



Library Director's Report

October 2024

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

- Project Read Trivia Challenge 2025 is entering its last month of planning. Staff is finalizing proposed trivia questions; Adam will prepare the first draft. Our sponsorships are coming in - approximately \$16,000 has been received. We are slowly building team and attendee registrations, which often come in closer to the event date. Please mark Friday, November 15 at the SSF Conference Center for this year's fun and educational event.
- Building updates:
 - Emergency battery purchase and installation is in the planning phase. This will provide several hours of emergency power to the building, providing time for the City to obtain an emergency power supply source that will hook up to the building to provide longer emergency power.
 - Continuing to address and fine-tune outstanding electrical, HVAC, electronic, etc., issues. A recent addition to the list are the power cord pulleys on the ceiling of the Makerspace - one recently dislodged and fell on one of the tables. All of them have been removed as the project team develops and confirms a stronger method with which to secure them.
- At last month's meeting, the Board asked for more information on the impact of this year's budget reductions. With the loss of approximately 100 staff hours per week, staff is, reluctantly, curtailing some of our popular programs and services. During some recent staff absences, we have closed the MakerSpace and Community Room when we are unable to staff them properly; special library programs are being reduced; public desk staff coverage is being reduced. We try to schedule staff to more full during high-volume usage times; however, with the popularity in our collections, services and programs, those timeslots are not always easy to predict. We are also limiting the amount of interactive and hands-on storytelling and activities we provide for class visits, which often require seven staff members to provide a full, exciting, visit to the library. This has been a hard task for staff because our core value is in providing the best combination of collections, programs and services and going above and beyond in our customer service model.

- The October 5 Filipino American History Month Celebration was a very successful event, with over 100 attendees in the City Council Chambers for presentations and a film screening. Led by Council member Nicolas, our speaker lineup included the Mayor, Council member Nagales, the Philippine Consulate General, and the rollout of the new local chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society. A very moving film screening of Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers followed the presentations. The remainder of the event took place in the LPR Banquet and Social Halls, with approximately 250 attendees enjoying and dancing to the music, partaking in delicious food, and attending a special Filipino story time and craft program for the kids.
- High demand holds/reserves:

#	Title	Author	Material Type	System No.
1	Tell me everything : a novel / Elizabeth Strout.	Strout, Elizabeth, author.	BOOKS	241
2	The god of the woods / Liz Moore.	Moore, Liz, 1983- author.	BOOKS	214
3	All fours : a novel / Miranda July.	July, Miranda, 1974- author.	BOOKS	187
4	The wedding people : a novel / Alison Espach.	Espach, Alison, 1984- author. http://id.o	BOOKS	181
5	All the colors of the dark : a novel / Chris Whitaker.	Whitaker, Chris, author.	BOOKS	170
6	Creation lake : a novel / Rachel Kushner.	Kushner, Rachel, author.	BOOKS	166
7	The life impossible / Matt Haig.	Haig, Matt, 1975- author.	BOOKS	163
8	Intermezzo : a novel / Sally Rooney.	Rooney, Sally, author.	BOOKS	158
9	The art of power: my story as America's first woman Sp	Pelosi, Nancy, 1940- author.	BOOKS	152
10	The wild robot / by Peter Brown.	Brown, Peter, 1979- author.	BOOKS	147
11	THE GREYWOLF / Louise Penny.	Penny, Louise, author.	BOOKS	142
12	Nexus : a brief history of information networks from the	Harari, Yuval N., author.	BOOKS	127
13	THE WAITING	Connolly, Michael	BOOKS	117
14	Impossible creatures / Katherine Rundell.	Rundell, Katherine, author.	BOOKS	115
15	A quiet place : day one / directed by Michael Sarnoski		DVD	105
16	SPY SCHOOL GOES WILD / Stuart Gibbs.	Gibbs, Stuart, 1969- author.	BOOKS	102
17	On call : a doctor's journey in public service / Anthony S	Fauci, Anthony S., 1940- author.	BOOKS	100
18	Wrath of the triple goddess / Rick Riordan.	Riordan, Rick, author. https://id.o	BOOKS	99
19	TWISTERS [videorecording].		DVD	96
20	BE READY WHEN THE LUCK HAPPENS : a memoir / Ina Garten, Ina, author.		BOOKS	94
21	DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE [videorecording].		DVD	92
22	Good energy : the surprising connection between metal	Means, Casey, author.	BOOKS	89
23	The Friday afternoon club : a family memoir / Griffin Dunne, Griffin, author.		BOOKS	84
24	Super Mario RPG.		VIDEO GAME	83
25	What to cook when you don't feel like cooking / Caroline Chambers, Caroline, author. http://id.o		BOOKS	81
26	Kirby and the forgotten land.		VIDEO GAME	80
27	The Legend of Zelda : tears of the kingdom.		VIDEO GAME	74
28	On call [text (large print)] : a doctor's journey in public se	Fauci, Anthony S., 1940- author.	LARGE PRIN	73
29	ONYX STORM	Yarros, Rebecca	BOOKS	71
30	Nintendo Switch sports.		VIDEO GAME	70

