



Library Director's Report

July 2024

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

- Our new fiscal year, as of July 1, 2024, begins with four vacant f/t positions; another pending f/t vacancy; one vacant f/t position with a pending hire; one f/t temporary leave with another upcoming f/t temporary leave. Combined with approximately 2.5 FTE hourly in budget reductions, we are doing the best we can to continue core programs and services such as story times, “staff” the public service desks, select, order, and provide shelf-ready bestselling and community interests materials, and present special programs and outreach opportunities with a severely depleted, but motivated, team.
- We now have 39,814 library cardholders, up from 34,655 in June 2023, almost a 15% increase. Thanks to our great Library staff for providing engaging, accessible and customer-service facing services, programs, collections and connections in our new Main Library, Grand Avenue Library, and Literacy Services.

• Snapshot in Circulation May 2023 vs May 2024:

	May 2023 Circulation		May 2024 Circulation
Grand Library	3,712	Grand Library	4,152
West Orange Library	32,292	New Main Library	44,103
Total Circulation	36,004	Total	48,255

36.5% increase in circulation West Orange to New Main Library May 2023 vs May 2024

34% total increase in Total Circulation May 2023 vs May 2024

• High Demand Holds/Reserves:

# Title	Author	Material Type	By claim Holds
1 The anxious generation : how the great swirling of childhood is causing an epidemic of mental illness	Hadd, Jonathan, author.	BOOKS	234
2 James : a novel / Percival Everett.	Everett, Percival, author.	BOOKS	208
3 All four : a novel / Miran de Joly.	Joly, Miran de, 1974- author.	BOOKS	163
4 Sandlot : a novel / Catherine Newman.	Newman, Catherine, 1988- author.	BOOKS	160
6 The comfort of ghosts / Jacqueline Westpac.	Westpac, Jacqueline, 1968- author.	BOOKS	156
8 An unmatched love story : a personal history of the 1960s / Doris Kearns Gooden.	Gooden, Doris Kearns, author.	BOOKS	125
7 Eruption / Michael Crichton and James Patterson.	Crichton, Michael, 1942-2008, author.	BOOKS	118
5 The housemaid is watching / Freda McFadden.	McFadden, Freda, author.	BOOKS	107
9 American fiction / written for the screen and directed by Cord Jefferson.		ELURAY	102
10 ON CALL : A Doctor's Journey in Public Service [LARGE PRINT]	Fawc, Anthony	BOOKS	101
11 The ministry of time / Kallan Hannak.	Hannak, Kallan, author.	BOOKS	100
12 The women : a novel / Kirtika Hannak.	Hannak, Kirtika, author.	LARGE PRINT	80
13 Kirby and the forgotten land.		VIDEO GAMES	86
14 THE BOY AND THE HERON [DVD]		DVD	86
15 From song / Ellen Hilderbrand.	Hilderbrand, Ellen, author.	BOOKS	83
18 The god of the woods / Liz Moore.	Moore, Liz, 1963- author.	BOOKS	80
17 Eruption / Michael Crichton and James Patterson.	Crichton, Michael, 1942-2008, author.	LARGE PRINT	78
16 Oppenheimer / Universal Pictures presents ; a Synco production in association with Atlas Entertainment		ELURAY	77
19 On call : a doctor's journey in public service / Anthony & Fawc, M.D.	Fawc, Anthony & Fawc, M.D., author.	BOOKS	76
20 SUPER BOWL	Hilderbrand, Ellen	BOOKS	76
21 Super Mario RPG.		VIDEO GAMES	74
22 Dune, part two / written by Denis Villeneuve and Jon Spaihts ; directed by Denis Villeneuve.		ELURAY	72
23 What this comedian said will shock you / Bill Maher.	Maher, Bill, author.	BOOKS	70
24 The Friday afternoon club : a family memoir / Griffin Dunne.	Dunne, Griffin, author.	BOOKS	67
26 A DEATH IN COFFIN L	Brue, Daniel	BOOKS	67
28 FURD SA: A MAD MAX SAO A [DVD]		DVD	66
27 The Legend of Zelda : Tears of the Kingdom.		VIDEO GAMES	66
29 Challengers / Amazon MGM studios presents ; a Wity Are You Acting?, Frenzy Film, Pascal Piderer		DVD	66
29 You are here : a novel / David Nicholls.	Nicholls, David, 1984- author.	BOOKS	63
30 All the colors of the dark : a novel / Chris Whitaker.	Whitaker, Chris, author.	BOOKS	63

- I'm happy to say the California State Library's Parks Pass Program has been saved for this year. SB 108, the bill containing the continuation of Parks Passes, has been signed by the Governor. This good news is thanks to the advocacy of the California State Parks Foundation and the California State Library and local libraries.

