

Holmes Public Library
Director's Report
April 10, 2018

The 2018 Community Read wrapped up with the Silver Lake Robotics Program on Saturday, March 31st. Students gave a hands-on demonstration of the robots they designed and engineered for the Robotics Team. The Community Read was a good success. It consisted of 11 programs. Total Attendance including both Children and Adults was 91. The Kick Off was cancelled because of the terrible Nor'easter on March 3rd. Although the book did not receive very favorable reviews from patrons, the comments on the programs were excellent. A personal favorite was "Hidden Figures and other Women of NASA" presented NASA Ambassador Pat Monteith. Pat donated a copy her Juvenile Fiction book to the library. Thank You to Marie Coady for a great job creating the Halifax Reads page both on Facebook and on our Website.

From Marie Coady-

The Halifax Reads page gained 5 new likes during the 2018 Halifax Reads event period, March 1, 2018 to April 8, 2018. Going from 221 Facebook users liking the page to 226. While that might not seem like much, since each post is shared by our Holmes Public Library page, additional impact can be found by looking at the increased page likes of that page by Facebook users during the same period. The main page went from 652 user likes to 663 during the same period. Website and page specific visits also saw a small increase. Aside from "page likes", Reaches are also an important benchmark on social media. The bottom graph of post reaches is interesting. The March 31 post of the Silver Lake Robotics presentation showed up in the Facebook feed of 1,003 users. (See attached graph).

Children's Librarian Stacey Beshers hosted a South East Youth Services Meeting in the Community Room. A group of twelve Youth Service Librarians met to discuss 7 Agenda items including incorporating technology into story times, Read Aloud programs for older kids and rules about children's behavior on computers. We were praised for our hospitality and for having such a beautiful library. Stacey also attended the 3rd Annual SAILS Library Showcase. She shared information with the Staff from the nine presenters. Library Director, Jean Gallant attended a workshop "Building Inclusive Collections: How to create a more diverse library collection". This was an interesting workshop discussing tools to access your collections for diversity. Lots of information was shared about being mindful your library displays are inclusive regardless of the subject.

Although the print/nonprint circulation has decreased slightly, the Overdrive circulation which includes both ebook and digital audio books is doing very well. The SAILS Library Network provides monthly statistics. From July to March the collections have seen a steady increase. In July 98 ebooks were checked out and in March 215 ebooks were checkout. Digital audiobooks had the same steady increase. In July 51 books were checked out and in March 115 books were checked out.

Coming in April-

- The Library will be hosting a local Authors Night on Wednesday April 11 at 6:00PM. Local Authors Eugene Coghill, Michael Lewis, Adelene Ellenberg and Chris Vadeboncour will speak about their writing and the publishing process. Copies of their works will be available for purchase.
- One Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 PM, Bill Alberti will present a program "Making Poetry Accessible to Everyone". Bill is a local poet and newspaper columnist. This program is sponsored by a grant from the Halifax Cultural Council.
- The library has purchased colorful MO WILLIEM and EMOJI book marks to give to patrons in observation of National Library Week. This year National Library Week is April 8th -14th.

- Local Resident and Building Maintenance man Tom Schindler will be sharing his baby chicks for special story times on April 19th and 20th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Gallant