

NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Ready To Roll For Initiative?

Three new kits are now available to request!



The brand new Dungeons and Dragons Kit as well as the Coding for Early Learners Kit and the Physical Literacy Kit are now available. To learn more about these kits you can visit our Programming kits page on the Peace Library System Website at <https://peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Our-Services/Blocks-and-Kits/Programming-Kits> or read more on page 5.

>> From the CEO



Louisa Robison

Occupational health and safety in libraries is a sadly and sorely under-discussed subject. Most people would think that libraries are one of the safest workspaces around, and occasionally they're right. But there are a number of hazards that can crop up in libraries and it's best to be prepared before they happen – and they will – so that you'll know who to talk to, what to do and how to navigate the Worker's Compensation Board, should that become necessary.

We are all aware of the hazards associated with public library work in recent years, from problem patrons and verbal and physical abuse, sexual harassment, dealing with or being exposed to hazardous substances and biohazards to gun and gang violence. And that is much too much to deal with in a newsletter. There are a number of training programs out there to educate on those topics, and we at PLS will be delivering some as well through the next couple of years.

But what doesn't get talked about a lot is the danger of physical injury just from doing your job. There are a number of ergonomic hazards that need to be considered when performing your duties, including bending and lifting, slips trips and falls, overuse injuries and the like.

One way to stop injuries before they start is to get an ergonomic assessment for anyone who works in the library. An ergonomist can look at the way you sit, the way your work flows on your desk or workspace, your computer setup and more to ensure that the risk of repetitive strain or overuse injuries is minimised. Details such as the right height for your chair and the angle at which you are looking at the monitors can make a huge difference in not just your comfort but your long-term ability to be able to continue working. Many people, yours truly included, have experienced a great deal of pain and discomfort just because the monitors are too low.

Another injury that library workers are susceptible to in greater numbers is one that results from slips, trips or falls. Climbing stairs or ladders, or even just stepping onto a kick stool, can result in serious injury from sprained ankles to broken wrists and legs. There are a great many tips for being safe around ladders and the like, but mostly what they come down to is this: Make sure your ladder is stable both bottom and top, make sure the floor is clear, clean and dry, and make sure your equipment is in good condition. And in the winter, take care of ice and snow on your walks in parking lots.

Finally, I recommend getting familiar with the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta and the division of Occupational Health and Safety in the ministry of Jobs and Employment in the GOA. There are a great many free resources on both sites. The GOA OH&S site is great for familiarizing oneself with the legislation and regulations surrounding workplace health and safety. The WCB site has information and resources for both employers and employees on the reporting of workplace injuries, medical treatments, return to work plans and more.

As employers and as employees, everyone should be familiar with workplace health and safety best practices and the policies specific to your worksite. Be aware of your own movements in the work place and watch for hazards and routines that could result in injuries to yourself and others. Ask for help from the experts when you need it. We all want to stay safe and healthy at work. Your library's policies and procedures and your facility's safety handbook should be kept up to date and relevant with how your library functions, and should be reviewed regularly. Nobody wants to have to deal with workplace injuries and illnesses, so let's do our best to head them off before they happen, as much as we can.

As Sergeant Phil Esterhaus said every week on Hill Street Blues, let's be careful out there.

Louisa Robison
CEO



What's Trending In Books

The annual Agatha Awards honour the "traditional mystery"; ie, books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie. This year's finalists for **Best Contemporary Novel** were:

AGATHA AWARDS

***Cajun Kiss of Death** by Ellen Byron

Watch Her by Edwin Hill

The Madness of Crowds by Louise Penny

Her Perfect Life by Hank Phillippi Ryan

Symphony Road by Gabriel Valjan



WORLD FANTASY AWARDS



The World Fantasy Awards celebrate the best of fantasy fiction published over the last year. This year's finalists for **Best Novel** were:

Black Water Sister by Zen Cho

A Master of Djinn by P. Djeli Clark

The City Beautiful by Aden Polydoros

The Jasmine Throne by Tasha Suri

The Last House on Needless Street by Catriona Ward

The Aurora Awards are presented annually by the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association. This year's finalists for **Best Novel** are:

AURORA AWARDS

A Broken Darkness by Premee Mohamed

Jade Legacy by Fonda Lee

The Quantum War by Derek Künsken

RED X by David Demchuk

Soulstar by C.L. Polk



*Winners starred

>> Consulting Corner



News & Notes

News & Notes is your quarterly professional guide to news, services and connection with the staff at PLS.