ADULT SERVICES

June – Key Stats & Updates

- Programs: 32 total; 365 attendees or participants
- Streaming Video Views: 871 plays
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines check-outs: Over 60,000 checkouts for ebooks/eaudio for the fiscal year, an increase of 68%
 - eBook and eAudio checkouts: 5768
 - eMagazines checkouts: 1238; over 200% increase in magazine circulation compared to last year (mostly due to automatic checkout feature)

Digital Literacy & Online Resources

- Tech Tuesday classes focused on the creative side – e.g. creating brushes with Photoshop, smartphone photography, and video-editing – plus the always popular (and requested) class on Excel. Staff taught over 30 patrons new skills in the Digital Media Lab.
- Staff are working to launch Hoopla (streaming video, music, plus ebooks/eaudio, comics/manga) in August and make final touches to the new City website and PLS app.

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

- LPR hosted a group of about 35 learners from SSF Adult Education, the largest adult group tour the Library has hosted in recent years. The group learned about Library and Project Read services and collections, and several signed up for library cards.

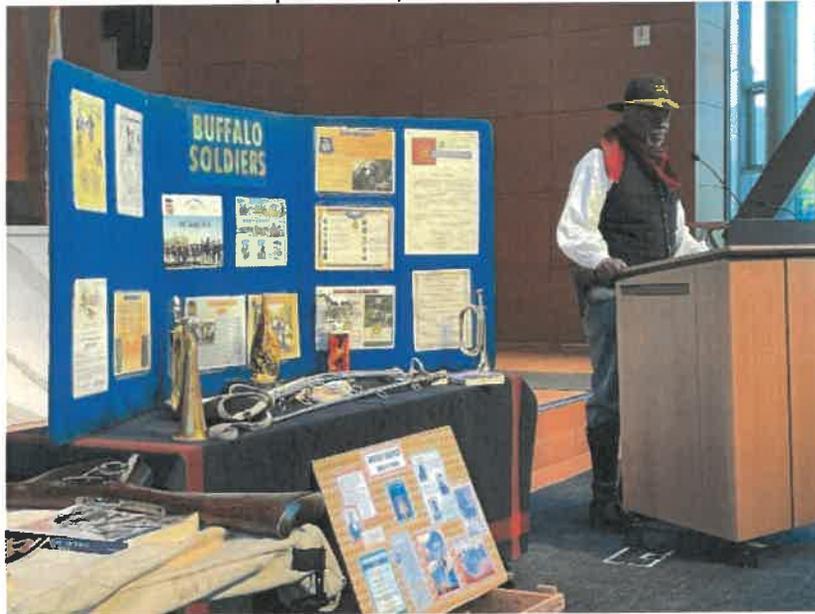
Pride Wrap-up

- On June 24th, an author talk with Jim Fielding, author of *All pride, no ego* drew 11 attendees, many of whom stayed afterward to speak with Mr. Fielding. Some had never been to a program at our library before, and feedback was entirely positive.
- On June 20th, the Asian Art Museum presented Expressions of Gender, 11 attendees explored some of the fascinating ways various Asian cultures have represented people and deities as male, female, and non-binary.

Juneteenth at LPR

- On June 22nd the Main Library Celebrated Juneteenth with the Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry, Company G of Northern California. More than 40 residents attended the event which ended with many questions concerning the reenactor's uniforms, displays of Civil War artifacts, and the serving of traditional Juneteenth red velvet cupcakes. Several veterans were also in attendance, including our own Jeff Fong, SSFPL Veteran's Connect Program.

Trooper Terrell, Vietnam Veteran



Marine Veteran and his family



History Room

Save the date for the Grand Avenue Walking Tour: Saturday, August 10th!

We welcomed our summer intern, Johnny Irons-Lagrone, to the History Room. Johnny joins us from Oklahoma State University where he is working towards his MA in Public History and Preservation.

CIRCULATION

- Total circulation for June 2024: **39,065**
- Total number of materials checked in: **18,395**
- New library accounts: **569**
- Number of items lent to another library: **5,339**
- Number of items borrowed from another library: **2,984**

GRAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

JUNE – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: **24** total; **518** attendees or participants

- Library staff from across the department's divisions participated in the City of South San Francisco's LGBT Pride Festival held on Grand Avenue on Saturday, June 1st. The Library's booth offered a pop-up library of books people could check out, a button making craft, free Summer Learning Challenge books for children along with registration for the program, and various library-branded materials including pens and carbiners. 961 community members visited the booth.



