



San Antonio Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULY 2013

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

During the past month, Library Director Ramiro Salazar worked with staff on moving forward with several key projects and initiatives including the Public Awareness RFP; *Connect* technology project at Central; 2012 Bond Projects currently underway; Bexar County Interlocal Library Agreement; Library Portal at the Briscoe Museum; and the Vital Records initiative; among others. He also participated in planning and strategy meetings related to the Café Commerce initiative at the Central Library. Lastly, significant time was spent on the FY2014 Library Budget development process. Following is a partial list of meetings and events he attended.

On June 19, Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with Councilwoman Ivy Taylor (District 2) to provide a briefing on the land donation for the new District 2 branch library and respond to questions the Councilwoman had regarding library services in the Highland Farms area. That evening, Ramiro Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Committee meeting and delivered a report on the Library.

The San Antonio Public Library's 110th Anniversary celebration was launched on June 20. Library Director Ramiro Salazar offered brief remarks and invited the public and staff to join in the celebration with cake and punch at the Central Library. Additionally, birthday cake was offered at each branch library to celebrate the anniversary with the public and staff. The public was invited to sign the electronic birthday card on the Library's webpage and offer their comments and feedback on library services.

On June 24, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the book reading and panel discussion featuring author Alfredo Corchado. This event was organized by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Book Festival and was well attended.

On Thursday June 27, members of the Library's Connect team provided a project overview and tour to Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado. Assistant Library Director Kathy Donellan also provided a tour of Forest Hills Library, a branch library that recently underwent an Extreme Makeover.

In late June, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill participated in the American Library Association's Annual Conference. The ALA Annual Convention provides an excellent opportunity to network with leadership of other public library systems and attend sessions regarding the latest trends and innovations in libraries.

On July 3, Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with Jeanne Russell, Senior Strategist with SA2020 to discuss partnership opportunities. As a result, the Central Library will be the venue for a series of SA2020 public meetings in late July.

On July 9, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Assistant Directors Kathy Donellan and Dale McNeill, Department Fiscal Administrator Leo Luna, and Executive Assistant Jessica Ramos participated in a meeting with City Manager Sheryl Sculley, Assistant Director Gloria Hurtado and Budget Director Maria Villagomez to review the Library's FY2014 Budget Development Process.

On July 11, the Library hosted a Design Day at the Carver Branch Library in conjunction with the KaBOOM! playground award. Over thirty (30) children participated in the design day to sketch out their dream playground. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation partnered with the library on this initiative to provide the required cash match for the grant.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

As of July 12, 2013, the following are the numbers for youth participants (12 and under) in the Mayor's Summer Reading Club.

As of 07/12 – There are 6,365 listeners and 17,658 readers signed up. Branches are including SRP numbers and programming mentions in their individual reports.

LITTLE READ WAGON

This month Little Read Wagon completed Play & Learn program series at the Mission and Las Palmas branch libraries. The groups continued to be very large throughout the five weeks, but with the full participation of Children's Librarians Jane Miller and Gina Brudi the programs were delivered very smoothly. On June 24, Univision just happened to be at Mission during Play & Learn and included the program in its evening news report. This was followed by several calls to the Little Read Wagon office and new participants at subsequent programs.

July 12 marked the beginning of the Play & Learn series at the Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School. This series was planned in close coordination with Children's Services Liaison Troy Lawrence. Several new math and science experiences will be introduced at this series. Many of these experiences will also be offered at the Tuesday morning Play & Learn programs at Woodlawn Community Room.

The Third Annual Texas School Ready Summer Institute was held in San Antonio June 26 - 28. The entire Little Read Wagon team was able to attend the free conference. Each staff person participated in multiple sessions, gathered many new ideas, and found the experience to be reinvigorating. Session topics included math, science, effective meetings, music and movement, sensory integration, classroom management and more.

MARKETING

The Marketing department continues to lead the creative side of the Connect at Central project including designing signage, aesthetic design, monitor placement, and several other items.

Caitlin and Joseph have been working closely with Texana and Digital Services on all of the details related to the Briscoe Western Art Museum. Details are ongoing.

Planning has begun for the People en Español Festival on Labor Day weekend.

Daniel is working on concepts for the promotional giveaways for this and other projects.

Graphics

August Bookmarks (print) in English and Spanish (with Daniel)

Connect at Central

Vital Records materials development including but not limited to: libguide, handouts, posters, web banners, TVSA screen

Young Pegasus 2014 design

110th Anniversary logo design and promotion

Social media

1,447 people are following @mysapl on Twitter and SAPL has 5,493 friends on Facebook.

SAPL received 133 media mentions during the reporting period.

TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Off-Site Service

During the reporting period, Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard and Library Assistant Regina Almanza visited the Boys and Girls Club Teen Center to sign up teens for the Teen Summer Reading Program and give out library cards. Later in June, Regina and Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo visited the Boys and Girls Club Teen Center to sign up a different group of teens for the Teen SRP.

Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce visited Fox Tech High School on June 28 to speak to incoming freshmen about the services and resources the Library offers for teens and to give out library cards.

Teen Summer Reading Program

On June 20, Brooke and Jacob, a teen that regularly hangs out in Teen Services, made an appearance on Fox's Daytime at Nine show to talk about the Summer Reading Program.

Partnerships

The Library partnered with the Family Service Association again this year to provide teen interns for locations that could use one. Kathleen and Brooke attended an FSA job fair to interview intern candidates on June 17. Five teens were selected for the following locations: Central Teen Services, Collins Garden, Johnston, Landa and Las Palmas.

Teen Services received a Summer Youth Worker through the City's program.

Both of the teens working in Teen Services this summer have been a wonderful asset to the department. They help to plan and implement teen programs, do some shelving, create displays and promotional materials, serve summer lunches for kids and teens, and perform several other tasks.

Professional Development

Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard attended the American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago, IL June 27 – July 2. As the intern for ALA's Training, Orientation and Leadership Development (TOLD) Committee, she attended TOLD's meeting and training for incoming ALA Chairs, and was tasked with organizing a networking event for ALA committee interns outside of designated meeting times. Brooke also attended a number of meetings hosted by various ALA divisions in order to become more involved in the organization. She networked with a variety of librarians, administrators and consultants from across the country while there as well.

After the last Midwinter Meeting, Brooke was asked to help conduct and plan an upcoming webinar for interns (hosted by TOLD). Brooke will again work with TOLD members to provide another webinar for interns, which will be held this September.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The third floor at the Central Library has seen a continual hum of activity as summer progresses. Many new families joined the regular families and groups (Green Acres, St. John's, Central Christian, and Study Hall Learning Center) for Kids Time and Family Fun activities that ran the gamut in themes. Both of these high attendance programs are led with ingenuity and creativity by Librarian Kate Sandoval. At these weekly programs, families helped create expansive, collaborative wall murals on butcher paper showing the wonder of life underground. The favorites included one piece that showed a cross-section of the earth where children could add their ants to the underground channels of an ant hill and another where, in another cross section of soil, they could show their favorite veggies nestled in the ground, roots and all!

More collaborative artistic projects are progressing such as the Department's "Art Gallery" in the Story Room which now features some favorite crafts of summer including 3-D animal caves with stalactites and "excavated" dinosaur skeletons made from ground coffee (dirt) and popsicle sticks, straws, and macaroni (bones), many labeled with the names of the children's favorite scientific dinosaur names.

Participants in Play & Learn at Central had their own pre-celebration of Independence Day together where they made their own "safe sparklers" with ribbons and streamers and "fireworks displays" by adding bright watercolors to coffee filters and watching the colors spread and shoot across the paper "sky."