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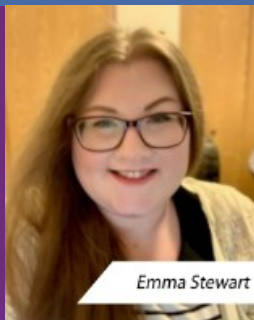
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Louisa Robison

Emma Stewart



Hello from the Consulting Department!

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer, especially as a lot of libraries have been able to return to normal summer

programming. Though we all know that things are going to start getting busy with kids returning to school and libraries gearing up for regular programming! Please remember – especially if you're switching back to fall hours soon! – to keep your website current with up-to-date hours of operation. Mallory can help you update your website hours or you can check out our video tutorials on the PLS website under the Training Toolkit > Website Management. And remember, if you're changing your open hours at any point during the year, to also drop Janet an email at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca as she also updates your hours of operation in Polaris and on the TRACpac app.

Libraries that participated in the TD Summer Reading Club will receive a Statistics and Evaluation form near the end of August to complete. I will send it out as soon as the Club makes it available!

You've probably already heard from the Technical Services department some helpful reminders to get your allotment spent on a regular schedule over the course of the year. This is to try and prevent bottlenecks when everyone remembers how much money they have left to spend at the end of the year just before we close acquisitions activities. But if you need help spending your allotment, the consulting department is here to assist! If you have gaps in your collection and you want us to help build recommendation lists for you, or if you want to pitch in some funds to go towards eContent purchasing, just let us know and we'll be happy to pitch in wherever you need help.

Another way the consulting department is here to help is with the lending of our blocks and kits to supplement your

local collections and programming. Duncan and Barb have done a great job of streamlining the process and making it easier on libraries to see what's available – check it out at <https://peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Our-Services/Blocks-and-Kits>.

A highlight of this summer for the consulting department has certainly been our visits to our public libraries. For the first time since COVID we've been able to resume our regular schedule of consulting travel, and it has been a delight to get out and see you all and hear the updates from library staff! Remember that consulting staff are here to support you and your library services, so reach out to us by phone or email any time you have questions and we're always happy to assist.

We've seen some changes in library managers this spring and summer, so a warm welcome to Kate Fehr at Menno-Simons Community Library, Stacey Obrigewitch at Hines Creek Municipal Library and Chuck Watson at Calling Lake Public Library. We wish all the best to our departing library managers, and welcome to those joining us!

One thing to look forward to this fall? The return of our fall marketing campaign. Mallory is taking the reins on this year's campaign, and it will involve some fun activities for patrons to take part in as well as some great prizes – stay tuned for more info!

Finally, I hope you've visited the 2022 Stronger Together conference page by now and registered for all the great conference sessions. Even if you can't attend them all on the conference dates of October 6 and 7, remember that you can still register and you will be sent recordings to watch at your leisure. This is a great opportunity for free professional development, so register today at <https://strongertogether.heysummit.com/>

Happy autumn from the Consulting Department!

Emma Stewart
Consulting Services Manager

>> Blocks and Kits



Additional eResource Information

We've added an Additional eResource Information space at the top of the eResource tab. This space will include general information about PLS eResources including an eResource / Device Compatibility Sheet and eReader Instructions.

Additionally, we've begun adding Tips and Tricks video tutorials for individual eResources. The Tips & Tricks content are short videos clips, aimed at explaining specific features of each eResource.

New Kits

Peace Library System has 3 brand new programming kits. Programming kits are available to member public libraries to help support in-library programming.

- Coding for Early Learners Kit: Introduce coding concepts to young learners with a variety of tech and games. Content include: Coding Critters, Code & Go Bumblebee, LittleCodr Card Game, Snap Circuits, and Turing Tumble.
- Dungeons & Dragons Kit: Everything you need to run a successful Dungeons & Dragons campaign! Contents Include: 6 Player's Manuals, Monster Manual, Dungeon Master's Guide & Screen, 3 Campaign Books, Vinyl Game mat, and Dice Blocks.
- Physical Literacy Kit: Create physically literate programming and inspire lifelong physical activity! Contents Include: Parachute, Duck Walkers, Body Poetry & Stepping Stone Cards, Balance Hemispheres, Noodle Bits, and Tossing Activities.

Requesting Blocks & Kits - NEW Lending Form

We have recently introduced a NEW way to request Blocks & Kits.

