

**Library Board Report
Youth Services Department
February 2013
Prepared by Wendy Turner, Youth Services Supervisor**

The Youth Services department began the fall by adding two new part-time staff members and having another staff member relocated to JJGL to give a youth services presence at that location. Programming for preschoolers was held four mornings a week, two mornings at each library, and included one morning of storytimes and one morning of Music and Movement. Animal Kingdoms was the theme for our school age program and was held once a month at each library for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The Teen programs included a craft program, a book club, and a new program called Music Exchange. These programs were held once a month on Thursday afternoons at JJGL. From September through December, the Youth Services team held 165 children's programs with 4,291 preschool and school-age children attending and 15 teen programs with 135 teens attending.

In late September it was announced that JJGL would be extending their hours and days they were open. This was wonderful news for the Youth Services department and we added another staff member, a new Youth Services Librarian, Kelly Ellis. The Youth Services department now has two full-time staff members at JJGL which benefits the patrons at that location because there are now staff members who participate in the Youth Services programs and are familiar with the different youth collections that are housed there.

To begin the new year the Youth Services department welcomed a new part-time staff member, Lisa Everett. Lisa is replacing Nicole Matthews who moved to Kansas. Some new programming has also been added by the Youth Services department. A Teen Anime club is now being offered one Monday evening a month at Hall and is led by Kelly Ellis. This program is in addition to the three current teen programs offered at JJGL. On Tuesday evenings, a family storytime has been added to JJGL's programming and is also led by Kelly Ellis.

The school-age program for the winter is called "Imagination Creation". This fun program is designed to let children in kindergarten through 5th grade imagine being someone or something else. The program is held one afternoon a month at Hall and is held two afternoons a month at JJGL to meet the high demand for children's programming there. This program will share interesting facts and information to the children about subjects like pirates, super heroes or magicians. It will then encourage them to use their imaginations to create items such as super hero capes, pirate eye patches or to design a pirate flag or learn magic tricks.

Youth Services has already begun to prepare for our summer reading programs. We are planning a big kick-off celebration for Friday, June 7th. Our goal this summer is to have higher completion numbers, so we have adjusted the number of hours each child is to read. The program will run from June 7th through August 10th.

Our theme this summer is “Dig Up a Good Book”. This theme will be the same for our babies and our school-age children. We are excited to be presenting a magician, a puppet show, Zooniversity, and a live performance of “Gertrude McFuzzy & The Three Little Whos” for our school-age children. These programs will be presented on the same day at both libraries - once in the morning at Hall and again in the afternoon at JJGL and the Youth Services team will rotate between the two libraries.

This summer’s theme for the teens is “Beneath the Surface.” Last summer the teens were able to attend four programs. Of those four programs, the Youth Services team created two original programs and both were very popular and well received by the teens who attended. This summer, it is the Youth Services team’s goal to develop all four programs that will be presented to the teens. We consider it a fun challenge and are currently developing creative and unique programs.