Toddler Time went through a transitional period as Mary Elizabeth Fernandez, Library Assistant, stepped in to lead the group for a few weeks with new stories, songs, and finger plays. Mary Elizabeth was praised for her creativity and warmth, and did a fantastic job of preparing the group to meet Amy Lewis, their new Toddler Time librarian and Central's newest addition to the Children's Department team. Amy brings lots of experience from her prior work as a teacher with Judson ISD and with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, and has been actively involved in program development since she arrived at Central in late June. She and the department's other newest librarian, Jasmin Salinas, have beautifully transitioned into their first professional librarian positions, despite the fact that the summer does not slow down much for gradual learning on the job. The department is very lucky to have them both!

Summertime means certain collections on the third floor see lots of attention from young readers and their caregivers. Library Assistant Judith Slaughter has been instrumental in making sure that despite the heavy use, our most heavily used collections continue to look attractive. The amount of maintenance required is never-ending and somehow Judith manages to control the workflow.

The entire Central Children's team adjusted to doing in-house counts of materials starting in July. The group has coordinated a good workflow and while use is probably at its highest in July, the Team is keeping up despite the crowds that visit the floor daily.

Kate Sandoval (Librarian II) graduated from the City's Supervisor Academy Training. Kate attended classes for several months, learning about the art of employee management and brought back valuable information to share with her department.

And finally, the hum of activity in the department has also been largely due to all the young readers visiting Central to join the Summer Reading Club. Over 2,000 children have registered at Central alone. Best of all, there have been over 200 individuals who have already completed the program at Central, and also several groups. Lots of celebration has been warranted, so it's not unusual to hear several cheers each hour as more finishers come in to receive their book reward and certificate signed by Mayor Julián Castro. The department has also seen many repeat visitors after they've completed the program, not just coming by for more books, but to gaze up at our "Finisher Pillar" which displays our "Super Summer Readers" porcupine. Each quill on his back displays a different name of a child who has fulfilled the requirements of the Summer Reading Club- listening to 15 books being read to them or independently reading eight books. The success of the club is also evident at other locations throughout the City. Department Manager, Ruth Chiego coordinates the distribution of the book rewards system wide and additional requests for more books at nearly every location have been staggering. Before summer began last year's statistics were reviewed and children's librarians polled at each location to determine how many book rewards would be a good start to supply the branches. So far branches such as Mission, Igo and Great Northwest have far exceeded those initial estimates!

DIGITAL SERVICES

Sarah Carolan trained five staff members on LibGuides.

Digital Services staff attended a presentation on the 3M Cloud Library platform for ebooks and attended webinars for LibGuides CMS, ALA Virtual Pre-Conference and ALA Annual Tech Wrap-up.

OUTREACH

For the first time in many years, SAPL is offering an adult component to the Summer Reading Program. Presented by the Lifelong Learning Committee and funded by the San Antonio Library Foundation, the Adult SRP got off to a strong start, with 2,022 registrants having read 2,205 books by July 1. Like the children's and teens' programs, the Adult SRP continues through the end of August. During the second week of August, the branch libraries will host closing parties to celebrate the success of the first year.

Outreach staff visited San Antonio CAN, a preschool, on July 12 to allow the children a chance to browse books. On July 12, Ramona Lucius taught a computer-aided class, "Introduction to Fictionpress.com and Fanfiction.net."

REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

As Connect at Central moves toward completion, Reference has appreciated the opportunity to participate in computer image testing. Dan Garcia and Adolph Lopez are contributing their time and skills to ensure that the new computers are functioning as needed.

Other staff has been busy with programs and outreach activities. Sally Bauer hosted "Clean Green", a program demonstrating how to clean your home with non-toxic, easily available materials. Jim Laferla taught a much appreciated job search class at Goodwill. Cindy DeLeon enjoyed showcasing relevant databases to an Advertising and Marketing instructor and her students. Also of note, Jim Laferla, Librarian II, graduated from his Supervisory Academy class.

TEEN SERVICES

Weekly Programs

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): In addition to music programming every Monday, teens engage in craft programs, allowing them to express themselves creatively in different ways. June 17, J.D. facilitated a craft program in which the teens made mixed media paper mache pop culture characters. On June 24, J.D. printed landscapes and the teens painted monsters into the landscapes. On July 1, J.D. instructed the teens how to make mummy, zombie or voodoo dolls. On July 8, J.D. showed the teens how to make kinetic art with "milk planets" that looked like planets with swirling rings made out of milk, food color and soap. On July 8, Larry Burns of Rios Burns Media Group filmed J.D.'s Eclectic Electric music program as part of a promotional video for SAPL.

Tuesdays with Brooke Ballard (Librarian I): As part of the Teen Summer Reading program, Brooke has reinstated "Teen Science Tuesdays," which focuses on math and technology as well as science. Specific topics covered include: statistics, friction, chemical reactions and neutralization, and the creation of animated GIFs with the use of iPads, cameras, and other technologies.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): During the reporting period, teens enjoyed playing video games, as well as board games. Teens wanted to have a Marvel vs. Capcom (PS3) Tournament, so one teen "regular" at Teen Services showed leadership by creating a flyer and sign up sheet and hosting the Tournament for his peers on June 26.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Peer interaction and encouragement, creative expression and friendly competition rank high on summer Thursday afternoons. During this reporting period, teens got crafty by using different spices mixed with water to create interesting sensory pieces. Afterwards, Matthew from the San Antonio Food Bank showed teens how to make a quick, light and healthy snack. In celebration of Summer, teens made bubbles using dishwashing liquid, water and glycerin. They also made themselves a cold cup of fresh lemonade. A teen-favorite and oft-requested program was brought back: teens made ice cream using the plastic bag method. Teens also had the option of adding a variety of toppings to their homemade ice cream. After each program, teens requested use of a gaming system where they engaged in quick decision making and testing hand-eye coordination.

Pictures from each Summer Thursday program (as well as other fantastic Teen Summer Reading programs around the system) are on Teen Services' Flickr page:
<http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.

Tours and Groups

On June 5, students from George Gervin Academy received a tour of the library from J.D. and catalog instruction from Regina. In addition, Regina signed the teens up for the Teen Summer Reading Program, and Brooke gave them library cards. On June 12, teens from the After-School All Stars program visited the library, and Brooke gave them a tour and signed them up for the Teen Summer Reading Program. On July 9 and 11, students from Alamo Heights Junior High received a tour of the library from J.D. and Brooke, and Kathleen signed them up for the Teen Summer Reading Program.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY

For the Summer months Sylvia Reyna and Debbie Countess prepared a display in our center case on the "Six Flags of Texas" which includes books and ephemera representing the six nations that have claimed Texas.

Sylvia Reyna is preparing to teach Boy Scout merit badges in genealogy and archaeology for Troop 52 of the local Armadillo District.

Amy Lewis, a new Children's Librarian, has begun her internship, to finish her library degree, splitting time between Reference and Texana/Genealogy. Her first task in Texana/Genealogy is to process the papers of Mary Burkholder. Ms Burkholder is well known for her books about the King William neighborhood. So far Amy is enjoying herself as she goes through maps, letters, documents, and research notes.

This past month has been a good one for donations to the collections of the department. Rita Worthy and Laura Thomas donated items. Patsy Moss gave the department six books on the Canary Islands. Bruce Glasrud, recently retired as Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor of History at Sul Ross State University, donated six of his books, three of which are about African Americans in Texas. Finally, Carolyn Lane, a local genealogist, gave four boxes of genealogical books, about half are new to the genealogy collection. We thank all these interested and involved supporters.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

BAZAN

Bazan customers joined staff in celebrating the library's 110th birthday, enjoying cake at a festive table set up in the lobby.

Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen has kept the Summer Reading ball going with weekly *Kids Time* story hours & *Come and Go* craft sessions. At her four outreach visits to the Frank Garrett *Avance* center, Hope presented story time & distributed classroom collections. She hosted students and staff of the Inman Christian Center for a library tour and story hour.

While attendance at weekly Teen Summer programs has been sporadic, teens at Bazan are connecting with friends and electronic devices in a "cool" place!

A variety of board games for families, children and teens has been added to those games already available for adults. Thanks to CA Amanda Coronado for organizing & preparing these games for in-branch use.

