

Library Board Report Youth Services Department May 2012

The McKinney Public Library System's Youth Services Department has been busy with new and exciting changes. We added two new staff members to our team in Fall 2011 and we began offering equal programming at both branches. We offered eight programs a week at each library which included a family storytime one evening. Programming was offered at the Roy and Helen Hall Library on Monday and Tuesday mornings and at the John and Judy Gay Library on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. In total we offered 4 lapsit programs, 6 Hold My Hand programs, and 4 On My Own programs each week along with a Family storytime on Tuesday evenings at JJGL and Wednesday evenings at Hall. We also offered an additional Family storytime once a month on a Saturday morning at each library.

In January 2012 in addition to our storytimes we began offering weekly teen programs. Our Teen-O-Rama program at JJGL consists of a book club, a craft program and a gaming program. These programs have found a growing group of teens who participate and return each month. In addition to the programs we have established a Teen Advisory Panel (TAP) with a modest but enthusiastic group of teens. For their first project together they are creating a wall display in the storytime room for the Hall Library. They have decided on a Winnie-the-Pooh theme and will be working on the display throughout the month of May.

Also beginning in January, the YS team developed a monthly program for our school-age children. This program was held at each library and is called Passport to Adventure. The children receive a passport at their first program which gets stamped after each program they attend. We have visited China, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Italy. At our last program in May, we will be visiting India. We have a special prize for every child who has their passports stamped for attending all 5 programs.

In celebration of National Poetry Month in April, the YS team is hosting a teen poetry contest. The contest is for teens in 6th through 12th grades. We received 73 entries. Our panel of judges is from the community. We have two teachers from Collin College and a member of the Mockingbird Poetry Society. A reception is planned for May 15th to announce the winners with Dr. Lisa Kirby an English professor as our guest speaker.

The YS team is currently developing a new music and movement storytime program we will be offering this summer. This program will be a new and fun storytime program where the children and their caregivers will sing, dance, and move to a variety of songs and rhymes using bells, sticks, shakes, and colored ribbons to enhance the fun.

Lastly, the YS team is busy getting ready for the summer reading program which will begin with a big kick-off carnival on Friday, June 1st. In addition to a teen and school age reading program this summer we have added a preschool program called "Splash into Reading" for children from birth to entering Kindergarten. The YS team is very excited about all the fun programs and performers we have planned for this summer.

- Prepared and presented by Wendy Turner, Youth Services Supervisor