- The Grand Avenue Library continues to provide dynamic youth programming, including at least two weekly storytimes, while we recruit new librarians to replace those who have taken new jobs. The library's monthly Pajama Storytime attracts many families, with 29 people participating on June 5; we will soon expand this to a weekly program. The other storytimes--Family Storytime and Bilingual Spanish Storytime--consistently attract 20 to 30 participants on a weekly basis.

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

- During June, the Grand Avenue Library hosted visits by eight classes from the San Mateo County Big Lift Initiative (BLIS). The goal of BLIS is to prevent the "summer slide" in which children tend to lose reading skills if not engaged in literacy and other learning activities. 152 attendees were provided opportunities to participate in hands on engineering, stem, and craft activities and to enjoy a fun storytime.



- June is Immigrant Heritage Month and the Library collaborated with the San Mateo County Office of Community affairs to offer a passive family activity: bookmark coloring pages. Over the month, 44 library attendees created their own bookmarks. The library also received laminated bookmarks that were offered to patrons at the circulation desk and self-checkout machines:



- On June 12, the library hosted Sophie's World, a program that offers unique crafting opportunities for the entire family. 20 attendees created both purses and decorated jars:



LITERACY SERVICES

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Adult Services

- Gene Mullin Community Learning Center has been focusing on assessing learners and has received positive feedback on the work and support the Center offers its learners in meeting their goals as adult learners.
- English Lab learner, Dora C., mentioned that along with teachers and staff being welcoming, she feels GMCLC constantly encourages learners not to give up regardless of their age which encourages her to learn! Something she had not experienced in other educational settings previous.

- English Lab and Citizenship Workshop learner, Fausta A., shared that she has made progress on all her goals; examples of met goals include completing an interview, reading prescriptions, and paying bills on her own. Her main goal is to become a citizen and she feels very confident, excited, and motivated to take classes at the Center to help her achieve that!

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Youth Services

- There were 42 students enrolled in the summer Homework Club. The program focused on building community, taught the students community service and recycling, did community clean-ups, visited both libraries, and collaborated twice with Families Literacy Service! Families shared with us that they would like Homework Club students to help again with My First Years in the future! This summer, our math tutor volunteer focused on working with six students and shared that she's seeing improvements with their multiplication factors!



- Teen Internship: Teens planned community service activities for Homework Club Summer and implemented them weekly. They taught students about recycling and assisted them during our community clean ups!

Project Read – Children and Family Services

- On June 1st, Learning Wheels brought mobile literacy services to attendees of South San Francisco's Pride event.
- Our six-week program of family literacy workshops, My First Years, continued in June, featuring special virtual presentations by El Concilio of San Mateo County and a volunteer tutor from Project Read's adult literacy program. These presentations emphasized the importance of read alouds and how parents can advocate for their children's education. My First Years held in-person workshops at City Hall Lawn, consisting of family games, storytimes, and literacy activities. On June 14th, students from Homework Club led engaging activities for families participating in My First Years. On June 21st, Homework Club students read *All Are Neighbors* to families and facilitated a craft activity inspired by the story.

- Family Literacy Services offered nutrition, science, and reading workshops for students at Colma's summer camp. Students engaged in hands-on projects, experiments, and group-based learning at the Sterling Park Recreation Center.
- Family Literacy Services also hosted bilingual literacy workshops at the Grand Library on Wednesdays. These workshops connected families with our program and featured family projects supporting literacy development.



Storytime at Grand Library



My First Years workshop at City Hall Lawn

Students in Homework Club reading *All Are Neighbors* to a family in My First Years