Bazan has partnered with UTSA for its *Miranos! Look at Us, We Are Healthy / ¡Miranos! Somos Saludables!* study, regarding in-home care to pre-school children & ways to promote healthy growth in young children. Participants meet weekly for discussions & information regarding healthy eating & increasing physical activity. New participants join weekly; staff present a short information session regarding library services, summer reading, and *Activate Your Mind, Energize Your Body* health and fitness resources.

BROOK HOLLOW

Children

Children's programs at Brook Hollow are going strong and have high attendance for all sessions. Everyone's favorite *Spikey Mikey the Magician* visited the library on June 25 to a full house - there were 180 attendees! More families are visiting the library this summer and a great many kids have signed up for the Summer Reading Program, most of who are reading more books than they need to! Circulation Assistants Jennifer De La Rosa and Raquel Reyes decorated a book cart with the Summer Reading Theme to be the "Book Prize Cart", which the kids really like. Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera and Tween Time have a core group of kids who attend and love to build things with Straws and Connectors and Legos.

Teens

While attendance at weekly Teen Summer programs has been sporadic, teens are at Brook Hollow, connecting with friends and electronic devices in a “cool” place! There are 33 teens signed up for Summer Reading and are turning in their tickets on a regular basis.

Adults

The Adult Summer Reading program has proved to be very popular at Brook Hollow, with 89 adults registered.

Programming

The San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition held two programs at Brook Hollow on June 15 and June 29. Attendance is high and attendees are very happy that the organization is able to meet at the library to present information.

Monthly meetings with local Steampunk groups prove to be continually popular as shown by attendance of 26 on June 26. The meetings focus on the basics of Steampunk, such as Steampunk 101, and answer many questions as well as inviting the various groups in town to make presentations.

The San Antonio Storytellers Association resumed their monthly presentations at Brook Hollow on July 3.

Therapy Dogs Inc came to Brook Hollow on June 28 to introduce staff and dogs to the library and explain the program. According to their brochure the definition of pet therapy activities include petting, stroking, brushing, hold, watch them perform simple tricks to entertain. Beginning July 12 the Therapy Dogs that come to Brook Hollow will be part of “Read to a Therapy Dog” day, where children can spend time reading out loud to the dogs without feeling any pressure.

The Friends of Brook Hollow Library have been hosting on-going book sale via a book cart that has proven to be very popular.

San Antonio Public Library’s 110th Anniversary party was held on Thursday, June 20 at Brook Hollow. Many people stopped by to enjoy the cake that was graciously provided by the Friends of the Brook Hollow Library.

Volunteer Coordinator Librarian Tapley Trudell has recruited many volunteers who have been of great help to Children’s Librarian Rachael Barrera during story times and ‘tween times. Extra hands make set-up and clean-up much easier and the volunteers enjoy working with the kids as well.

CARVER

Carver Library celebrated San Antonio Public Library’s 110th Anniversary with one of the most festive gatherings the branch has had recently. Cake, punch and balloons donated by the Friends of Carver Branch made revelers out of everyone.

The branch marked the arrival of *Juneteenth* with its Second Annual Phyllis Wheatley Appreciation Day in recognition of the historic high school that opened in 1934. Carver staff and the Friends of Carver Branch declared June 22, 2013 Phyllis Wheatley Day. Alumni gathered at Carver to share their memories and to honor the legacy of the school that served the African-American community during the years of Jim Crow segregation.

On July 3, Carver branch kicked off Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Month. Howard Ray, a member of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association, donated artifacts and books that were used to decorate Carver’s display case in honor of the occasion. A special ceremony was held honoring the brave individuals who served in the historic regiment.

July 11 was Design Day at Carver as national non-profit organization KaBOOM and San Antonio Public Library collaborated on a community playground. Dozens of children from surrounding neighborhoods

sketched their vision of their concept of a playground to be constructed at the branch. Afterward, adults were invited to an organizational meeting to discuss plans for making the playground a reality.

It's been a busy summer at Carver. Many children have come to the Summer Reading Program Kids Time on Wednesdays. The branch had 85 visitors to see *Spikey Mikey* perform on June 26! Family Fun attendees have enjoyed crafts, stories and building time with Legos and magnetic blocks. The Scholastic Reading Van visited the branch on Jun 19 and 26. Buster the reading therapy dog has also been coming by on Thursdays with his human Judy Wells. Children have gotten to read to Buster, and their time with him has inspired some to join the Summer Reading Program!

The Carver teens have two days a week during the summer for activities at the library. They have had movie time, gaming, and have been putting a lot of care into the summer teen garden—which is growing eggplant, peppers, beans, cucumbers, strawberries, basil, lavender, rosemary, marigolds, various succulents and three kinds of tomatoes. The staff hopes to have something delectable to sample soon, and the teens agree that with last year's gardening experience under their belts, this year is going even better.

CODY

On June 15, Librarian Heidi Novotny and Library Aide Dylan Rhodes attended the World Refugee Day Celebration, an outreach event at St. Francis Episcopal Church. Children and families who stopped by the library's table had fun making "goldfish in a bag" and learning about the library.

Cody partnered with the McNay Art Museum on July 7 to provide transportation to Free Family Field Day, an event celebrating the art work of Norman Rockwell featuring free activities for children and families.

Tweens re-created ancient Egyptian tombs and coffins on June 17 as depicted in ancient Egyptian history books. Guest speaker Rene brought artifacts and spoke on ancient burial rites and customs, and Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta provided a book display for 'tweens to study for their art pieces.

Beginner Readers Club members presented their latest books and shared their favorite passages and chapters on June 18. Sheila presented them with the children's iPads to re-create a scene from the books they just finished reading, and parents supervised their efforts. Before they left, everyone shared their scenes they created with the one of the apps. Sheila said the children were very excited to have an opportunity to create art on the iPads.

Sheila visited Kids Campus on June 18 and, after reading several fun stories, signed up two classes for the Summer Reading Program.

Movie Time, scheduled for Wednesdays, has been a well-attended event this summer. About 50 patrons came to see *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island* on June 19.

Over 100 people attended the Kids Time event to see magician Rodney Rash on June 20. Sheila said everyone had a great time and let her know as they thanked her when they were exiting the program. Many of the kids stayed behind to ask the magician about some of his magic tricks.

Lego Club continues to attract many families each week. About 45 children between the ages of 5 and 12 attended the first team building event on June 21, and many children continue to come to this event weekly.

Sheila visited the Pineapple School and Chabad Summer Camp on June 25 and June 27, respectively, to read to the toddlers and pre-school students. Each class signed up for the summer reading program and the children are looking forward to receiving their free books.

Fourth of July arts and crafts on June 25 and 26 were well attended by Cody families. Red, white and blue firecrackers, Independence Day wreaths, and hats with stars and glitter were the popular crafts.

Ronald McDonald entertained about 75 people with his puppet show on June 27 for Kids Time. Sheila said the focus of his show is the reading and care of library books.

The *Muevete* health event based on the USDA's Choose My Plate program had 24 people attend on June 28. Children in kinder through fifth grade were eligible to participate with their parents.

Twenty lovely little ladies attended Cody's Fancy Nancy Tea Party on June 29. After a Fancy Nancy story, games and crafts, Sheila had them walk on the red carpet and curtsy to the parents and friends as she introduced them. Fancy "tea" and cookies were served before they left.

Tweens had a tough time choosing between table tennis and iPads for Cody's Tween Time on July 1. Sheila said table tennis is a great way for 'tweens to meet and make new friends, and they have no problem communicating over the tables.

The Happy Tails group introduced seven different types of animals to over 120 patrons for Kids Time on July 11. Children had a difficult time deciding which animal was their favorite after the show. Patrons enjoyed learning about the animals and Sheila said the children even had an opportunity to see a couple of the animals up close at the end of the program.

