

Director's Report – March 2019

Joy Neal, Director

Library:

Circulation for March 1719. Patron count was 2349 We had 255 uses of the computers. We had 10 new library cards. 174 people attend library programs.

Tech nights were held on March 6, 13, 20, 27

Story times were held March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. There was a special story time, Saturday, March 2 (Dr. Seuss' Birthday)

Legos @ the Library was March 26.

We had a staff meeting on March 21.

Staff:

I attended the Rotary Merchant Night. Susan did a pitch for the new library which was well received.

Susan, Scott, and I traveled to Seattle for a meeting with the Washington State Housing Commission. They provide monies to non-profits not government agencies.

Katryna is gathering programs for this year's Summer Reading Program. It has a space theme. She is interested in heading up a once a month program bringing in local people to talk about what they do. This would start in the Fall to give us time to line up people and advertise. It would be after hours on a Thursday night.

Mat had his yearly evaluation. We talked about how to use our lego/computer coding stuff through some programs for kids. He did some coding classes for kids last year and enjoyed it. He would also like to see a game night where he could bring some of his games and share them with others. We talked about his taking some classes at the college to improve his knowledge of servers.

Community:

I attended the Kiwanis breakfasts on March 6, 20.

I attended the SIHRMA meeting on the 14th. Topic was Building Positive and productive Cultures through Strategic Leadership. Speaker was Shari Storm whose book is "Motherhood is the new MBA: Using Your Parenting Skills to be a Better Boss."

I attended a meeting of a Homeless Taskforce. They are working on how to spend a HUD grant that has been given to Skagit County. Unfortunately, it is an amount to be divided among 5 communities. There was brainstorming of how the money could be used to the best advantage. They have been working on this for over a year and need to craft the grant request. We could be a safe place for meetings with counselors or advisers or a refer place. They were headed to a state meeting shortly to get more information on how the money could be spent.

The Skagit Directors meeting was March 22 in Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon Library now has a reciprocal agreement with Central Skagit. We continue to discuss a courier system to allow people to leave books at any of the libraries. Central Skagit and Mount Vernon are interested in joining us on Evergreen and they will be attending the meeting April 16th We were updated on the status of the various building projects. Brook announced she has accepted a job with Whatcom County running the Lummi Island Branch. The job is part time so she will continue part time with Upper Skagit until a new Librarian is hired.

Other:

The Library Council of Washington had a meeting at Highline Community College March 28. It was my first meeting and was interesting to see the kinds of things the State Library is exploring. We also heard about the Capital Budget. There is a plan in the House to set aside a pool of money just for building libraries. It would be 10 million and aimed at rural, distressed counties, and small libraries in need of help to build or remodel.

Mat and I are planning to attend an Evergreen ILS meeting (this is our Catalog system), April 16th. I will be attending the WLA Conference April 17-19. Both are being held in Vancouver, WA. Mat is also signed up for a statewide IT conference in May.