All Are Neighbors storytime



Children in Homework Club and My First Years play a game together



DISCOVERY CENTER

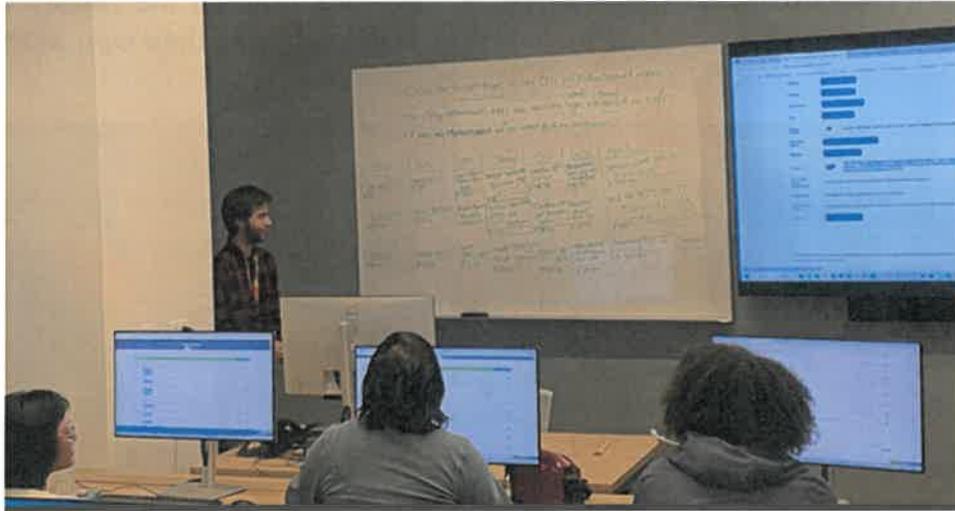
- On Tuesday, June 4, Devin Morse, Library Assistant, held the library's second music themed program, **Build Your Own Sistrum**. A sistrum is a unique percussion instrument going back hundreds of years. Patrons learned the history behind the instrument and used a variety of tools and supplies to make their own sistrum to take home.



- The newest addition to the Discovery Center Makerspace is the **Discovery Garden!** The cart is made of scrap lumber, while the plants are an assortment of quaint and storied variety guaranteed to stir kids' imagination. This project is probably the first in library history! Its purpose is to introduce kids (and some adults) to the joy and wonder of gardening.



- Kenny Martin, Librarian, started the third series of the **Build A PC** programs in the Digital Media Lab. Patrons learn in detail the specifications and electronic components required that go into successfully building a home PC system.



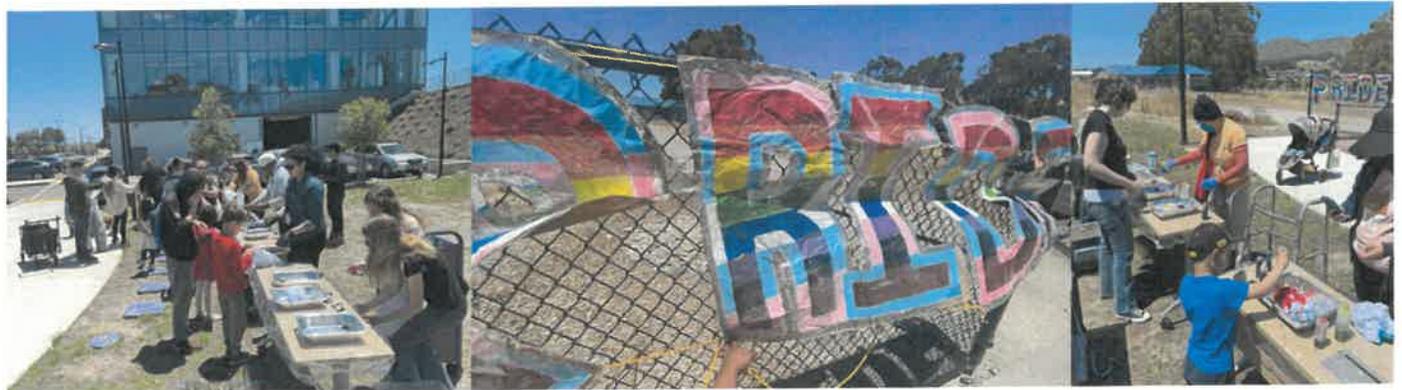
- During the month of June, more patrons have been coming into the Discovery Center Makerspace to use the sewing machines, serger, embroidery machine and textile materials to work on personal projects. Barbara Pereira, Library Assistant, continues to lead the **Mending Hour** program every Thursday and trains staff on the proper usage of equipment.



- Discovery Center volunteer and professional game designer for Skydance Media, Christian Chang, led six 3D printing and design classes. Christian led three classes for kids and three classes for adults, with great patron turnout. The participants learned about career paths that graphic designing can take you, the foundational skills needed to be successful at it, and how to use 3D printers. Christian plans to teach more classes in the coming months to introduce patrons to the fun world of 3D modeling and graphic design.



- On Saturday, June 15, Discovery Center staff and volunteers led the **Pride Tie Dye** program outside of LPR. Over 50 patrons came and created their very own unique tie dye shirt. Snacks, refreshments, and music attracted many people from the community.



