**February 2025**

**The MPL Mission**

Spark curiosity. Make connections. Thrive together.

Missoula Public Library achieves its mission by fostering community engagement, providing core services, and promoting sustainability and wellness.

* **Circulation**

**Community Engagement**

* MPL welcomed Kyle Hartse as the new Passport Acceptance Agent. Kyle has finished passport agent training with the US Department of State and notary training with the MT Secretary of State. He is processing passports and will be an official notary once his bond and stamp are acquired.
* The Makerspace recruited a new sewing volunteer. This will be most helpful to meet the extraordinary demand for assistance and learning needs with regards to patrons’ sewing projects.

**Core Services**

* Jon Tweeten created two new staff SOPs on makerspace reservations and Montana Library To Go account management.
* QR code signage was installed in the DVD collection to advertise feature films kept in storage and not easily discoverable by the public.
* New behavior expectation signage was posted to inform patrons MPL study rooms terms of use and reservation rules.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* Elizabeth Jonkel picked up Staples battery recycling boxes to put out at all public stations. Community visitors to the library can drop off their batteries for recycling. The Circulation Department will deliver batteries to Staples for recycling as the boxes fill.
* **Community Engagement**

**Community Engagement**

* We hosted a Lunar New Year Celebration with HereMT. HereMT works to create meaningful connections between BIPOC communities and Montana’s natural wonders. The celebration took place on the 4th floor and had a great turnout.
* We had a wonderful turnout hosting this year’s DocShop in February. Holding this event at the library gives the community a chance to participate in the event free of charge and brings 100’s of new people into the library each year.
* Resource Access Day (RAD) had record breaking attendance at 114! We had a photographer take photos of the event this month.
* Project Community Connect (PCC) has progressed in its planning and we are nearing the date quickly. We created a webpage for the event and have started light PR. This will ramp up throughout March.
* MLK Jr Day Youth Art and Essay Competiton First Friday with Empower MT took place on Feb. 7 on 2nd floor. This was our first First Friday on the second floor and it went really well. This was also in conjunction with a reading by author Hasan Davis author.
* The Bookmobile visited Animeals on Feb. 10 for a read to cats event.
* The Bookmobile held a Valentine's Day Pop-Up event and visited 5 new locations aiming to reach our community in new places. We made new connections through the visits.
* The Bookmobile visited the Head Start Feed & Read on Feb. 20 and gave away free books to kiddos!
* The Bookmobile, along with spectrUM, visited the Ronan Boys and Girls Club for a family STEM event on Feb. 26. The event was really well received and attended. It was exciting to reach new communities.
* This month the Bookmobile led two craft activities at Council Grove Apartments and also has a new volunteer who has been helping with two stops.
* PR created a social media post for a Dream Bigger participant, Selene. She is working towards getting her scuba certificate so she can swim with sharks and has hopes of becoming a marine biologist. Selene’s father donated an incredible framed photo that Families First helped Selene auction off. Selene sold the art piece for $2,225 and is moving forward with her scuba diving certificate.
* PR ordered a display sign and created a plan with the Makerspace for displaying the new promotion materials.
* PR developed a new Library of Things logo and promoted the new sound meter that we are circulating.
* A photographer took photos of the weekly MPL Yarns and Yoga programs in February.

**Core Services**

* In February we held the last of our English as a second language classes with IRC. The IRC currently doesn’t have funding to keep holding the class.
* PR developed a template for creating handouts and trifold for Makerspace.

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* In the month of February, the Bookmobile gave away 141 free books to the community, promoting sustainable book sharing and literacy.
* **Reference**

**Community Engagement**

* We talked briefly about Rick Jenkins’ safety training last week. We talked about the “friction points” Rick pointed out, specifically the level 3 business center. We are hopeful there may be more formal discussions around this friction point.
* The public really approves of the diversity in our monthly D-pods, and apparently someone kissed the sign for one.
* Desiree approached Humanities Montana regarding a grant to create a 12-month genealogy lecture series about locating records in other countries. Summer start date if grant is approved.

