

**Library Board Report  
Youth Services Department  
January 2015  
Prepared by Michaela Watson, Youth Services Coordinator**

Fall 2014 programming ended in mid-December and spring 2015 programming began January 5. The Youth Services department gained a FT Technician position with the new budget year, which resulted in a well-deserved promotion from part time to full time for Tamara Biggio. The part time technician position was filled by Abby Stapp, an MLS degreed librarian, who brings many new talents to the library. The department is still without a librarian position, vacated by Stacy Wells in September, but the position is going to be posted shortly. When fully staffed, we will consist of me, a librarian, four full time technicians and one part time technician.

In the fall, Youth Services provided 241 children's programs across the two library locations, with 7,895 participants. Programming included baby, toddler and preschool storytimes, Music & Movement, Little Explorers, School Age STEAM programs, Mother/Daughter Book Club, and family storytime. Nine teen programs took place at JJGL, bringing in 47 students for after school activities.

Spring programming for children continues baby, toddler, preschool, and family storytimes and Music & Movement. Toddler storytime is having a little makeover, with the addition of playtime after a shorter storytime; we recognize that a majority of our toddler children are not ready to sit through three books and the parents value the time talking to each other. Our preschool storytime will take a "journey through the alphabet", focusing on a different letter and its sounds each week, with the craft involving that letter. We will also continue the new Little Explorers STEAM program for preschool children, which was a great success in the fall. The kids will be "exploring nature" with such topics as the water cycle, parts of a plant, and the four seasons.

School Age STEAM programming will be every Monday at Hall and every Tuesday at JJGL; the kids will be "exploring the world of..." cryptozoology, disasters, and Pokemon to name a few. The programs begin with an explanation and discussion of the topic, linking it to STEAM. There is normally a group activity and then activities for the kids to do alone or in groups.

Teen programming is on Thursdays at JJGL right after school and rotates each week between teen crafts, teen STEAM, teen book club, and teen board gaming.

With our new part time tech, Abby, we gained a new skill in the department at Hall! Abby will be sharing her yoga instructing abilities every other Saturday morning during family storytime with a new program called Twisty Tales, movement and stories for all ages and abilities. Along

with our family storytimes, we are now offering a family maker lab at the Hall library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 PM. Children and parents can visit the Storytime room to use their imaginations and create something to take home. We will focus on using recyclable materials and items donated from people, such as fabric scraps, leftover craft supplies, etc.

The popular Mother/Daughter Book Club is expanding! We will now offer this program at both Hall and JJGL and we are very excited.

Summer Reading Program may be six months away, but it is right around the corner: stay tuned!