

CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTER

The library opens windows to the world by encouraging expression, enlightenment, and exploration.

January 2020 Director's Report

Community Outreach:

The library staffed a table at the Cumberland County Schools Career and Tech Education Pathways Fair held at the Crown Expo Center on January 28 & 29. The two-day event hosted middle and high school students who were able to talk to people working in professions they expressed interest in. Many were surprised by the variety of positions offered within the library system.



Headquarters Library

Success Stories:

- ★ A grandmother wanted to check out more books for her granddaughter but was afraid that she had accumulated fines and would be unable to check out any more books. YS Librarian II Shelby Kelly checked the account and also explained that the library had just implemented an auto-renewal process and the grandmother did not have any late fees on her account. The grandmother was overjoyed to learn about the new auto-renewal service and she and her granddaughter began selecting books.
- ★ A customer whom IS Librarian I Jay Goldstein had assisted several times stopped him and said that because of what Goldstein had taught him earlier, he was much more comfortable with and knowledgeable of computers. He thanked Goldstein and said, "That was what I really loved about this library system. I have been to a lot of library systems, some with really great architecture and huge buildings, but this one has its own feel to it and that is solely from the staff. You are always here to help." The customer then shook Goldstein's hand.

Highlights:



Civil War and Reconstruction Quiz Bowl

This program, in partnership with the Museum of the Cape Fear, tested people's knowledge on the facts of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Dr. Ed Jackson, Jr., Executive Architect for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial

Project Foundation, Inc. spoke about the history, development and execution of the Dr. King National Monument.



Color at the Fascinating STEM Science: Color Fun

Chromatography program: In the photograph on the right, a child experiments with how the pigments in certain marker colors separate when water is added.



**Slime Science
Program**

Bordeaux Branch Library

Success Story:

- ★ While helping a customer retrieve a job application that had disappeared from his computer screen, Library Associate Vannecia Church asked him if he knew that the library has a job and career computer and job leads that he can take with him. He was surprised and said he did not know that and took a copy. A week later, he returned and thanked Church because he was just hired by a place from the job leads. As Church was talking to him, PEPSICO called him for another interview. When he got off the phone he thanked her again and said he never would have realized the packets of job leads were there if Church hadn't showed them to him.

Highlights:



Families having fun together during **Kids Create – Fake Snow Lab**



Story Time Fun!



After School Hang: Painting with acrylics!

Cliffdale Regional Branch Library

Success Stories:

- ★ Library Associate Carmelita Torrey taught a patron how to set up an account with *Indeed.com*. She then taught her how to upload her resume in order to apply for current positions listed. The following week the patron returned to tell Torrey that she had two interviews scheduled and it was all due to Torrey helping her create an account on *Indeed.com* and uploading her resume. The patron was very grateful and told Torrey she would return to let her know if she is offered a job.

- ★ Library Associate Carina Chun explained the laptop checkout procedures to a woman with two small children who mentioned that she needed to complete some important paperwork online. Chun suggested she take the laptop to the children's area and work to complete her paperwork. After she was done, the patron let Chun know that she appreciated the library offering laptops for checkout and was grateful that Chun took the time to tell her about it.

Highlights:



Crafts My Way



Inspire Me Book Club



Teens Skills: Hamburgers & Fries



Musical Me: Musical Fairytales with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra



At the **Roaring Twenties Teen Extravaganza**, participants sipped on “mocktails” and made crafts as they learned about the 1920s.



East Regional Branch Library

Success Story:

- ★ A regular customer told Circulation Manager Tammy Holt that she loves the new automated renewal feature and thinks it is a wonderful thing the library is providing for customers!

Highlights:



Lots of love for the dogs during the **Paws for Reading** program!



Making cotton ball polar bears.



Homeschool STEM Club: Kids and teens enjoyed exploring *CultureGrams* and sifting through the pile of coins from around the world. When they found coins they wanted more information on, YS Librarian I Melissa Lang showed them how to look the coins up in the *Catalog of World Coins* and how to find countries on the large map on the wall.