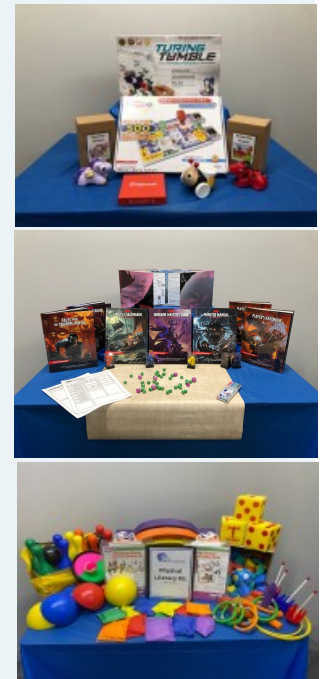
- Check the availability of preferred Block/Kit on the Availability Calendar.
- Place your request using the Google Form. Submitted Forms are sent to Duncan and Barb.
- You will receive a confirmation email with the confirmed lending dates and additional resources, specific to your request.
- Programming Kits / Storytime Kits: We check out/in the items to an enhanced library record at PLS HQ - you do not need to check in/out yourself.
- Book Blocks: same process as before. Check in each book to your library and circulate to patrons.

The Availability Calendar and Google Form are linked on the PLS website under Blocks & Kits: <https://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Our-Services/Blocks-and-Kits>.

Block & Kit loan periods:

- Book Blocks (6 months)
- Seasonal Book Blocks (3 months)
- Programming Kits (3 weeks)
- Storytime Kits (3 months)

Duncan Lotoski
Consultant Librarian



>> Modern Work/Life Balance



Ryan Goff

Technology continues to evolve rapidly and gives us new ways to be more productive, creative, or sometimes both. However, many of these tools are so seamless and easy to access that our lives can blur to the point where we no longer know where work starts and our personal life begins, and vice versa. While many people enjoy this more modern approach to work (assuming it comes with additional flexibility in schedule and/or location), almost everyone can reap the benefits of taking a step back and making some minor (or major) adjustments to their current habits to improve their work life balance.

For myself, the combination of starting a family and working for a consulting firm that had “unwritten expectations” for checking email during off hours & on vacation was pivotal in my life. The last thing anyone wants to do at 11pm on a Tuesday night is run off to put out a fire when their partner is at home with a crying baby. It didn’t take me long to realize this wasn’t working for me, and I made a transition to a new firm. In the process I made it crystal clear that while I’m your guy between 8am-5pm(ish) and during my on-call shifts, I wouldn’t check emails or take calls on evenings, weekends, or

vacation. Not only did this make a dramatic difference in my life (both my quality of work and presence at home), it also helped the company shape their policies to ensure my colleagues received the proper breaks from work and fill any gaps they had in client coverage and skill sets. It was a big win-win overall for everyone.

Here are some additional quick points that I use that may help with your own work/life balance:

- Ensure you stick to your normally allotted hours (20, 35, 40, whatever it may be) if you are flexing your schedule. It’s easy to tack on a couple extra hours here or there when working alone in the office outside of regular hours or remotely.
- Set clear boundaries with colleagues and clients/customers regarding communication and services delivered. It is your responsibility for everyone to know who to contact in your absence, and their responsibility to follow it.
- When done work, have a routine to transition from work to personal and vice versa. For myself, I usually crank up a new song on the way to and from work as part of this routine.
- Make sure to not open your mail app or remove your work account completely if you cannot trust yourself to check in (admittedly, this still takes some work on my part, but I’m getting better).
- Remember that your time has value and is something you can’t get more of. There is always a trade off, so ensure you are using your most valuable resource on the most important thing(s).

As always, if you have any tips you’d like to share or this helps in any way, drop me a line and let me know.

Ryan Goff
Desktop & Network Administrator

>> Going on a Book Hunt

A trip to the library was always a favorite of mine in school. I always wanted to see the new books and find a new horse book to read. The librarian at the school seemed so wise and knowledgeable. How did she know just the book for each student? Was it magic? No, just a keen sense of what her readers like and sometimes she would have that rare wondrous book that many of the students were looking for.

The library was like going on a treasure hunt, only for books. That is why a library is so important in schools and in the public sector. It opens up so many worlds that a patron can get lost in. These are indeed magical places where the book is on the shelf, just waiting to be discovered. So, let’s all go on a book hunt. You never know what you’ll find.

