

John and Judy Gay Library Public Services Board Report

August 2019

Staffing

Our staffing has been fairly steady in the past six months. Whitney Jones, the Library's Outreach Librarian, spends some of her hours at JJGL, making connections with the public. Sagar Patel, a UTD student, has been our library intern this summer. He assisted with Summer Reading Programming, provided customer service at the circulation and information desk, and planned school-aged STEM programming lesson plans in collaboration with a library staff member. We are losing two of our part-time library assistants, one who has established her own business in Melissa, and the other who has moved too far away (and closer to school) to make commuting to McKinney for a part-time position a reasonable option. We plan to have these positions filled soon.

Library programming

We are wrapping up our summer programming. The Hall Library housed the majority of our special summer programs since our meeting room capacity was limited to 49, but we were still able to present some big programs by spreading the activities throughout the library. This way, no one area was overcrowded, and volunteers were able to assist with crafts and activities. We had a number of teen and adult volunteers this summer who helped to prepare the prize bags for the children, helped to prepare the crafts, did some shelving for us, straightened up the shelves and pulled the pending holds. These were all essential tasks that staff would have needed to do had we not had the volunteers donating their time. While not many volunteers are excited to help dust and clean the shelves, and other work that they do may not be perceived as glamorous, I think that our volunteers enjoy their time with us, and know that we appreciate their contribution.

Our Toddler Time, Wobblers and Walkers, Little Ones Lapsit, Family Play Date, and So You Think You can Draw programs all continued at JJGL along with several new adult book clubs and presentations. Getting their names on our Summer Reading Program rocket ship was a highlight of the reading program for many of the children. Our shelves have emptied as the families made good use of their additional reading (and video watching) time.

Looking west

Looking out my office window on the west side, I've seen a lot of progress on our new road and its associated new parking lot. The closure of the drive-up bookdrop has gone on longer than anticipated, and we are grateful that we have our remote bookdrops at the LegacyTexas bank and at the Tuesday Morning shopping center on Louisiana. Our couriers have been making extra stops at the remote bookdrops to pick up the many items deposited there. We anticipate having at least walk-up access to our outside bookdrop in a few weeks.

Lisa Bailey
Branch Manager, John and Judy Gay Library
8.7.19