- Current eBook and eAudiobook Holds/Reserves and number of copies owned:

Title	Creator	Format	Audience/Rating	All holds	Cons of
Funny Story	Emily Henry	eBook	Adult Fiction	26	27
The Women: A Novel	Kristin Hannah	eBook	Adult Fiction	19	39
A Court of Thorns and Roses	Sarah J. Maas, Jennifer Ikeda	Audiobook	Young Adult Fiction	11	15
A Court of Thorns and Roses Bundle: A 5 Book Bundle	Sarah J. Maas	eBook	Adult Fiction	10	8
The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness (unabridged)	Jonathan Haidt, Sean Pratt	Audiobook	Adult Nonfiction	9	30
People We Meet on Vacation	Emily Henry	eBook	Adult Fiction	9	18
The Psychology of Money: Timeless Lessons on Wealth, Greed, and Happiness (unabridged)	Morgan Housel, Chris Hill	Audiobook	Adult Nonfiction	9	12
The God of the Woods: A Novel	Liz Moore	eBook	Adult Fiction	8	19
Iron Flame	Rebecca Yarros, Rebecca Soler, Tedd	Audiobook	Adult Fiction	7	9
Losing Hope	Colleen Hoover	eBook	Adult Fiction	7	3
The Midnight Library	Matt Haig, Carey Mulligan	Audiobook	Adult Fiction	7	6
The Courage to Be Disliked: The Japanese Phenomenon That Shows You How to Change Your Life and Achieve Real Happiness	Ichiro Kishimi, Fumitake Koga	eBook	Adult Nonfiction	6	15
A Court of Wings and Ruin	Sarah J. Maas	eBook	Adult Fiction	6	10
Demon Copperhead	Barbara Kingsolver	eBook	Adult Fiction	6	12
The God of the Woods: A Novel (unabridged)	Liz Moore, Saskia Maarleveld	Audiobook	Adult Fiction	6	12
The Midnight Feast: A Novel	Lucy Foley	eBook	Adult Fiction	6	1
Somewhere Beyond the Sea	T.J. Klune	eBook	Adult Fiction	6	1
You Like It Darker: Stories (unabridged)	Stephen King, Will Patton	Audiobook	Adult Fiction	6	1
All the Colors of the Dark	Chris Whitaker	eBook	Adult Fiction	5	24
The Book Swap	Tessa Bickers, Cameron Krugh	Audiobook	Adult Fiction	5	0
The Break-Up Pact: A Novel (unabridged)	Emma Lord, Natalie Naudus	Audiobook	Adult Fiction	5	1
A Court of Mist and Fury	Sarah J. Maas	eBook	Adult Fiction	5	27
Crying in H Mart: A Memoir	Michelle Zauner	eBook	Adult Nonfiction	5	10
Funny Story	Emily Henry, Julia Whelan	Audiobook	Adult Fiction	5	14
Happy Place	Emily Henry	eBook	Adult Fiction	5	28
Here One Moment	Liane Moriarty	eBook	Adult Fiction	5	1
Iron Flame, Part 1	Rebecca Yarros, Full Cast, Khaya Frait	Audiobook	Adult Fiction	5	2
Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI (unabridged)	Yuval Noah Harari, Vidish Athavale	Audiobook	Adult Nonfiction	5	0
Powerless	Lauren Roberts, Chase Brown, Cecily Bednar	Audiobook	Young Adult Fiction	5	4

ADULT SERVICES

Digital Literacy & Online Resources

On September 23, the Peninsula Library System launched a new app for library patrons to review their account, search the catalog, place holds and have a digital library card. Each library jurisdiction has their own version of the app, with a menu tailored to the library's offerings. You can review the news story here:

<https://www.ssf.net/Departments/Library/Library-News/Your-Library-App-is-Here>

Our Fall 2024 schedule was released in September:

<https://www.ssf.net/Departments/Library/Services/Adults-Seniors>

We are also adding more volunteers to our instructor roster so we can add new classes and involve our community in teaching lifelong digital literacy skills. In September staff taught classes to over 30 people and offered two new classes: Basic Photo Editing with Photoshop and Introduction to JavaScript.