Cody teen activities became a mess of training sessions, melted vinyl records, library books, and library programs. This mess happened everyday. It accumulated by noon, and got cleaned up by nightfall. All this means is the teen activities happened like this:

Teen volunteers built up momentum during the busy summer months. Many new volunteers started working at the library, which required many training sessions. Sometimes the sessions covered regular library activities like pulling holds, checking in router, and shelving holds. Other teen-centric training sessions involved the teen leadership group having its first ever leadership meeting. Teens discussed when they'd like to have future programs (weekends) and what ideas they had for teen programs (building Rube Goldberg-like contraptions). Hopefully this group will continue to meet and put their heads together to lead teen programs into new and exciting areas.

Melted vinyl records were used to create bookends during a teen program. One teen became especially skilled at dipping the thrift store records into hot water that he assisted people with their creations and found extra uses for his bookend like holding his cell phone. This library program was created for teens, yet teens also got involved with other non-teen Cody events. The popular Lego Club program could not occur without extra teen volunteers, handing out Legos and guiding spectators and builders to their particular places during the program.

COLLINS GARDEN

Summer is underway at Collins Garden Branch Library and it is proving to be entertaining and successful. Over 600 children have signed up to participate in SAPL's Summer Reading Program, with more children signing up every day. The sign up display area is covered with hedgehogs that have the names of the children who have signed up to read or be read to over the summer.

Collins Garden is celebrating the summer with crafts and activities of all kinds. The children have made crafts ranging from treasure maps to glittery ants and sometimes they use their imaginations to make something completely original and different.

Additionally, the branch has hosted *Alexie the Therapy Dog*, a Golden Retriever who loves to listen while children read to her. Reluctant readers were especially appreciative of the dog's calm presence as they could read to her without fear.

Summer is a good time to examine the juvenile collection and make corrections where needed. Worn out books are being removed, and weaknesses in the collection are being identified and corrected. This can take several weeks but by the time school starts, the patrons will be presented with a stronger, more current collection of materials.

The book truck filled with a variety of used books placed there by the Friends of the Collins Garden Branch Library continues to be popular with branch customers---it requires regular restocking.

CORTEZ

San Antonio's favorite magician, Spikey Mikey, visited Cortez on Wednesday June 19. Over one-hundred delighted patrons attended the popular program.

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed two popular displays in support of the Summer Reading Program-Dig into Reading.

Library Assistant, Jo Ann Paredes, and library aide, Madeline Vasquez, designed a beautiful three-dimensional display in support of the Young Adult Summer Reading Program.

Branch Manager, Pam Longoria, Librarian, Jerry Madrigal, and Circulation Attendant, Charlotte Espinosa attended training at Vital Records. Birth certificates and immunization records will be offered for sale at the library during the months of July and August.

Award winning author Joe McKinney was the featured guest for the monthly program Zombie Meet hosted by Library Aide Madeline Vasquez.

Cortez continued to offer its weekly Teen Time program on Thursdays. Loyal patrons regularly attend this program, which offers teens a chance to play video games, use the Internet on laptops, participate in craft activities, and socialize with friends.

The teenagers especially appreciate the snacks and refreshments provided by the Friends of Cortez Library. On average, around 9-12 teenagers attended this program. Library Assistant, Jo Ann Paredes, designed an eye catching display promoting Young Adult reading.

Cortez also continued to offer its regular slate of programming for adults: Yoga and ESL. The weekly yoga classes remain extremely popular. Attendance for the Saturday ESL classes continues to steadily increase.

Cortez continued its regular slate of programming for children: Story Time and Tween Time on Wednesdays and on Tuesdays Family Fun. The library also sponsors a monthly family movie screening. Children and their families enjoyed these programs and expressed their appreciation for them.

In addition, we are offering two new popular monthly programs for children and teens. The Children's librarian Connie Hejl has organized a LEGO club and a Teen Brony/Anime club.

FOREST HILLS

Forest Hills, with the help of the Forest Hills Friends Group, celebrated the Library's 110th birthday on June 20. Cake and punch was served to patrons. Patrons were happy to share in the celebration and enjoyed the refreshments. Some comments from patrons included "Looking good for 110!" and nostalgic tales of visiting the Central Library when it was located on Main.

Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado paid a special visit to the branch on June 27. Ms. Hurtado toured the building with Assistant Director of Support Services Kathy Donnellan, Project Control Manager Rich Walker, and Branch Manager Mary Naylor. The group discussed the many improvements made to the branch during the renovation and how staff has changed services to meet the needs of the community.

Children's Services

The Summer Reading Program *Dig Into Reading* is halfway through to completion. Children are enjoying the programs and digging into reading on their own. They have experienced live worms, looked at ants and their habitats, and enjoyed Spikey Mikey's magical reading routine.

Weekly Come & Go Crafts are hosted every Friday afternoon. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children in creating their own art projects. This program is patron driven as visitors are given only minimal instruction and are left to create their own artistic interpretation of the day's project. This casual program is a popular offering as parents are able to socialize with their children in a comfortable setting, and often make lasting connections and develop meaningful relationships with other families.

Tween patrons come in each week to assist with craft projects and assist Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley with creating samples for the weekly Summer Reading Program craft.

Chess For All, began the first week of July. This bi-weekly class is offered to patrons of all ages. Participants are guided in learning chess skills by volunteers. The program has been a successful offering in this community.

Teen Services

This ever-changing group of teenagers has had a busy summer watching movies, playing guitars, iPads, and making duct tape crafts in the past month.

Outreach

Outreach continues at Children's Summit Learning Center where children were provided with books on various curriculum topics and Valerie has them participate in Story Time.

Adult Programming

The adult patrons of Forest Hills have been eager to participate in the official Adult Summer Reading Challenge. Many have completed their challenge already and others have been encouraged to increase their reading this summer for a chance to win a Kindle.

Michael Hicks, successful self-published author, shared with budding writers what he has learned to have consistently placed – and kept - his books on Amazon's bestseller lists and how to open the door to a full-time writing career.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Adult

The Great Northwest Thursday Book Group discussed *The Double Bind* by Chris Bohjalian. The group consists of at least four regulars and the attendees are impressed with the selected book titles.

Children's

Great Northwest Library has been visited by many families of young children this month. The little ones have had the opportunity to dress up for the theme of the week. They have had very active story times with a puppet show thrown in. The excitement mounts when the meeting room door opens and they walk into the land of pretend. One week was called *Digging the Wild West*. All the cowgirls and cowboys entered the star studded ceiling and could sleep under the stars, cook in the frying pan over the campfire, or ride on their noodle horses and gather in the cows from the pasture.

Last week was *Digging into Fantasy*. They walked into a room filled with fairy castles and forests. They could ride on noodle dragons and unicorns, dress up as wizards or princesses, and dig into the chests for treasure. Toddler Time and Story time are bringing in 400-500 people a week.

The older kids are enjoying themselves as well with wonderful crafts and activities each week. They are actively reading those books by evidence of empty shelves here and there throughout the children's wing. They have also enjoyed the presence of Spikey Mikey, the magician, who has become insanely popular with over 600 in attendance on the day he was here.

The 'tween group is enjoying their Lego Club each week. With the help of two volunteers, Andrew Tarpley and Misty Raley, they have put together a very exciting group. They start with free building for about 25 minutes. Then, they have some circle time to introduce themselves to the group in a lighthearted way. The team challenge then gets underway. They are split into groups of 5-7 per group. To accomplish the

challenge, the team must make sure each group member has a specific part in the work. The project has to be run by the whole team, not just a few. Some of the challenges have been a bridge to be so high and wide and a tower that had to hold so many pounds. The parents and kids have been very affirming of the club and the library for providing it.

Teens

This summer Teens at Great Northwest are getting creative with food. They have learned how to make their own ice cream and caramel popcorn. Teens also used Skittles to create pictures of their favorite video game characters.