Hope Mills Branch Library

Success Stories:

- ★ YS Library Associate Sarah Thornton helped a married couple who came in a couple of months ago asking about materials that might help in studying for the US Citizenship Exam. The wife spoke very little English and her husband thought that audio books might be the better route. Thanks to *NC Cardinal*, Thornton was able to locate several books for her to listen to and learn with. Recently the husband came in the library and let Thornton know that thanks to the audio books, his wife is now a US citizen and that they were quite relieved.
- ★ Library Technician Victoria Perkins was helping a homeschooling parent check out her materials and noticed that she was getting several books about the solar system. Perkins asked the customer if she was doing a project and then asked if she knew about the **NASA backpack** available for checkout. The customer hadn't heard about it, so Perkins explained what was in the backpack and told her it sounded like it would pair very well with the solar system project. The customer was excited to use the telescope with her children and stated that she would be sharing the information with other homeschool mothers!

Highlights:

YS Library Associate Tyrone Elliott assisted with multiple **STARLAB** visits to local schools in January. He reported that the kids were very enthused about the program and thanked Elliott for coming but said they wished it could last the whole day and that they couldn't wait for a return visit.



YS Library Associates Sarah Thornton and Kelly Baker hosted a very successful **Let's Get Frozen** party. Children donned their favorite princess dress or super hero costume and had great fun listening to stories and singing and dancing along with Elsa and Anna!



IS Librarian I Sabrina Taylor presented the **Engage for Health: Take Charge of Your Medical Information** program to several attendees hoping to better their health this year!

YS Library Associate Sarah Thornton, along with members of the Fayetteville Symphony presented two lively programs full of music and fun. **Musical Me: Songs of the Whales** and **Musical Me: Fairytales**.



North Regional Branch Library

Success Stories:

- ★ Ten minutes prior to closing, IS Librarian I Heather Heady asked a girl why her sister had left the library in tears. The girl responded that her sister had spent hours on a project but did not get it printed before the computers shut down for the night. Heady asked if by chance the paper was on a flash drive or *Google* docs and the sister replied yes. Heady then helped her open *Google* on the desk computer and sent the document to the printer. The sister was beaming as she was exited to surprise her sister with the printed assignment.
- ★ YS Library Associate Carla Todd assisted a customer whose child was having difficulties coping with the recent sudden military deployment. Todd was able to find several books for the grateful customer.
- ★ YS Librarian I Aaron Mehaffey walked a customer and her two teens through the process of setting up accounts for complimentary services received with their newly purchased laptop. All three thanked Mehaffey for taking the time to help them as they felt intimidated by the technology.
- ★ A mom stopped by the check-out desk to tell Library Associate Trina McNeill that her kids "LOVE this place!" One of her children finally won a prize in the Winter Reading and Activity Program (WRAP) after years of trying and her other child, who doesn't enjoy reading, submitted 8 teen WRAP logs. The proud mom told McNeill that she herself was giving her second child a gift card as well to reward her amazing effort.

Highlights:



Second and fifth graders from 14 schools attended ten **Weather** programs conducted at North Regional library in January. Presenters included: Spectrum News Chief Meteorologist Gary Stephenson, Simmons Army Airfield Weather Station Operations Richard Butler and CBS 17 Meteorologist Paul Heggen. Cumberland County Elementary Education Science Curriculum Specialist Angela Adams also attended and said how much the school system appreciates the collaboration between the meteorologists, the public library and the school system.

Children and parents from Long Hill, Howard Hall, Warrenwood, Westarea, College Lakes and Sunnyside Elementary Schools attended the **Mock Battle of the Books Competition**. Media specialist coaches mentioned that they appreciate the public library hosting this mock competition as it prepares the students for the real competition.



At the **Musical Me: Musical Fairytales with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra** program, children played rhythm instruments and listened to favorite tales with violin accompaniment including *Baby Rattlesnake*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Tops and Bottoms* and others. One of the parents shared that her child was still talking about the music terms she learned in the previous **Musical Me** story time two weeks prior.

At **Explore**, a monthly program for adults with developmental challenges, participants learned about backyard birds and made bird/squirrel feeders using peanut butter, seeds and pine cones.



YS Library Associate Robin McKoy started incorporating Snap Shots TM Critical Thinking Photo Cards into weekly preschool story time. The cards encourage children to think beyond the photo and have questions to promote higher-level thinking for ages four and up.

