

**Library Board Report
Youth Services Department
September 2014**

Prepared by Michaela Watson, Youth Services Coordinator

Another Summer Reading Program has come and gone! The Youth Services department began the summer with a big kick-off celebration at both libraries promoting the 2014 Summer Reading Program (SRP). Along with registering for the SRP, the celebration included fun activities for the kids like face painting, a fish-for-prizes booth, miniature golf, and free balloons, which were donated by Bob Tomes Ford.

This year's Summer Reading Program was very successful. In total we handed out:

- 927 logs to preschoolers
- 2,436 logs to school-age children
- 697 logs to teens
- 4,060 logs total for all three programs

While this number is slightly less than the number of logs handed out last summer, the total percentage of logs returned remained the same: about 25%. Participants received a variety of rewards including a circus ticket voucher, BOGO Dallas Zoo, Heard Museum, Legoland and Grapevine Aquarium tickets, and food coupons thanks to the many generous donations by Chick-fil-A, Whataburger, McDonalds and others. Most importantly, every child and teen who returned a log received a book of their choice to keep. Teens were also entered into a drawing to win a Kindle Touch; one winner was drawn at random.

We had something for everyone when it came to our summer programs. The Youth Services team continued the popular Music and Movement program for the preschool crowd at both locations. The program was held on Monday mornings at Hall and Thursday mornings at JJGL; while Hall offered one program each week, JJGL offered four and each one was at capacity all summer long. The program was full of music, singing, and dancing and each week a different instrument or manipulative was used. The children used manipulatives such as sticks, bells, shakers, scarves, or ribbons. Tickets were handed out on a first come first serve basis, with a total of 112 tickets each Thursday morning at JJGL and 36 at Hall. We continued storytime for the 5 and under crowd as well, which continues to be an important staple for McKinney's families. Family storytime was held once a week at each location for those working parents who cannot attend during the weekday. JJGL's remained on Tuesday night and reached our largest numbers to date, while Hall found a new following on Saturday mornings.

This year's paid performers were offered as family programs, rather than children only, as they had been in the past. We offered two back-to-back shows at each location in order to accommodate the largest number of people possible. We had a total of six family performers, including two in June, two in July and two in August; each performer did four shows. The kick off program was from our local magic shop, Main Street Magic, where Magic Mike put on an excellent show of trickery and illusion. Jungle Jim was the second performer and he brought his extensive collection of bugs and fossils to share with the audience. The Incredible Bubble

Lady, the only “bubble expert” in Texas, shared science and fun while wowing the crowd with enormous bubbles; every family left with materials to make their own bubble maker. Maria Smith was our second performer in July and she provided a singing variety show for the youngest library lovers. My four year old is still talking about her! McKinney favorite, Zooniversity, came in August and brought out some of the largest numbers of people. The audience was treated with seeing a very rare and endangered Australian Woylie. The last family program of the summer was a real treat, as we had Snake Encounters give a hilarious and entertaining show with many live snakes and other reptiles. In total we provided summer programming to 2,669 people!

This year’s teen programs were well attended and a lot of fun. The first program was a hip-hop dance class provided by McKinney business, Dancer Strong. The teens enjoyed learning a short routine. Because Minute to Win It was so successful last summer we did it again with all new challenges: bouncing a pencil into a cup, throwing a half-full water bottle and trying to land it upright, keeping three balloons in the air, rolling a ball across a broom handle and up into a trash can. Our third program was duct tape crafts where the participants made whiteboards, pen toppers, purses and wallets. We welcomed Main Street Magic back for a teen magic show with just a few peeks behind the magic curtain.

Fall programming began on Tuesday, September 2nd and we have lots of fun programs planned through December. Due to incredible demand we continue to receive for the Music and Movement program, we are continuing it in the fall programming schedule along with our standard storytimes. Pre-school age children have 17 programs each week between the two locations, including Fun with Baby, Toddler Storytime, PreK Storytime, Music & Movement, Family Storytime and Little Explorers. Little Explorers is a new STEAM program for 3-5 year olds, which includes a book, a song, a group activity and a hands-on activity with caregiver and child.

The school age program for the fall is “STEAM”. This topic addresses the current emphasis on science, technology, engineering, arts and math in school. We have three programs a month at each location, alternating STEAM, Lego Storytime and a new topic, IRL. IRL is internet lingo for In Real Life and we will be bringing things from books, games, and TV to life in this program. We start with a CSI program in which the kids must analyze clues to discover who took the missing teddy bear.

The teen program lineup includes Teen Crafters, Got Science (a teen STEAM program) and a new YA Book Club that will be reading books that have become movies.

The Youth Services Librarian Supervisor has just left for a new job opportunity in Southlake, so we are looking to fill that position as soon as possible.

I am proud of the Youth Services Team’s effort and work to provide our community with such a successful summer reading program. I look forward to the new programs and faces as we continue to provide outstanding programs to our community and grow together as a team.