September – Key Stats & Updates

- Programs: **28** total; **297** attendees or participants
- Streaming Movies & Music:
 - Hoopla: **104** Plays
 - Kanopy: **846** plays
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines check-outs:
 - eBook and eAudio checkouts (combined Libby & Hoopla): **6440**
 - Hoopla: **267**
 - Libby: **6173**
 - eMagazines checkouts: **1295**

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

We welcomed Councilmember Flor Nichols and Randall Yip with the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California. Together they led a discussion on Alzheimer's and the impact it has on our community.

Grandparent's Day

Over 60 people attended the Grandparents' Day Celebration, about 30 each playing bingo in the Council Chambers and enjoying snacks and games in the Community Room.



CIRCULATION

- Total circulation for Sept 2024: **38,411**
- Total number of materials checked in: **16,536**
- New library accounts: **478**
- Number of items lent to another library: **5,148**
- Number of items borrowed from another library: **3,132**

GRAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

September – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: **24** total; **405** attendees or participants

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

The Grand Avenue Library held a number of programs for Hispanic Heritage Month programming. On September 28, the Library hosted a Hispanic heritage Month Family Crafts program in which attendees made *papel picado* and tissue paper flowers. Patrons were invited to decorate the library with the crafts, and many did so. Some chose to decorate the book displays staff had made for Hispanic Heritage Month.



For the Pajama Storytime held on September 28, Librarian Audrie Adams and Library Assistant Chelsea Quintanilla integrated Spanish language children's songs and bilingual books into the storytime, and participants made folk Mexican crafts immediately after storytime.



In addition to these programs, two self-directed activities related to Hispanic Heritage month were offered: a scavenger hunt comprised of images related to Latino culture, and a *Batalla de las Paletas* in which participants were asked to vote for their favorite *paleta* (Mexican popsicle) flavor. Over 200 people participated in these self-directed programs over the month.

The Grand Avenue Library was awarded a grant of \$10,000 from Sunlight Giving for the purchase of furnishings and play equipment. Library staff are currently considering various options, including storage equipment, new toys, and furnishings designed to enhance play.

LITERACY SERVICES

Library Director's appreciation:

- Heartfelt thanks and kudos go out to the literacy services team for going above and beyond during this time of staffing transitions. Everyone has helped out with program planning and implementation, grant/project startups, annual and quarterly project reports, and planning and implementing staff training in the July 2024 – current timeframe. Special thanks to (in random order): Marcaria Acevedo, Maria Barcelata Long, Xochitl Cervantes, Elba Miranda, Anita Palafox, Gabriela Rodriguez, Cody Fulgencio, Schoenstatt Gonzalaz Aguilar, Zenaida Montecinos, London Pinkney, Marissa Premenko, Michelle Velazquez, Delia Vieyra, Jon Valle, Becky Bayardo and many more staff and volunteers who are dedicated to our wide range of literacy services and programs. My apologies for overlooking some key team members.

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Adult Services

- The Gene Mullin Community Learning Center offers weekly Citizenship Workshops for adults preparing to apply for citizenship and take the exam. This program has fostered a close-knit community of dedicated learners who have made notable

progress in their citizenship journey together. We have seen a growing trend of newly minted citizens volunteering in the center's workshops to help bolster the confidence of current participants. On September 19th, we acknowledged Nancy and Rodolfo, recent citizens who graciously shared their experiences with the class, answered questions about the application process and exam, and discussed the various questions they encountered. On that same day, we also celebrated learner Maria S., who has also *graduated* and obtained her citizenship, thanks to the support and encouragement she received in the workshops. This accomplishment comes just in time for the upcoming election in November! September has certainly been a month to remember at the Center.