- Discovery Center volunteer and Lead Director of AI company, Soul Machines, led the workshop series **Learn Photoshop**. Over three weeks, patrons learned essential skills with layers, masks, brush types, and editing tools to make collages, restore photos and finish the series with a freestyle project. Rick plans to teach Adobe Illustrator, After Effects and InDesign in the months ahead.



- Miriam Hart, Library Assistant, leads **Digital Art Club** every Wednesday at 3pm. Patrons of all ages come together to create unique graphic design artwork using iPads and Apple Pencils. Staff and volunteers guide the patrons and show them different techniques to improve their drawing skills with the ProCreate application.



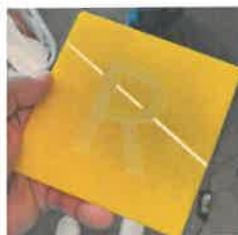
- Children and families visit the Makerspace daily to partake in the pop-up activities hosted by staff. Patrons can be seen above making buttons, bracelets, completing worksheets and experimenting with Ozobots and Snap Circuits.



- On Tuesday, June 11, Devin Morse, Library Assistant, led the **Carnivorous Plant Care** program in the Community Room. Patrons learned how to care for plants and walked away with their very own plant to take home and grow. Devin plans to continue producing unique and innovative programs in the coming months.



- The 3D printers and laser cutter have been a big hit with the patrons during the summer. Approximately 55 reservations for the 3D printer were made; 14 patrons used the laser cutter.



(Laser Cut Scrabble Letter B)



(3D Printed Psyduck Pokemon)



(3D Printed #1 Dad Organizer)



(Laser Cut Keychains)



(Embellish Pillows Using Vinyl Cutter)

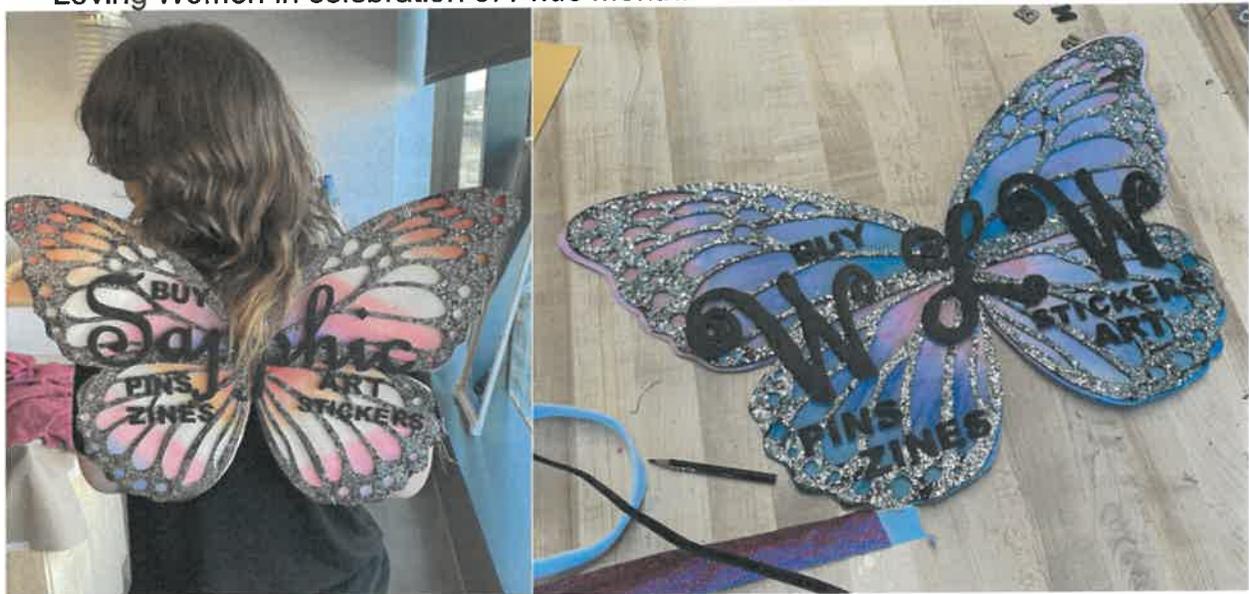
- During the month of June, 29 summer camp groups totaling over 600 kids came to visit the Makerspace and Community Room. The camp kids and their leaders got to experience the assortment of fun gadgets and activities that the Discovery Center has the offer. Snap Circuits, Cubelets, Procreate on iPads, Giant Connect 4, Legos and Ozobots were very popular with the groups. Many more class visits are scheduled for July and August.



