

Librarian's Report March 2005

March has been one of those once in a million year winters. Due to the bad snow storms, we have had to close the library early a couple times, and not open two other times. I think this is the first time since I have been here (working on my thirteenth year) that we have closed or gone home early more than twice in a winter. The staff and all our patrons are looking forward to spring.

Story hour is beginning to have more children attend now that the weather is getting better. The last two weeks there have been twelve to fifteen children attending. Sylvia Davis and her Eastern Star women made props for several finger plays which the children are enjoying. Some of the nursery rhymes we do three or four times so anyone who wants to can hold a prop. Sylvia stopped by last week and sang a song she had written to go along with a paper bag octopus she had painted up. It was a big hit. We had a new family join us who moved here from Westbrook and complimented us on our story hour, said it was much better than the one at their old library. Now we need to keep our standards high.

The library has a new volunteer Jerusha Robinson. She has volunteered several weeks already and is doing a wonderful job. She and her husband have lived here about a year and a half, and she loves libraries. Jerusha has been downloading and updating records in Spectrum, putting books away and doing what ever else needs to be done. She has also joined the non-fiction book discussion group and is interested in learning more about the Friends.

The Brownie group that was to meet here on Saturday mornings cancelled their use of the space. Our Tuesday afternoon group continues to meet weekly with two adults and an average of six girls.

We are down to the last bookcase of non-fiction adult books to put into the computer. Then it will be on to the adult paperback books in the corner, and all the audio and video tapes that are not yet in the computer. We have discarded many out dated, unread books, purchasing new editions or completely new books to take the place of some of those we have discarded. We have 20,442 in our card catalog now.

Brigit, Tom and myself met last Tuesday to discuss our website and how we would like to see it updated. Tom will update everyone on what was discussed.

In October the library will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of its being in existence. We may want to incorporate that into our new library planning, by holding some special event. Something to be thinking about.

Tom purchased a new portable phone for the library so that we could carry it into the back room to make or take calls. We just had someone donate a set of two portable phones that work off the same line. We set them up so there is a permanent phone in the back work and a portable one in the front room. This has worked so much better, as Jean was always having to bring the phone to me if I was working in the back room. Now I can answer the phone if I am working in the back and the rest of the staff is busy helping patrons. The phone has come in handy when our Internet connection was down and I had to go downstairs and talk to Adelpia at the same time. Jean has taken the phone down to the girl scouts when someone had called to speak to a parent.

Books are once more beginning to stack up in the basement if anyone has any time to sort.

Ruth Blake
Director
Waterboro Public Library