- Recruitment for the Literacy Services Coordinator positions leading Family Literacy/Learning Wheels Services and Collaborative programs and classes, including ESL, computer skills and citizenship at the GMCLC, closed on October 7. Interviews will be scheduled in early November.



Project Read – Adult Services

- Tutor Jenny has been tutoring learner Farkhanda for a month through Project Read. Farkhanda sought support in developing her conversational English skills. During their sessions, Jenny has assisted Farkhanda in navigating daily life tasks, such as interpreting recipes, making doctor's appointments, and reading for leisure. With genuine enthusiasm, Jenny remarked, "With each new session, I can see Farkhanda becoming more confident and expressive." As a dedicated participant in Project Read's Book Club, Jenny concludes each session by reading the month's book club

selection with Farkhanda, who is unable to attend the meetings due to scheduling conflicts. It is encouraging to see that, regardless of attendance at our Book Club, learners are still able to engage with the material. Looking ahead, Project Read will look forward to discussing **Rest is Resistance** by Tricia Hersey. With seven participants *already* confirmed, we anticipate a vibrant and robust meeting for the book club scheduled for Thursday, October 24th, at 6:30 PM.

DISCOVERY CENTER

- Fifteen premier programs and daily pop-up activities were conducted in the Discovery Center with an estimated **242** patrons attending. The Makerspace had an estimated 5,300 visitors during the month of September.
- Discovery Center volunteers Nicholas Nand and Matthew Pun are leading an 8-week **Engineering Fun for Kids and Teens** program series. So far, over 60 children and their families have engineered boats, Rube Goldberg machines, towers and cardboard swords. Nicholas and Matthew plan to teach four more sessions in October.



Design and Build a Boat



Rube Goldberg Machine



Tower Building

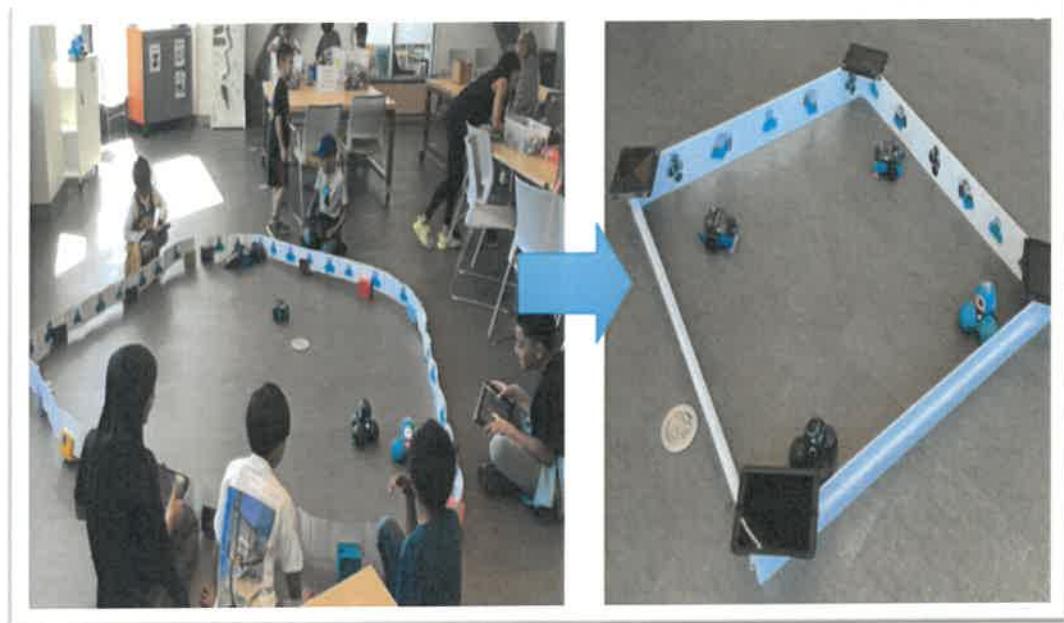


Construct a Cardboard Sword

- Diana Flores (Library Clerk) led two sessions of **Silent Book Club**. Patrons come together to read silently before engaging in a discussion of their books.



- The Discovery Center team has upgraded the robot arena from a cardboard roll to a sturdy ring made of wood and metal hooks.