GUERRA

On June 18, Tim Johnson, Teen Services Librarian from Parman at Stone Oak, provided training to staff on the use of the display TV purchased by the Guerra Friends. With the support and sponsorship of the Guerra Friends Group and SAPL Marketing, the branch celebrated SAPL's 110th anniversary on June 20. Members of the community enjoyed cake. Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo held a drawing; there were five lucky winners of *San Antonio: A Unique History and Pictorial Guide* by library namesake Henry A. Guerra, Jr.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman held Tech Fridays on June 14, 21, and 28 and July 5 and 12. He also spent time each week coordinating with Administration on plans for the branch closure (August 5-25) for new carpet and furniture, a fresh coat of paint, and other improvements. Staff will be reassigned to other branches during the three week period.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo attended the Texas Library Association Annual Assembly on July 8. She attended a meeting of the Senior Programming Committee/Live Well Age Smart at Landa on July 9. On July 11, she moderated the Thursday Evening Book Club's discussion of Natalie Taylor's novel *Signs of Life*. Monica designed and installed a construction and repair display to highlight the upcoming closure of Guerra.

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs focused her energies and invested the majority of her time on the 2013 Mayor's Summer Reading Program, including promotion, registration programming, and readers' advisory. She presented eighteen programs--Movie Time, Toddler Time, Story Time and Kids Time and Craft Time.

Stephen Jackson, Adult Services Librarian moderated the Club de Lectura on June 27. The group discussed *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling. On June 29, he and Cari Raley, Children's Librarian/Great Northwest represented their branches and SAPL at the District 6 Fit Family Challenge at the Gustafson Stadium. They spoke with over 100 members of the community. On July 8, Stephen and Diane Backus, Branch Manager at Johnston, spoke at the Valley High North/Air Force Village I Neighborhood Association meeting about Johnston and Guerra's plans to be closed in August.

On June 20, Kenneth Perez, Library Assistant, held a video game activity. The teens played video games on the PS3 and Nintendo Wii. They selected *Wreck It Ralph* which was shown on June 27. With support from the Guerra Friends, the teens were also treated to pizza and refreshments. On July 11, Kenneth held a Free Choice activity. The teens played video, card and board games with their peers. Throughout the reporting period, both at scheduled programs and when speaking with teens on the floor, Kenneth has spent time requesting input from the teens about how to design a teen area during the time that we will be closed.

IGO

Igo celebrated SAPL's 110th birthday by serving cake to patrons on June 20. Igo Friends supported the celebration by donating funds to purchase a cake emblazoned with the official 110th celebration logo. Many patrons were surprised to know that SAPL has been a part of the San Antonio community for so many years. The patrons appreciated the sweet treat and were glad to celebrate with the Library.

Children's Services

Igo Children's Services continues to witness enthusiastic attendance numbers at all programs this summer. Program numbers total over 2,600 children attending 34 programs. Additionally, as of July 11, 655 children are registered in the Mayor's Summer Reading Club at Igo with over 230 children completing their reading goal. Children's staff has also seen an increase in the number of upper elementary school children attending library events programs due to the addition of 'Tween Time for kids ages 9 to 12 years. Attendance at 'Tween programs has more than doubled since the beginning of the summer with 19 children attending the July 9 event to explore iPad apps, Legos construction, and an assortment of arts and crafts.

Teen Services

From June 15 - July 12 teens at Igo were offered bi-weekly. Attendance exceeded 25 teens per program. Registration for Summer Reading Program reached 248 and so far 86% of the registered teens completed the minimum requirements. Implementation of the Teen Library Leadership Council program of "Exercises your brain and body" has been a big success so far and has brought more teens to the Library. This program, endorsed by Mayor's Fitness Council, creates greater awareness of healthy habits and physical activity and moves teens toward healthy lifestyle. The program gives young people the skills and confidence they need to be physically active, while improving their health for years to come. Members of Teen Leadership Council created the name for the new teen space at Igo, which from now on will be known as the "IGO TEENS DIGILAB" (IDT).

Adult Services

On Tuesday, June 18, The Igo Genealogy Club offered Writing for Your Life Memoir Writing Workshop presented by Deb Rankin from the Northwest Vista College Writing Lab. All 16 enthusiastic attendees shared some of their unique memories and look forward to future writing events

JOHNSTON

Johnston Branch staff has spent much of this reporting period preparing itself and customers for the extreme makeover project which will begin in August. The Friends of the Library have marked all remaining items down in hopes that everything will be sold. Customers are being reminded to direct their hold items to alternate libraries for pickup. Staff has been told where they will be deployed to while the library is closed. Furniture and fabrics have been selected and ordered – and they will make the building "pop" with color! The library shelves are being readied, shifting is being done to make space. There's a lot of excitement about this project!

Children's Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth is keeping busy presenting four programs each week to very happy audiences. She has great assistance from Library staff and volunteers. As of this writing, Johnston has 825 readers and listeners registered for the Summer Reading program!

Library Assistant Christina Martinez has been doing a lot of multi-tasking – providing teen programming; encouraging teens to sign up for the Summer Reading program. The teens were able to use the Xbox Kinect which was purchased with Friends of the Library Funding. She is the coordinator with the San Antonio Food Bank – serving lunches to neighborhood children three days a week. She is supervising Tristan Lawson, a summer Youth Worker from Family Services, who is working 20 hours per week.

Adult Services Librarian Richard Fields did a book reading at Air Force Village One featuring Larry McMurtry's *Roads: Driving America's Great Highways* on July 2. The small but appreciative group of residents appeared to enjoy the reading. He is also coordinating several new volunteers, who are keeping up with all the shelving.

Branch Manager Diane Backhus has been coordinating many tasks relating to the building's closure – these include finalizing staff relocation; arranging for furniture to be moved out when the building closes, and meetings with contractors and library staff. She also represented SAPL at the Valley Hi Homeowners Association meeting on July 8. She talked about the makeover, showing color samples and renderings of what the new furniture will look like. She is happy to have the support of Maria Puente from Texas Work Force, who is helping her get organized!

LANDA

Teen Services at Landa was extremely exciting this summer! The Landa Library Leadership Council (TLLC) has increased their membership. The group continued to work on their website and newsletter. There is a parent that saw the tutoring program on the Trumba calendar. She, her daughter and son travel from the Southside to Landa every Sunday for tutoring.

On June 19, to celebrate Teen Summer Reading, the Cool Teens Club received a hands-on presentation and lecture on Seismology/Earthquakes from Dr. Glenn Kroeger, Trinity University Professor of Geosciences. The July 10 issue of *Local Community News* has a picture of the Cool Teens Club during its seismology hands-on presentation at the Landa Gardens.

On June 26, teens received a marine biology presentation by Ann Quinn, Director of Education and Conservation, from Sea World of Texas. Circulation Assistant Melissa Carroll oversaw the Garden *ParTea* with teens enjoying tea, fine china, teen-made snacks, and herb clippings from the community garden at their regular Wednesday meeting on July 10. Teen Advisory Council member Shelby R. organized an afternoon Saturday book club called the "John Green Teen Fan Club." They have created buttons, laminated bookmarks, and online music compilation inspired by the young adult author John Green's books. The International Teen Club met to enjoy the cultures of Germany and Egypt. They enjoyed food, crafts, sports and cinema inspired by these countries.

On June 20, Maddie Carrola, TLLC Teen Volunteer, received the 2013 Mayor's Youth Volunteer of the Year award during the 24th annual "Night of a Thousand Stars" sponsored by United Way. She blogged her experience at: <http://goo.gl/SiQcK>. On June 28 Maddie also received word from Councilman Diego Bernal's office that she was picked to be the second teen sponsored by District 1 to attend the Youth Leadership Summit during the Sister Cities International Convention during July 2013.

The summer continues to keep staff hopping at Landa. At Kids Time children worked together to excavate a sand tub for dinosaurs, assemble bones to make a dinosaur skeleton and solve a three foot by four foot dinosaur puzzle. Attendees at other Kids Time sessions made their own sea turtles and created imaginary gardens. The crafts have elicited raves from parents and children alike as the focus is on providing a variety of materials to manipulate and there is a great deal of room for interpretation.

