

## Director's Report for September 09.18.2025

- Our fall programming schedule has begun. There have been a few changes in the schedule, and we are waiting to see if they work for our patrons. Melissa is working on inventory of the Children's Library and is progressing well. Sara and Caitlyn continue to keep our patrons happy by ordering materials that are popular and in demand. Processing new items takes time, yet Sara stays on top of it and new items become available in a reasonable amount of time after they are received. So far this year, we have added 1316 items to the library collection. Caitlyn is working on updating currently shelved items with their proper spine labels to help patrons and staff find them and for staff to shelve them more easily. This is especially helpful with books in a series. Our assistant librarians, Jessica, Kesi, Evelyn, and Carter, do a wonderful job of serving our patrons.
- The flooring in the patron bathrooms was finished and they look wonderful! In our efforts to serve our patrons better, a couple of needs have been mentioned. With more fathers bringing their children to the library, it only makes sense to have a diaper changing station in the men's patron bathroom. Currently, there is only one in the women's patron bathroom. We have also had requests for a new water fountain that will be more accessible to children and can allow for filling of water bottles. A proposal for that is included in your board packet.
- The interactive wallboards we ordered for Di's Den via the gift from the Optimist Club have arrived. We will be looking for someone to install them for us and will be ordering a plaque in recognition of their donation.
- I finally heard from Megan Langley from StrengthenND about confirming a date for our strategic planning event. We have confirmed the date of Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 3 pm. We also confirmed a strategic planning session with Megan for staff on Wednesday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 am during our staff meeting. Melissa and I will meet with Megan via Zoom on Friday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the event. We are assuming that we will serve a light lunch for those attending on that Saturday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.
- I received a quote for increasing our insurance by 20%. It is a considerable increase in cost so it is not feasible for our current budget, but the decision should be made so we can increase the budget for next year if need be. Sue has retired so I am now in contact with Jenny Hare at Dacotah Bank.
- We have been exploring ways to improve our service for our older and vision impaired patrons, so we have purchased 3 page magnifiers. One will stay in the library for patron use while in the library and the other two will be available for checkout. This will hopefully provide patrons with more options when checking out materials since they will not be limited to just large print if they have vision impairments. Many times, we cannot get the items they request in large print so having a magnifier will give them more flexibility in what they want to read. If they prove to be received well, we may order more as usage demands.
- Melissa and I interviewed a college student for potential part-time work. She already has some experience through working at the Casselton Public Library and is seriously thinking about librarianship as a career choice. We think she will be a good fit and it will be a great opportunity to get another person trained who is available to work Saturdays since we do not know if Linda will want to continue working through the winter. Her name is Lauren (Ace) Haugen.
- September is library card sign up month so please encourage others to sign up for a library card if they do not have one. The library not only saves our patrons money, but it also provides many services along with personalized attention from our wonderful staff.
- As of August 31st, the library saved our community \$390,980 for physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 18,443 physical and 12,424 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media equals \$654,369.