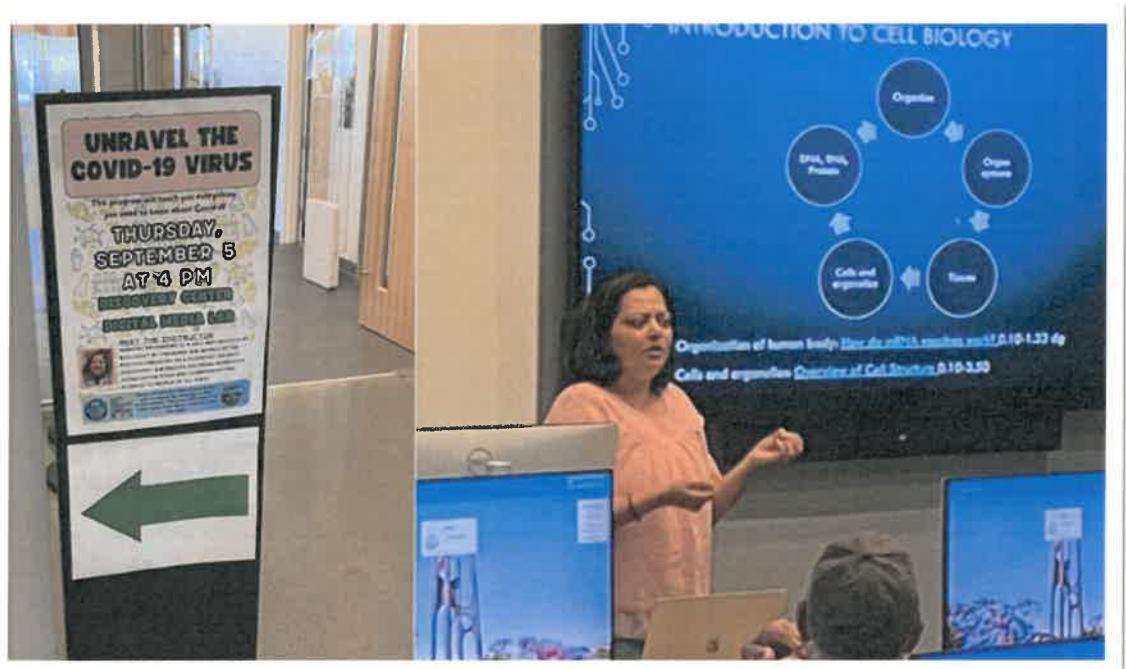
- The Discovery Center team and Amgen partnered up to lead **Birds and Engineering for Kids and Teens**. Amgen scientists led several engineering stations for patrons of all ages to participate in: nest building, binocular engineering, chicken gizzard and bird feeder creation. Library staff also laser cut over 50 sets of cardboard bird houses. Patrons used hot glue guns to assemble and decorate their bird house. Over 120 people participated in the event.



- Several class visits were held in the Makerspace. The kids and their teachers experienced the fun gadgets and activities that the Discovery Center has to offer. Snap Circuits, Cubelets, LCD Microscopes and Ozobots were very popular with the groups.



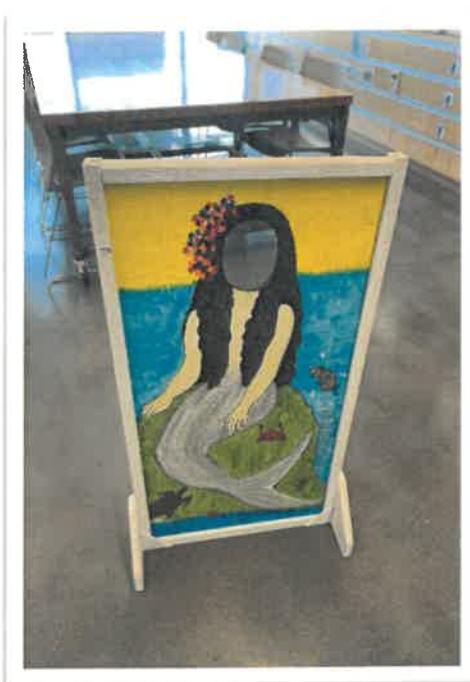
- Discovery Center volunteer and molecular biologist, Nandini Ravindra, led the **Unravel the COVID-19 Virus** program. Participants took a deep dive into cell biology and how the newest COVID-19 variant affects the human body on a molecular and cellular level.