Baby Time and Toddler Time continue to fill the meeting room and new props like a bubble machine have been added to the programs. Children's Services Librarian Clair Larkin is also incorporating sensory bags into Baby Time. The sensory bags are for playtime after Baby Time and demonstrate to caregivers both how easy they are to make and how they support developmental needs.

Landa has nearly 800 children (and counting) currently registered for the Mayor's Summer Reading Club and has recently seen an uptick in the number of children finishing and picking out their prize books. Staff is working cohesively to register all patrons and has the numbers to show for their efforts. Local schools and childcare groups are finishing the Club too, and Clair delivered Summer Reading Club prize books to an at risk group of children in Alamo Heights Independent Schools.

A fantastic, and free, professional development opportunity arose on June 26, 27 and 28 at the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk in the form of the "Third Annual Texas School Ready! Early Childhood Summer Institute." Of the six energizing sessions Clair attended, the best two generated excellent ideas and activities for how to deliberately incorporate mathematical components into programs. She is looking forward to working these techniques into all of her scheduled programs to further foster a child's development of logic, structure and patterns.

Landa Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta had the opportunity to represent the library in the "Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration" for Senior Citizens held at Parks and Recreation's Lions' Field location on July 2. Karen enrolled new library card members and signed people up for the Adult Summer Reading Program. Karen and Lions' Field Director Jackie Odom welcome this opportunity for Landa and

the Senior Center to form a partnership that will create awareness of how the library can serve their patrons.

The Landa Mystery Book Club for seniors is growing. *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Julia Spencer-Fleming was the selection for June. It is the first of a series about The Reverend Clare Fergusson, an Episcopal priest who gets involved with murders in her upstate New York community. The entire series addresses social issues and each book is well-written with riveting story lines. The seniors attending Silver Screens enjoyed the *Jailhouse Rock*, an Elvis Presley classic. One attendee even brought a related book with a photo of Judy Tyler, co-star of the movie.

Karen made her monthly visit to The Village at Incarnate Word Nursing Home. This month's activities featured an Independence Day theme. Guitarist Clay McGaughy accompanied Karen (piano) while the residents sang favorite patriotic songs such as *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *God Bless America*.

LAS PALMAS

On Tuesday, June 11, Raymond Villarreal, manager, attended a nutrition program for seniors sponsored by Project CENA and the Martinez Street Women's Center informing seniors in the community about the many resources available to about nutrition. Raymond represented the Las Palmas Library and spoke to about 66 seniors on the variety of resources available from the Library.

Gina Brudi, Children's Librarian, conducted six Kid's Time events with an audience of 177. Included in this were the Summer Reading Kickoff Craft and the appearance of magician *Spikey Mikey* on June 10. The Summer Reading Program started with a lot of children in attendance and made for a wonderful time for parent's as well. Gina also had her hand full with eight outreach events to five locations with a total audience of 257 children. She read stories and also provided them with library books to read. Ms. Brudi also represented the Las Palmas Library at Career Day at Las Palmas Elementary School where she talked to 172 students about becoming a librarian. Gina participated with another Children's Librarian at an outreach event at Rosedale Park where they interacted with 300 children informing children about library resources.

Mary Area, library assistant, presented four Tween Time programs at Las Palmas for a total audience of 38 participants. The activities included a variety of crafts and games which the 'tweens found very entertaining.

Sylvia Pachecano, young adult librarian, has partnered with the YWCA located next door for a "Library Time" for their day campers. Thirty to forty teens come every Thursday for engaging teen programs at the library. They are able to participate in watching a movie on the TV, play on the Wii gaming system, create a craft table and play on a board gaming table and make bubble magnets. One of the featured crafts was *Paper Cubee Craft*.

Ms. Sylvia Pachecano also oversaw free lunch program to children and teens courtesy of the San Antonio Food Bank on weekdays. Thirty to thirty-five lunches were distributed daily.

Ms. Pachecano recently found some videos on the Monsters of Texas on Ken's *YouTube Channel* and used them for programming. Teens used this as inspiration to make their videos. They also created *banana boats* using real bananas as a nutritional project and enjoyed eating their creations. As part of the activities for Teen Wednesday, teens were engaged in the use of iPads from Teen Services. Eleven teens participated in playing games and improving their eye and hands coordination, as well as learning to use *music-making apps*, "*face booking*" and video watching. YWCA Thursday's featured craft was creating a Plushie Octopus which was a new and challenging craft for them.

MAVERICK

The Maverick Library is *Digging into Reading* this summer! On June 19, Spikey Mikey entertained 252 kids and caregivers! On July 6, Library Aides, Raina Oster, Liz Santos, and Sarah Borque entertained 73 patrons with another puppet play and craft. As of July 8, 790 children have registered for the Summer Reading Program.

Adults and teen programming are thriving as well. A total of 39 patrons came to hear Harmonie, organized by Librarian, Ben Longoria. Teen Liaison, Audrey McPherson, had a successful scavenger hunt for her teens on July 2.

In other news, the library was an Election Day site for the City Council Run-Off on June 15. Ben Longoria graduated the Supervisor/Leadership Academy on June 28. On July 9, Librarian, Amy Roberts, attended the Annual Assembly for TLA in Austin in her capacity as the Children's Round Table Councilor.

MCCRELESS

McCreless Library Summer Reading Children's programs are going great with lots of kids and family members participating. Four Story Times and Four Kids Times were held. Children had lots of fun comparing real earthworms with gummy worms and making dinosaur skeletons and cave paintings, among other activities.

This month, new Teen Liaison Sara Harrison played lots of video games with the teens and experimented with making 8-bit pictures with post-it notes. The branch had several new teens come in and try out Teen Time.

Branch Manager Cammie Brantley met with the Adult Book Club on July 6 for a discussion of "Half Broke Horses" by Jeannette Walls.

On June 20 a couple of McCreless "Friends" came in to cut and serve the 110th celebration cake provided by the Central Library.

The weekend of June 22 and 23 the Friends held a book sale and raised about \$800 to support the branch. The funds will be used to buy shelf backs to support the DVD collection.

On June 28 Children's Librarian Katy Brown graduated from the Supervisor's Training Academy, an eight week course for entry level supervisors.

Adult Services Librarian David Liserio presented *Oz: The Great and Powerful* for this summer's first Movie Time event and 30 patrons attended, which exceeded expectations.

David Liserio also participated in a New Employee Experience Focus Group conducted by the City's HR department. He and other participants from other city departments who were hired in the past year shared their experiences and opinions about the on-boarding process.

MEMORIAL

The San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind Choir, which consists of several blind or low vision employees who work in various positions at the Lighthouse, performed at the Memorial branch on June 25. The sound of pop songs, such as the Beatle's Eight Days a Week filled the branch and had people clapping and swaying to the music. After the performance members of the group enjoyed refreshments, courtesy of the Memorial Friends group.

Along with the San Antonio Lighthouse performance, customers were treated to free health screenings provided by the Baptist Health System. The screenings included cholesterol and glucose checks, blood pressure readings as well as a stroke risk assessment.

An exhibit of beautiful art quilts by award winning quilter Ruth Felty was on display from July 8 through August 30. The exhibit consisted of eight pieces that ranged in style from the representational to the abstract.

Memorial's Teen Tuesday group continued to be active in the summer enjoying games, movies and snacks this past month.

SAPL's 110th Anniversary celebration at Memorial was a big hit. Tom Nemeth, president of the Memorial Amigos Friends of the Library group, helped serve over sixty slices of cake in just a few minutes.

