

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
May 2008

Youth Services

Youth Services staff has been hosting a number of Bookmobile and school tours. In April, a letter went out to all preschools in the county offering Bookmobile visits to the schools. The children and teachers have the opportunity to learn about the Bookmobile and hear a story. This may be the first introduction to the Library for some of the children. They are treated to a "tour" of the bookmobile, hear about what the Library has that they can borrow, listen to a story from the Librarian, and leave with a bookmobile cut-out sheet that they can take home to color. The experience is very positive for both the children and the library staff, who enjoy the children's reactions. Additional visits are scheduled through May and June. The Bookmobile will be visiting schools in Asbury, Clinton, Flemington, Stanton, Lebanon – 9 schools in all! Some preschools have even expressed an interest for visits in the Fall.

As the school year winds down, YS is also finishing up student visits to HQ and NCB – 1st grade (6 visits) from Whitehouse Station, 1st grade (5 visits) from Three Bridges, Kindergarten from West Amwell, and 8th grade from Frenchtown. The Glen Gardner Youth Center Preschool listened to a story and toured NCB Youth Services, while the Clinton Public School's 6th grade classes spent three hours on three separate days learning to access the library's online databases and catalog with a live overhead computer demonstration targeted at their Endangered Species Project.

There was lots of excitement at North County Youth Services this spring with Library Babies, Grades 1-2 Stories, ages 2-3 and 3-5 Stories, Saturday Story Hour, Teen Café, Tweens, No Registration Stories, and our annual National Library Week Bedtime Story Hour, which the parents equally enjoyed. Over 500 children and almost 300 parents participated in NCB's April programs.

Several members of the YS Dept. went to the New Jersey Library Association's Spring Conference this year. Library Associate Fran Daley was selected to present a poster about her popular NCB Tweens Writing Workshop ("Write at Your Library") series. Congratulations, Fran!

YS staff is busy planning for the Summer Reading Club. This year's theme is "Catch the Reading Bug!" As always, all branches will be participating with programs, storytimes and special performers.

Headquarters Youth Services now has public internet access stations! There are four computers, in "the glass room," reserved for ages 17 and under (adults may accompany children). Four internet stations will be coming soon for NCB's Youth Services area!

Bookmobile

We have been working closely with the bookmobile vendor, OBS, reviewing the floor and interior plans, and getting questions answered by email and conference calls. Only minor corrections were needed from the original set of plans. Final plans for our sign-off are expected by the middle of May.

National Library Week Month!

April, 2008 was a very busy month for programming at HCL Headquarters and the North County Branch Library. The PR Committee not only scheduled a full slate of programs for National Library Week (April 13-19), but for the entire month as well.

There were 15 programs held at HCL and NCB during April, 2008 that were attended by an astounding 1,312 library patrons! To see how far we have come with our successful program series, let's compare that number to past years. Five years ago, in April, 2003, HCL and NCB combined to host 7 programs that were attended by 234 library patrons. Last year, in April, 2007, we hosted 8 programs that brought in 608 library patrons. The attendance numbers have been growing in leaps and bounds. It is no coincidence that the circulation numbers have been growing as well.

The PR Committee is taking a lot of pride in presenting a variety of different programs to our patrons. A patron coming to the library last month could have heard lectures on World War II Snoopers, Home Landscaping, Meditation, Marine Archeology, Kitchen Gardens, as well as a seminar with six authors discussing the ins and outs of publishing your own book. They could have also heard musical concerts of bluegrass, folk, classical piano, Music of the Andes, and a tribute to Songwriter Alan Jay Lerner. Throw in a Festive Friday, a visit from a Mystery Author and the World's Ugliest Dog and you have HCL's most successful month of programming ever!

Congratulations to the PR Committee for a job well done!

Member Libraries

Assistant Library Director Floyd Saums and Principal Librarian Jennifer Winberry have been making site visits to several of the member libraries to answer questions, make suggestions, and assist with weeding of their collections. They visited Holland Alexandria and Frenchtown in April and will be returning to Frenchtown to assist with weeding and to help with re-arranging their book collections. Mark Titus and Floyd Saums also met with Trustees from the Tewksbury Library Association to view the progress on the renovation of their library and discuss their plans for future work on the building.

Reference

Kudos to Senior Librarian Terry Edwards for helping put together a book of ideas for libraries to use in celebrating National Reading Group Month 2008!

Friends' Book Sale

This year's Friends' Book Sale was a big, boisterous success. Many thanks to Senior Librarian Karen Kilpatrick for her work as our Friends Liaison and for all staff who volunteered at the sale with pre-sale sorting and gleaning for the library's collection.

Circulation Statistics

	April 08	March 08	% Change	April 07	% April	FYTD 08	FYTD 07	% YTD
Headquarters	45,232	51,806	-12.7%	39,431	14.7%	187,741	164,389	14.2%
North County	44,368	47,433	-6.5%	38,613	14.9%	178,268	154,215	15.6%
South County	9,409	9,177	2.5%	7,255	29.7%	36,111	31,361	15.1%
Bunnvale	3,021	3,926	-23.1%	2,824	7.0%	14,209	11,864	19.8%
Readington	6,215	7,027	-11.6%	5,831	6.6%	25,597	24,565	4.2%
Holland/Alexandria	3,909	4,384	-10.8%	3,673	6.4%	16,125	13,751	17.3%
Tewksbury	4,700	4,709	-0.2%	3,178	47.9%	18,229	13,279	37.3%
Three Bridges	3,023	2,943	2.7%	2,376	27.2%	11,832	9,654	22.6%
High Bridge	1,056	988	6.9%	845	25.0%	4,190	3,545	18.2%
Frenchtown	624	733	-14.9%	515	21.2%	2,472	1,956	26.4%
Bookmobile	1,751	1,338	30.9%	753	132.5%	5,689	4,028	41.2%
Total	123,308	134,464	-8.3%	105,294	17.1%	500,463	432,607	15.7%