- The Discovery Center team submitted a grant to the Pacific Library Partnership and was awarded \$12,000. The funds will go towards the purchase of a class set of 10 RobotLab VR headsets to promote sustainable art and world exploration through virtual reality.



- The newest addition to the Makerspace attractions is the pirate and mermaid themed stand-in photo board. Children and families are able to take fun photos and make memories in the spirit of Halloween.



- Patrons are invited to play a fun game of foosball when they visit the Makespace and Community Room.



YOUTH SERVICES

SEPTEMBER – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: **30** total; **1,621** attendees or participants

Programs & Community Partnerships

- *Parenting Workshop: Cultivating Connections as a Working Parent*

The workshop was the first of a three-part series led by early childhood educator & Parenting Coach Rachyl Alcantara. Rachyl has over 18 years of experience leading a bustling bio-tech childcare center and has led a team of over 400 educators in developing childcare programs deeply rooted in Reggio Emilia play-based learning principles. Rachyl will be leading two more sessions – one in October and another in November.

- *Hispanic Heritage Craft: Paper Molas from Panama*

Kids and families explored the traditional art of paper molas from Panama. The stories and symbols behind the designs were created using unique patterns and shapes to bring inspiration from nature/folklore. One parent mentioned that she enjoyed the open-ended craft – both her and her son were able to make multiple different versions!



- *Storytimes: Toddler, Baby, and Cantonese*

In September, Library Assistant Marissa Premenko received storytime training from librarians and accepted the responsibility of the lead for the Tuesday Toddler Storytime. Toddler Storytimes brought in 215 kids and families into the Youth Library in September. On Saturdays, Cantonese Storytime led by Maggie Li, had a total of 443 participants. Additionally, Cantonese Storytime Crafts had an overall 100 in attendance.

- *Brain Explorations*

Brain Explorations is a volunteer-led program that teaches neuroscience concepts to children ages 7-12. Fall 2024 workshops will take place on select Saturdays between September and November.



- *Video Game Series*

Teens vs. Kids battles have become commonplace at the weekly video game series in the Young Adult Room.

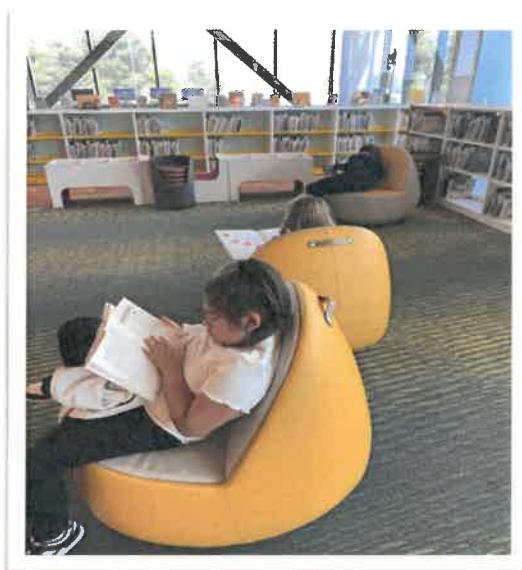


Outreach

In September Youth Services Librarian Bobby promoted library resources at Skyline Elementary's Family Literacy Night. Bobby also promoted library resources at a literacy workshop at Izzi Early Education alongside Library Assistant Marissa.

Class Visits

Two 3rd grade class visits from Buri Buri Elementary visited both the Youth Library and the Makerspace. Both class visits had a total of 48 students. Each class visit had a storytime, tour of the Youth Library, and time for independent reading. Makerspace visits included ozobots, snap circuits, and an overview of digital microscopes.



Be Who You Are Day

Be Who You Are Day was a global celebration that comes from the author Todd Parr and his series of books. It is a day for kids to celebrate how special they truly are and to celebrate their uniqueness. The Youth Services Team was able to give out 40 Todd Parr books, 48 made buttons, and Todd Parr Be Who You Are coloring sheets. Also, Mindfulness flowers were passed out as reminders to remember to practice taking deep breaths.



Dream Big Day

Dream Big Day comes from the Little People Dream Big series. The official global celebration was on Saturday September 21st. In addition to the kits that were sent from the organization – buttons and extra activity sheets were distributed. Many parents complimented on the display.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Elsholz".

Adam Elsholz

Assistant Library Director