School-aged kids enjoyed special sessions of Memorial's Come and Go program by playing and creating funny images with several iPads that were provided by the Children's Department. They also built amazing structures using Duplos Blocks and Straws and Connectors. During Kids Time, families enjoyed performances by Ronald McDonald during *Book Time with Ronald McDonald*, and a magic show by *Spikey Mikey the Magician*. Families loved the interactive presentation of exotic animals by HappyTails Entertainment of New Braunfels, Texas. Memorial's Circulation Attendant, Adam Capelo, shared his expertise by creating and teaching Origami (Japanese paper folding), to families during our Kids Time program. Movie Time has been extremely successful with high attendance by showing popular, library license approved movies for all to enjoy. The younger Memorial kids enjoyed story time by listening and "digging up" stories, and creating crafts about things that live and grow underground, and from the Texas 2x2 2013 Book List.

MISSION

During this time period, Mission received a favorable review from the city for its service. The Reality Check reviewed the interior and exterior areas of the facility. It also noted a visitor's interaction with team members. The team is proud to have received an "Excellent" rating for its efforts.

Mission celebrated 110 years of San Antonio Public Library service on June 20. Councilwoman Viagran's office sponsored the birthday cake and members of Mission's Friends of the Library were on hand to cut and serve.

On June 22, Mission hosted a Pride Month event. Organizations and groups were present to provide information, support, and resources. The library garnered more contacts to host future events.

On July 7 Mission again partnered with the McNay Art Museum to provide families the opportunity to visit the museum for a free family day. A shuttle bus transported families to the museum. They were then treated to tours, contests, and games. One family, a mom and two young daughters, arrived early to ride the bus to the event. Upon their return to Mission on the last bus, the mom spoke about what a wonderful time they had. Both of her children were chosen to compete in the cherry pie eating contest, they all danced at the sock hop and thoroughly enjoyed the day's activities. This continues to be a successful partnership.

The summer is in full swing and attendance at children's programs remains strong. Mission has exceeded last year's summer reading sign-ups for both children and teens.

Play And Learn and Mission's Video Game Club have been a large success. Attendance continues to grow for these programs.

After month long training by the Mission Team, birth certificate and immunization records for the back-to-school crowd are now being offered.

Little Read Wagon just completed a five week session of Play and Learn at Mission. It was a rousing success. More and more people attended each time. Some of them have started attending other children's programs at Mission as a result. On June 24 there were 94 registered participants. The attendees and Little Read Wagon enjoyed the spaces that Mission has available for such a program. Both meeting rooms were used, along with the Children's area and the patio.

A new program for children every other week at Mission is "Read with Foxie." Foxie is a registered therapy dog as well as a R.E.A.D. (reading education assistance dog). Two or three children at a time take turns reading to Foxie. Even reluctant readers enjoy sitting next to Foxie and reading a short book.

PAN AMERICAN

School's out and what better way for teens to start this three month vacation than a hip new movie, Pitch Perfect. Relaxing with popcorn and punch, teens laughed and sang along with this popular movie. The following week, teens were offered an opportunity to keep memories in check with a DIY (Do It Yourself) Summer Journal. Glitter, ribbons, magazine cut outs and anything teens desired to hot glue in their journal was allowed to make the summer of 2013 last. As the summer heat took its toll, teens enjoyed Hotel Transylvania. Laughter echoed throughout. As June was coming to a close, to kick off July 4th, teens crafted a bead and pin flag to wear and delighted in making and eating s'mores (minus the campfire) for the first time.

The Pan American branch has been putting in a lot of effort – especially with the summer lunch program. The staff involved in this process fed an average of 30 kids each day. There also were projects for groups of all ages.

The Southside Reporter published a second major article promoting Pan American's summer book for children.

Children continue to sign up at a brisk pace and log completers are filling Pan Am's wall of fame.

Finally, Seven daycares in the branch's service area have registered children for the summer book club.

PARMAN

Library Assistant Eva Banda has worked with Children's Librarian Carrie Vance to establish a weekly Bilingual Storytime for Parman patrons. The interest has been growing for some time, and Eva was excited to serve this community need. Participation has steadily grown with up to 20 children attending. Library Aide Erendira Jimenez has been trained to lead the storytime in the case of Eva's absence.

Parman hosted two writing workshops in June. Due to the popularity of these workshops (15 participants in each), Assistant Manager Tim Johnson is scheduling more workshops throughout the summer and plans a series of events for nanowrimo (National Novel Writing Month). The first workshop this summer was hosted by Pamela Price a local author who just published her first non-fiction book on homeschooling. Her workshop focused on using local resources such as the library and tips for publishing. The workshop by local romance novel writer Sasha Summers was arranged by Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow, and the focus was on character and plot development. Ms. Summers' session was popular with our teen patrons.

The Summer Transformation Station Experience projects during this time included dramatic play, x-rays, and art literacy. Carrie Vance and Marisa DeBow prepared the dramatic play event which included sewing and decorating a puppet and the opportunity to play at Parman's puppet theatre. Circulation attendants Megan Gilsdorf and Megan Stanley planned the x-ray experience which allowed patrons to identify the x-rays of animals and to draw their own x-rays. Circulation Attendant Sharleen Daube came up with the art literacy project. She created a mural with the help of Parman volunteers. Participants can learn about 3 famous artists, create a work based on those artists, and post their work on the mural creating a community art project. So far over 150 people have come every week to complete the Transformation Station projects this summer.

Parman patrons and staff enjoyed celebrating SAPL's 110th birthday on June 20 with the cake served by members of the Friends of the Parman Library.

The Parman Library partnered with the McNay for the third time for their Family Fun Day. A coach bus transported more than 60 patrons to and from the McNay on July 7 to enjoy the Norman Rockwell exhibit. Branch Manager Haley Holmes created a display to promote the event which included a miniature 3D Rockwell painting recreation.

As part of the *What's the Big Idea?* series of lectures, Dr. Steve Blanchard spoke on the role of mercury in autism on June 22. Library Assistant Tyler Lutz has been instrumental in bringing this lecture series to the San Antonio Public Library.

Assistant Manager Tim Johnson graduated from the City's Supervisor Training Academy.

PRUITT

Pruitt Librarian Rae Downen has been making Teen Time fun by providing great activities for the teens to experience. They have conducted a scavenger hunt throughout the library to collect great clues that resulted in fun prizes. At the meeting on July 2 they made hover crafts, all the while learning about what lies Beneath the Surface, the theme of this summer's Teen Summer Reading Program.

Children continue to sign up for the Summer Reading program. 591 children have registered to date. 49 have finished their logs and retrieved their prizes. The San Antonio Food Bank's Summer Feeding Program has been feeding an average of 30 children per day at the Pruitt Library feeding site. The library will host a Lego Camp during the week of July 15 through 19 and five weekly Play & Learn sessions on Fridays July 12, 19, 26, and August 2, and 9.

Cynthia Saenz and Rae Downen, librarians, will continue the monthly adult book club on the last Friday of the month. This month's selection is [Water for Elephants](#) by Sarah Gruen. Staff continues to encourage all patrons, especially the adult patrons, to sign up and finish their Summer Reading logs.

Librarian Troy Lawrence accepted Branch Manager duties on July 1. He is committed to providing consistent excellent customer service and ensuring the success of the partnership between the North East Independent School District and the San Antonio Public Library. Two new staff members are slated to begin Friday, July 12. Mary Jane McClendon will work as the primary school librarian. Library Assistant Sheri Watkins, formerly of Igo Branch, will also join the staff. Cynthia Saenz, formerly the primary school librarian, will move into more public library service. All librarians at the Pruitt Branch are cross trained to provide programming services to all patrons.

SAN PEDRO

San Pedro Branch's Children's Library Betsy Dalton presented monthly story times to children at the VIA Child Development Center, Educare Child Care Center, Monte Vista Montessori and to a kindergarten class at Bonham Academy. She also presented monthly story time to a combined class of 24 at the Center for New Communities Head Start, housed at San Antonio College. Fifteen books were also delivered to each of the classes.