Spring Lake Branch Library

Success Stories:

- ★ IS Library Associate Ginger Hewett assisted a patron with accessing and printing her bank statements so she could submit them as proof of income for her Section 8 housing renewal. Her deadline was the next day and she was very relieved that the documents could be printed right away. She said, "The library is a lifesaver!"
- ★ A grandmother who regularly brings her granddaughter to Toddler story time on Tuesdays told YS Librarian I Suzanne Pate, "I want you to know that story times have really made a big difference to our family. Her art projects from Toddler Tuesdays are literally hanging all over their house." She said she has watched her granddaughter "come out of her shell" since attending story times. The same day Pate noticed that the little girl came right up to her when craft time started, all by herself, and said confidently, "Ms. Suzanne, I need a glue stick." The grandmother said, "She never would have done that before." She went on to say that the crafts really make an impact because the family Skypes with Dad who is deployed. Each week the father asks about what his daughter made at the library and she loves showing him her pictures as much as he loves seeing her work.

Highlights:



Branch Manager Michelle Gross hosted the monthly **Needlecraft Club** where attendees share tips, patterns and new stitches while socializing and working on their latest project. Two of the ladies stated that they were attending in order to work on a project and get to know people because they do not know anyone in Spring Lake. Everyone had a great time.

YS Librarian I Suzanne Pate and IS Librarian I Sabrina Taylor presented **Wild Cats!** Children enjoyed learning fun facts and

participating in activities and trivia about wild cats. They loved getting photo-ops with a plethora of (stuffed) cats! One parent with a special needs middle schooler showed Taylor his completed word search and said, "This is a success, this is the first time he's ever finished one of these!"



YS Librarian I Suzanne Pate hosted **Teen Scene: Melted Crayon Art** where the teens and tweens loved making art with small canvases, lots of old crayon pieces and a few heat guns. They really took their time planning how their melted crayon effects would work.



Branch Manager Michelle Gross, East Regional Branch Manager Amanda Dekker, IS Library Associate Avery Reinink and Admin.

Support Specialist Lisa Hutchison hosted **Get Ready for Harry Potter Book Night**. With **Harry Potter Book Night** on the horizon, library staff invited attendees to come dressed in their Hogwarts best and prepare for the Triwizard Tournament. Everyone had a great time making wands, testing their trivia knowledge and winning prizes. By the time the wizards left they felt ready to take on the tournament.



West Regional Branch Library

Success Story:

- ★ A mother picking up her daughter from the **Teen Hang** program stopped by to thank library staff. She said that her daughter "doesn't get the chance very often, but she really loves coming here."

Highlights:

Homeschool Support Group

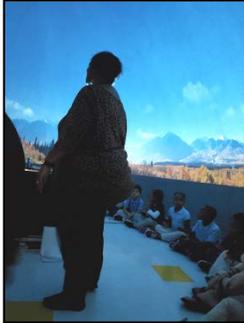
Attendees greatly enjoyed the support group and talked very easily and readily with one another. The group covered a wide range of ages, academic levels, and experience. More experienced homeschoolers readily shared advice with new homeschoolers, and many discussed their preferred curriculums and approaches to homeschool. Many of the attendees thanked library staff for hosting the program and indicated that they would come again next month. YS Library Associate Jessica Ferron presented **Crafting Fun for Homeschoolers** for children ages 6 to 13 while their parents participated in the support group hosted by IS Librarian I Brianna Davis.





YS Library Associate Jessica Ferron taught teens how to play instruments from different parts of the world while explaining the creation of bands and music labels (photo left).

Ferron also taught teens how to create affirmations to combat depression and improve self-admiration (photo right).



The photograph on the left was taken inside the portable **STARLAB** which was a big hit wherever it went in January. YS Library Associate Tyrone Elliot, YS Library Associate Jessica Ferron and YS Library Associate Debbie Jordon visited five schools in January and introduced the **STARLAB** to 1,166 Cumberland County students. Quite a few of them said they would be visiting the library and find more resources about space.

At **Musical Me: Musical Games** preschoolers listened to stories about making music. Then they had the opportunity to make their own music with various instruments. The grand finale consisted of painting to music!



At the **Musical Me Musical Fairytales with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra** program, Preschoolers went on a wonderful musical fairy tale adventure with The Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra.

LIBRARY PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR
January 2020

In Library Programs	
Adult Program Attendance:	552
Young Adult Program Attendance:	877
Children's Program Attendance:	5,497
Programs in the Community	
Adult Program Attendance	35
Young Adult Program Attendance:	1,318
Children's Program Attendance:	630
Community Events	
All Ages Attendance:	146

The library opens windows to the world by encouraging expression, enlightenment, and exploration.