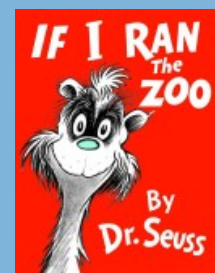
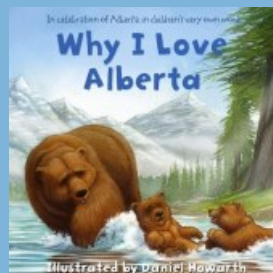
Rose-Marie Finch
Programs/Claims Clerk

Book Recommendations:

“There, There” by Sam McBratney

“Why I Love Alberta” by Daniel Howarth

“If I Ran the Zoo” by Dr. Seuss



>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

Upgrade to Polaris 7.2!

Polaris 7.2 is coming your way this fall. In 2022, October 31st will be known for more than just Halloween – it's Polaris upgrade day! This is going to be more treat than trick. As we get closer to upgrade day, we'll be sending out information on new features and the schedule for the day. It is important to plan for Polaris to be offline for most of the day.

Things to do in preparation for the upgrade:

- Pass the word to all staff. Notices come out on Pecans, but in case they're not signed up for the listserv, spread the news around.
- Check out the offline circulation form ahead of time. It can be found on the PLS website at <https://peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Training-Toolkit/Polaris>
- Let everyone know that the upgrade also means that TRACpac and eResources like OverDrive or CloudLibrary will be offline as well.
- Log out of your Polaris before the upgrade starts.
- Keep an eye on Pecans during Halloween. Progress updates and the official all clear to use 7.2 will be sent out via the listserv.

Auto-renewals

Have you considered enabling auto-renewals for your collection? Have you heard of auto-renewals? If not, here's the information you need! Auto-renewal is a feature in Polaris that automatically renews your items (checked out to your patrons or not) as long as there are A) no holds on this title and B) your patron has not already exceeded the maximum number of renewals set on the item record. Why would you want to turn this on for your patron? Auto-renews saves time for both staff and patrons. Patrons won't have to call the library (or stop by which takes even more time) to have their items renewed and staff won't have to field those calls. There are a few libraries around PLS (and TRAC as a whole) that have already enabled auto-renewals. As a patron, it is a great feature for when I forget to renew my items. My life is easier when it just happens automatically! If you

would like to enable auto-renewals, please email helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Self-Registration

Speaking of saving time, were you aware that new patrons can register for a library card online? Polaris has a self-registration feature available to your library. Once enabled, you can put a link on your library website, on posters, and anywhere else you'd like.

If enabled, patrons can register for a library card on TRACpac. Once a patron registers, they'll get a temporary barcode, which will allow them to start placing holds on items immediately. Polaris also sends an email to library staff letting them know that there has been a new self-registration. These accounts are only temporary accounts (usually set to expire in 30 days) but are easily updated when they pop into the library to pick up their holds.

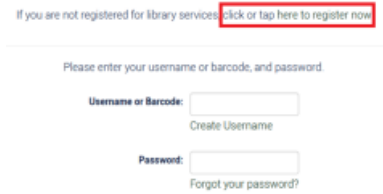
Interested in self-registration? Send an email to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca for more information or to request us to enable it for you.

Patron Billings

You all know about the notices Polaris sends out. Options for notices are mail, email, telephone, or text. Holds notices, overdue notices, and the like are sent out via whichever method a patron has requested. Billings for lost items have traditionally been sent out as printed notices only. However, they don't have to be sent only that way. There is flexibility to have lost item bills sent via email as well. Why bother? Emails are sent automatically by Polaris, whereas the current setup requires staff to print the notice (using paper) and mail them to the patron (requiring envelopes and stamps, plus a trip to the mailbox). Plus, the delivery time for email is so much quicker than that of snail mail.

If you'd like to make the changes to how your library sends their bills for lost items, email helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca to have us update the settings for you.

Janet Ayles
IT & Technical Services Manager



>> Welcome to the Team!



Freya Fonkalsrud

Peace Library System is excited to welcome Freya Fonkalsrud to the PLS team as a new courier. Approximately twenty-nine years ago, Freya Faye Fonkalsrud had the terrible misfortune of being born. Never one to bend to circumstances out of her control, she strives to be a continual affront to the norms of fate by choosing happiness. Freya finds joy in a warm cup of tea, her two cats, her home theater (mostly used for gaming), her growing family, and her all consuming love of tabletop games like D&D.