In June she added a Toddler Time on Fridays and a special Toddler Time on Wednesdays for children at Respite Care of San Antonio. Spikey Mikey, San Antonio's favorite magician, presented a program on June 19 to a full house.

San Pedro has the fifth largest number of children registered for Summer Reading Program, with more than 1,000 children.

Librarian I Monty Holcomb continues to have success with his weekly Chess Club. An average of 15 people – from beginners to seasoned players – attends.

SEMME

During June, July and August, the Parks and Recreation department is holding fitness classes in the Semmes meeting room on Mondays. This month they are teaching library patrons about yoga. These classes take place right after Monday storytime, so they have been popular with many of the parents that bring their children to storytime.

Children's Librarian, Shannon Seglin, held the first Beginner Reader Book Club on June 18. Three children and one parent attended the club. The participants enjoyed taking turns reading *I am Invited to a Party!* by Mo Willems. They then discussed the book and acted out certain scenes together. They ended by making party hats.

San Antonio Public Library's 110th Anniversary party was held on June 18 at Semmes. Many people stopped by to enjoy the cake that was graciously provided by the Friends of the Semmes Branch Library. Thank you to Friends President, Judy Wilson for picking up the cake and delivering it to the branch.

The Friends held their summer book sale on Saturday, June 22. Even though donations were a bit low this time, the Friends still made over \$1,400.00 at the sale.

On Saturday, June 29, Tomoe Kumashiro presented a Bento lunch box program for adults. Eight people attended and learned about the art of making and presenting a Bento box.

THOUSAND OAKS

Children's Activities

Story Time

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser continues to draw crowds for her ever-popular weekly Toddler Time and Story Time presentations. Children made fun crafts, sang songs, and listened to stories. Weekly themes this month included the circus; ice cream (including refreshments!), and bubbles. On July 11, kids got to go outside and experiment by blowing bubbles from various sized tubes. They learned that the size and shape of the tube affects the size of the bubbles produced.

Lego Time

On June 18 and 25, youngsters at Thousand Oaks were able to experiment with Lego bricks at the weekly Lego time session.

Kid's Time

Children enjoyed a variety of fun activities at the Thousand Oaks Kid's Time. On June 19, the kids learned all about earthworms, with stories and silly riddles and a worm craft. Some of the children also experienced worms first hand with some wiggly critters and a pile of dirt.

Spikey Mikey the Magician made his annual visit to Thousand Oaks on June 26, entertaining a crowd of more than 120 patrons of all ages. It was loud and exciting and the audience really enjoyed it. Attendance was incredible, as it perhaps the most popular event the branch hosts.

On July 3, children learned about root vegetables, with some delightful stories and a fun craft. They were both fascinated and delighted to learn about their favorite vegetables and discuss new varieties, including radishes, turnips, beets and carrots.

On July 10, the topic was dinosaurs. The children listened to stories and more silly jokes about dinosaurs, and discussed their favorite ferocious beasts. They learned about paleontologists, fossils, and debated about how long ago dinosaurs actually died out (one child was convinced dinosaurs were still around in the 1980s). Afterward, they made a craft representing a dinosaur fossil with pasta shapes and coffee grounds glued on paper.

Teen Time

On June 19, teens were treated to a return appearance of J. D. Elizondo from Central's Teen Services department, who brought his Eclectic Electric program. J. D. brought two acoustic and two electric guitars, and two amplifiers. Teens had a guitar lesson and got to try out various songs. They declared it the best teen time ever and eagerly await J.D.'s return in June and hopefully August.

On June 26, teens made Cubeecrafts, miniature block-shaped paper toys. They cut and folded paper to represent their favorite pop-culture icons, including Manga characters, superheroes, and cartoon favorites such as Spiderman, Dr. Who, Jack Skellington, and Hello Kitty.

On July 9, the teens enjoyed a screening of the fantasy action film *Jack the Giant Slayer* starring teen hunk Nicholas Hoult and Ewan MacGregor. The youths enjoyed the special effects and the action sequences, though the humor was somewhat punny. They were also perplexed by the near-complete lack of female characters other than the obligatory princess as the maiden in distress.

Adult Programming

Book Groups

On June 20, the Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group met to discuss the biography *Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman* by Robert K. Massie. Despite the length, there was good turnout and the book was universally admired for its excellent writing and the author's ability to weave a fascinating narrative about history and political intrigue. Group members agreed that Catherine was an amazing woman given the time period.

On July 1 the Thousand Oaks Monday Evening Book Group discussed the international best-seller *1222* by Anne Holt, a Scandinavian mystery novel translated from Norwegian. Though group members enjoyed the frozen atmosphere of the setting and found the main character interesting, they felt the plot was somewhat lacking with too many unresolved elements. However, they found plenty to discuss as always.

Outreach

On June 21, Library Assistant Karen Sagun and two employees visited Morgan's Wonderland on June 21 for a Book Bash featuring Clifford the Big Red Dog. She registered families for SAPL library cards and summer reading programs, and read stories for some of the children attending the event.

Other Events

Pre-K 4 SA registration has returned to the Thousand Oaks branch. Circulation staffers have been extremely helpful, registering children for pre-kindergarten education.

Thousand Oaks is one of four branches selected to sell certain Vital Records in July and August of 2013. These records are birth certificates for individuals born after 2005 in Bexar County and immunization records for people immunized in San Antonio and Bexar County, but only if those records were provided to the San Antonio Metro Health District. After four weeks of rather intense training, the branch began selling these records on July 1, with four staff members qualified to handle these transactions. So far, no major problems or issues have arisen, and people who have come in for this service have been quite pleased that we are offering it to the community.

TOBIN

Summer Reading has been very popular at Tobin for both grown ups and kids of all ages. Adults like the idea of being eligible to win a Kindle and thanks to the generosity of Tobin Friends, adult finishers get to pick a free donated book or Tobin book bag. Ereader tutoring remains booked each Wednesday afternoon with 1 on 1 sessions with Librarians, Keri Moczygamba, Elizabeth Leitko and Ariel Cummins as the principle instructors.

Library Aide, Rebekah Corley, helped plan and attend several Pride month events as part of the Celebrate Diversity committee of Adult Programming. Likewise, Library Assistant, Elvia Ramos, is aiding the Hispanic Heritage Month sub-committee with coordinating programs and compiling resources. The Interesting Book Club continues with solid attendance on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month.

July's selection is Amor Towles, *Rules of Civility*. Tobin's Suspense book group meets on the second Tuesday of the month and is reading *Mildred Pearce*, by James M. Cain.

Kids are having weekly fun sessions with Children's Librarian, Ariel Cummins learning about dinosaurs and the summer theme of "Dig into Reading". On June 29, customers of all ages checked out the lemur and baby python snake with other exotic animals that Happy Tails brought for Family Fun. Elizabeth had teens and tweens make home made clay with gaming and bead crafts during their activities.

Elizabeth created an unusual backdrop in the Young Adult area to feature Steam punk items. Pride 2013 was highlighted as a June display along with Juvenile Express items being moved up to the front of the branch by Children's Librarian A. Cummins. Keri has begun weeding of the Adult NF to ensure items are current and in good condition.

Outreach continues to be popular at the Northeast Service Center where Librarian, Ariel Cummins, and Library Assistant, Terry Verner, played trivia with 32 seniors on June 18. Notable staff accomplishments this period are Keri graduating from the Supervisor Training Academy on June 28 and Ariel attending American Libraries Association's National Convention in Chicago as a member of the Professional Ethics committee.

WESTFALL

Westfall Branch has served lunch to more than 500 children as part of the San Antonio Food Bank's Free Summer Lunch program. Lunches are provided for all children ages 18 and below.

Texas Extension Service presented a well-attended program on bed bugs. Audience member were able to see what a bed bug looks like and to learn what to do in case of infestation.

Children's Library Imelda Merino helped Girls, Inc. and Young Women's Leadership Academy host a program for young girls. Mrs. Merino presented a craft about camping.