- Library volunteer, Nicholas Nand, led another successful series of Scratch coding classes with approximately 45 children participating. The skills taught in the **Intermediate Scratch Coding** classes build upon the skills taught in the **Introduction to Scratch Coding** classes held in May. He plans to teach the **Advanced Scratch Coding** every Wednesday during the month of July. Nicholas has also inspired his friends to want to teach classes at the library just like him.



- Miriam Hart, Library Assistant, created an amazing set of wings by using the laser cutter, cardboard, glitter and an assortment of paints. The “WLW” stands for Women Loving Women in celebration of Pride month.



- A new “people counter” was installed by Discovery Center staff in the Makerspace and will be used to keep track of the number of visitors coming in and out of the space. For the month of June, the Makerspace had approximately **3,845** visitors. Two more people counters will be installed for the Digital Media Lab and the Community Room soon to give staff an idea of the number of people that come into the other Discovery Center spaces.

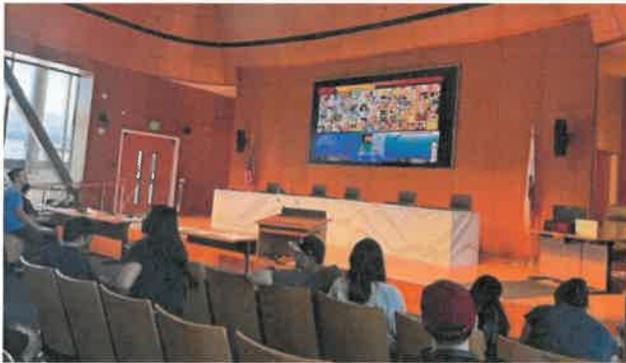


YOUTH SERVICES

JUNE – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: 27 total; 1,310 attendees or participants

- Children, teens, and a few adults participated in the library's first ever video game tournament in the City Council Chambers. The event was hosted by Youth Services Librarian Bobby. Bobby worked with several library volunteers to plan and facilitate the event. The grand prize winner of the tournament received \$40 in Nintendo e-shop gift cards.



Nintendo Switch Video Game Tournament in City Council Chambers



- Youth Services Librarians, Bobby and Martha raffled the first round of San Francisco Giants vouchers. Prizes through the summer will include San Francisco Giants tickets, annual San Mateo County Parks passes, and future \$1,000 scholarships. Summer Learning, Ashley, has been instrumental in promoting the program, creating activity kits, and assisting with administrative tasks.

Ashley - 2024 Summer Learning Challenge Intern



- Throughout June and July, the Main Library is hosting camp visits for groups of students from Parks and Recreation, Community Learning Center, and Big Lift Inspiring Summer camp groups. By working collaboratively with Makerspace and Youth Services summer interns to provide over 250 students from the age of PreK through teens with library and Makerspace services. Many students enjoyed snap circuits, ozobots, Procreate on iPads, and digital microscopes with the direction of Youth Services team. In addition, on Thursdays open the Library an hour early so that Parks and Recreation summer camps can enjoy the Library space on their own.



Camp Visits to the Main Library



Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

- Firefighter Justin did a special Firefighter Storytime that was the most attended guest storytime with over 100 attendees! He was able to pass out over 50 books with the support of our Summer Learning Challenge to ensure each family went home with books.

Firefighter Justin posing with families and handing out books



- Youth Services Librarian, Martha Tran, incorporates Mindfulness flowers that she hands out at every Storytime to help toddlers practice controlled breathing. Mindfulness flowers are sprayed with lavender hand-sanitizer so that toddlers can focus on senses. Patron services staff supported the creation of the pipe cleaner flowers.

Mindfulness flowers for Outdoor Yoga Mindfulness Storytime



- On June 18, 2024 Outdoor Toddler Storytime and Mindfulness Yoga Storytime had the most attendance at 96 families/participants! Youth Services Librarian, Martha Tran, incorporated more yoga poses and children have been showing steady progress at this weekly Toddler Storytime.

Outdoor Toddler Storytime + Mindfulness Yoga Storytime



- Brain Explorations is a series that teaches neuroscience concepts to children ages 7-12. The program is led by local El Camino High School students who collaborated with Youth Services Librarian, Bobby, to establish a series of five classes. One of the leads and several assistants are current volunteers at the Main Library. Brain Explorations will take place on select Saturdays, June-July.

Brain Explorations Program in the Young Adult Room



Valerie Sommer

Valerie Sommer
Library Director