recognize and better understand inequities. Some of the topics explored included: culture and socialization, prejudice and stereotypes, oppression and power, colour blindness, tone policing, and hegemony. We learned about related Canadian policy. The workshops were reflective and informative.

We know that as an organization, and a society, there is much more work and learning needed. We are committed to fostering truth and reconciliation in our libraries and communities.



Summer Programming

Our librarians got creative this summer to re-imagine how COVID-19 style reading programs can also support our small rural businesses and bring some fun to town. Our summer fun included the TD Storywalk program that took our young readers outside and around town from page to page. We used grant funds to purchase local treats for our participants. We know that ice cream goes especially well with reading! Some of our branches hosted weekly draws for fun prizes. Some branches held a larger draw at the end of summer. We took this opportunity to work with local businesses, and promote what

our communities have to offer. Our communities are healthier and stronger when we work together.



Erickson Storywalk



Shoal Lake Storywalk



Birtle Storywalk



McCreary and District Library

Melissa, our librarian in McCreary, was successful in bringing in nearly \$5000 in new treasures to her library through South Parkland Healthy Child Coalition grant. The children's area got some fun additions just as we were allowed to reopen this summer. Melissa was able to purchase new mobile shelving, a sensory table, a bright carpet, seating cushions, and large foam toddler blocks. She also was able to stock up on craft supplies and a giant connect four board.



Gladstone Library

As soon as we could open our doors to the public again this summer, the critters returned to the Gladstone Library. Shelley, our librarian, is famous for some pretty wild programming. In July snakes, a gecko, and a salamander spent some time at the library. The kids even got to name one snake, Scaley (pictured)! In August, things got more hairy and rabbits, guinea pigs, and a rat greeted local library patrons. Program themes over the summer included dinosaurs and Greek Mythology. The local Co-op donated 'HEYCLAY!' as well to make for more fun activities.



Ochre River Library

Our librarian, Jenine, is dreaming about creating fantastic community spaces both indoors and out. The municipality and library worked together to create a gathering space behind the library. The hope is to continue to develop the backyard space. We are working hard to engage the community and spark interest among our young families. Jenine has brand new giant games that can be used at the library, or signed out using your library card. She is also giving away sidewalk chalk to young visitors. We were thrilled to have the local child care center bring their children to the library.



Hamiota Centennial Library

Gwen, our librarian in Hamiota, always has several ideas cooking at the library. Their summer programming included take home packages to celebrate Buster's Birthday, a Storywalk, and a series of draws for sweet treats. Hamiota was also very successful in bringing back a weekly book sale. We would like to thank the Hamiota Community Foundation for their generous contribution towards new library furniture.

Strategic Planning and Community Feedback



We are seeking feedback from our patrons and community stakeholders to help shape our strategic planning process. We are partnering with Community Futures Parkland to work through this important process. Please take five minutes to complete the survey linked below or visit your local branch to obtain a paper copy of the survey.