Freya Fonkalsrud
Shipper/Courier/Driver

>> From Grande Prairie Public Library

Tough Topics: Death, Dying and Grief Support at GPPL

Two things are certain in life: death and taxes, and no one likes dealing with either. No one wants to think about them until they have to, and everyone has to at some point. When crises arise, many people turn to libraries for support. We aim to support them through our collections, services, and programming. Over the years, we've developed a variety of programs to help patrons deal with life's toughest topics: death, dying, grief, and loss.

Wills and Estates

We've been partnering with local law firms to offer Wills and Estates programming for a number of years. Estate planning provides essential information for people to get their affairs in order. They come to learn the basics and get their questions answered. These sessions are well-attended and offered throughout the year.

Death Café

We have been running a Death Café in partnership with the Grande Prairie Palliative Care Society (GPPSC) since 2017. A Death Café is an informal meeting with no agenda, objective, or theme in which people meet to discuss death. It provides a safe space for participants to share their feelings about death, which helps reduce their fear and fosters an appreciation for the time they have left. It is worth noting that death cafés are discussion groups rather than grief support or counselling sessions.

GPPL has been fortunate to partner with two funeral homes and have also enlisted a local death doula to facilitate the program. When the pandemic hit, the programs transitioned to a virtual environment. During this time, we gained participants from other communities. We currently offer the program as a



hybrid model, with an in-person or Zoom option available to accommodate the diverse needs of our group. We meet once a month and typically attract between 8 to 12 attendees.

Our partnership with GPPCS has been a great opportunity for us to reach new audiences and promote our resources. For example, GPPCS includes a Library brochure on grief resources in their client care packages. They've also invited us to showcase our materials at palliative care events, and have further developed our partnership to provide Library services to palliative care residents and their families. In 2020, GPPCS acquired a number of iPads and approached us about accessing e-resources. We set them up with 30 institutional memberships that residents can use to access eBooks and e-Audiobooks through Libby and CloudLibrary. We also collaborated with the Center for Equitable Library Services (CELA) to set each of the iPads up with CELA memberships. These



memberships provide users with unlimited access to CELA's collection of audiobooks, which is an important resource as many residents may struggle with print disabilities.

Partner Loss Support Group

This is a new program designed for anyone who has lost their significant other to gather and share their experience. It was developed as a direct result of a community need, which became apparent to our programmers on social media.

The group was founded by Sandy Plummer, who lost her husband to cancer. She attended local support groups but found participants couldn't fully relate to her as closely as someone who lost a spouse. She inquired if anyone would be interested in a partner loss support group on Facebook and the response was overwhelming; other people who lost their husbands, wives, or partners were interested in forming a support group. She booked a room at the library to host the group, and after seeing it on social media, our Adult Program Coordinator offered to develop it into a Library program.

Attendees usually share their individual stories if they feel comfortable doing so. As Plummer says, "We laugh, we cry but most importantly we understand each other. And I think a large part of getting through our grief is sharing, talking, and knowing that what you think and feel is the same as the rest of us walking the same road."

The program is becoming more popular with each meeting. More people are finding out about it and wanting to get involved. As the success of this program illustrates, grieving people need to get

together and share experiences, and libraries can support them by providing a safe space to do so.

In Summary

Death is an inevitable part of life. Resources on estate planning, coping with loss, and navigating end of life issues is critical information. Programs to help people come to terms with their mortality and provide opportunities for grief support are essential services.

Library staff generally aren't experts in end of life care, estate planning or grief support, but we can provide opportunities by collaborating with local experts. If you're interested in running programs to support end of life issues reach out to potential community partners, which could include:

- Palliative Care Society
- Funeral homes
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center
- Alberta Health Services
- Law offices
- Death Doulas
- Existing grief support groups

Through community partnerships, libraries can provide opportunities to help people navigate end of life issues, put their affairs in order, and cope with loss. No one wants to talk about death until they need to - and at some point, everyone needs to. We can work together to ensure the people know where to turn to for support when they need it.

Jill Kergan
Community Outreach Librarian



Around the System...

Here's what's been going on around Peace Library System this summer! Remember, you can send your own photos and articles at any time to estewart@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca and they will be included in the next newsletter. We'd love to hear

Falher Library / Bibliothèque Dentinger

We had the opportunity to have a children's author come and join our open house at the Falher Library during our yearly Honey Fest on June 18, 2022. Amy May Robinson a local author from Peace River with several children's books "Through the Eyes of a Child" engaged the community children in story time and met locals at our open house.