**Core Services**

* Crystal talked about the current price and renewal status of all our databases. We talked about what databases are worth a high cost per use and elected not to make any changes.
* Current Biography magazine is offering free online access starting this year. Crystal shared the associated paperwork and will look at getting it set up for MPL.
* Lauren and volunteer Carol finished scanning the first file cabinet of the MT Genealogical society files in the Ref office.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* Input all the water use data into our building energy use portfolio. We are doing about twice as better as an average office building.
* Friends of the Library granted $2,500 to fund stocking the free menstrual product dispensers for a year.
* Slaven showed off the cleaning caddies they ordered and assembled. These should go on each floor as a test case to see if the public will use them to clean the spaces they use.
* **Youth Services**

**Community Engagement**

* Conducted tours for 2 different schools this month, offering information on library services and the materials in the YS collection

**Core Services**

* Purchased dozens of new and gently used books to add to the collection from Book Exchange, including some much-needed Thanksgiving books

**Sustainability & Wellness**

* The second Yoga Story Time was held this month, and after adjustments to capacity and the “curriculum”, it proved to be a huge success! Parents joined their kids in doing yoga poses together, and many hung around after to do a wellness craft on “celebrating me!”
* **Branches**

**Community Engagement**

* **Big Sky**
  + Had two families come to the 3D Printing Open Hours. The first group had never seen/used a 3D printer before and was interested in seeing how they work. We printed out a duck that one kid chose and I gave away a spiral print I’d made earlier to the other kid who seemed fascinated by it. The second group was a family who actually had the same model of 3D printer that we have here at Big Sky and wanted some tips to increase the quality of their print jobs.
* **Frenchtown**
  + Book Club met in February, Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride.
  + Lego Club has slowed way down. Not sure why but here are two that come on a regular basis – create and leave to work on next time.
  + Family movie night showed Despicable Me 4. Only 8 showed but they seemed to enjoy.
* **Lolo**
  + Social media informational updates on library services and closures.
  + Open library available to students accompanying adults to open gym in the evenings.
* **Potomac**
  + Hosted monthly book club
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Exploring the possibility of the branch being a site to pick up gun/trigger locks for Mental Health Awareness Month in April. (still exploring)
  + Set out puzzle and coloring books/sheets for indoor communal activities during winter months. [high school students really enjoy the coloring books and sketch pads during lunch breaks]
    - “It’s unknown how many students’ lives librarians have saved by welcoming loners at lunch.” ~Lisa Fipps, Starfish
  + Getting schedule organized for Summer Reading Program.
* **Swan Valley**
  + Our Story time has been switched to Fridays. Attendance has stayed about the same. Emma Smith, a community member who is studying to be a teacher, has taken over story time for a while.
  + We have been able to host a junior high newspaper writing workshop for a 4 week period on Fridays.

**Core Services**

* **Big Sky**
  + Submitted a new round of purchase requests to Caroline Campbell via Baker & Taylor 360. Assessed the staff and public PCs for the IT department.
* **Frenchtown**
  + Continue to cover all types of books for MPL.
* **Lolo**
  + Collection development – compiling a list of items for purchase based on public demand and interests.
  + Compiled a list of missing items for the Lolo School collection and sent to the school media specialists.
* **Potomac** 
  + Processed donations; some were added to the collection, others will be used to fill the Little Free Library
  + Began annual process of swapping out books from the adult collection for new ones from MPL to keep the collection fresh and interesting
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Successful book club with lively discussions (adult).
  + Continuing the whole collection weeding (winter project) – made more progress, still more to go.
  + After School Book Club still going strong.
* **Swan Valley**
  + Our Book Chat book for February was Blind Faith by Alicia Beckman. Alicia Beckman is a pen name for Leslie Budewitz. We learned about the book when Leslie visited our book chat in December after we read As the Christmas Cookie Crumbles. This was a very different book than the Christmas book, but we enjoyed trying to figure out who done it.
  + Notary services continue to bring community members who have never entered the library in for a visit. In the month of February we had 14 notary visits.

**Sustainability and Wellness**

* **Big Sky** 
  + Practiced standing and stretching every 30-60 minutes instead of sitting for too long.
* **Lolo**
  + Helping to facilitate a clean air monitoring system for the Lolo community and located in the Lolo school.
* **Seeley Lake**
  + Attended all-staff meeting and exchanged materials.
  + Connecting with co-workers in main library, brainstorming for programs and projects.
* **Swan Valley**
  + I have applied for a couple of grants for the upcoming year. The Town Pump for summer reading, has been a great help in the past few years and we look forward to receiving it again. The other grant that was applied for is the Blackfoot technology grant for libraries. A couple years ago I applied for money to purchase ink for our color printer, I have asked for that again since we are about out.