Amy May Robinson was born in a small town in Saskatchewan to two loving parents and a great older sister. They grew up in a cozy home on a small farm in Peace River Alberta. They had many adventures and a fun selection of farm animals. They had chickens, pigs, ducks, geese, pigeons, cats and dogs. As a huge animal lover, she made friends with them all. She hung out with them, painted the chickens' nails and was chased by a rooster or two but she loved it.

After becoming a mom of three, she decided to pick up a pencil and write again. She would then share these stories with her loved ones, and they were always happy to hear them. They were engaged in the feeling behind her writing, so she decided it was her turn to write a children's story. A story that could inspire the feeling of love by words alone and have illustrations that engage and entertain while listening.

Doreen Horvath



High Prairie Municipal Library

Lots of exciting things have been happening at High Prairie Municipal Library this summer. New Non-Fiction Shelving arrived! Chris Loveday was amazing as always to work with.

The library hosted the 2022 Penny Carnival on August 11th. This was the 27th annual Penny Carnival and 295 people came out for the fun. We had Alice Fun Kitchen Catering donate 200 passes to the Carnival so kids didn't even pay for their tickets this year!!

Tracy Ireland



Grande Cache Municipal Library

We have had a wonderful summer! Our Summer Reading Club was well attended throughout the six weeks. Most Mondays were 30 plus kids and parents. We went with a Once Upon A Time theme and the kids grew beanstalks. This was how we visually kept track of their reading. They loved seeing their beanstalks grow each week! We also hung a large dragon and for all the books read, we added scales, made from discarded picture book. He looks fabulous and was almost completely covered in by the time SRC was done.



During the rest of the summer, we had other programs weekly and some special pop up events. We held weekly Lego drop in challenges. This was geared for ages 6 – 12 years. It went off well too. Everyone loves Lego and parents often got in on the fun. Wednesday Matinees were probably the least attended scheduled event we held. There was always one or two takers but never a large group. I can't say that I blame people for wanting to be outside in the beautiful weather! Fairy Gardens went over well as a pop up event. We held two, one for 12 and under and one for teens. Both were full. July saw us celebrating National Hot Dog Day with stories, hot dog trivia, and of course barbequed hotdogs! Attendance was great. The daycare even brought their kids to participate.



For July, and August we collaborated with the BEST coordinator Lisa Beckstead to offer a few more programs. She held a Slumberkins camp every week at the Library. This way she was able to take her holidays and while gone we instructed the program. She also held a book club at the Library and we read to the participants and helped with weekly meetings. Finally, we collaborated with Best and the Tourism and

Interpretive center to offer kids Mindfulness in the park, and Jr. Adventurers. This was a great collaboration, well attended, and we were able to use our story walk yet again! This was a 3 -day event held every day from 9am – 12pm. August's pop up event was National I Love My Feet Day. One of the local spas donated a gift basket and a spa ritual pedicure. There were a couple of very happy young ladies and one very disappointed young man! We were able to fix his disappointment with a Summer Reading T-shirt. Who doesn't love a dragon?!



Wishing all our fellow Libraries a wonderful back to school start!!

Samantha McDonald

La Glace Community Library

In May author Sue Farrell Holler was welcomed to La Glace Municipal Library.

Wanda Penner



More from around the System...

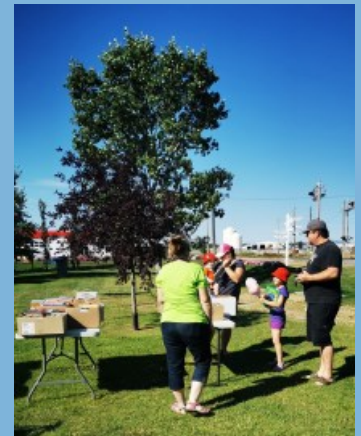
Grimshaw Municipal Library

The third annual Popcorn and Prizes in the Park event happened at the North Branch of the Grimshaw Municipal Library on Saturday, August 20. There must be an unwritten rule somewhere saying that outdoor library programming must take place during a heatwave, monsoon or arctic cold front! We found all the shady spots and tents we could muster, and had a great afternoon closing up the North Branch.

In addition to having our free books out and on display, we had popcorn, door prize draws, crafts, wandering minstrels, a new StoryWalk, the chance to play Plinko for prizes, and free cotton candy. Fun fact, cotton candy does not stay fluffy in warm temperatures for long, so it absolutely HAS to be eaten.

We had representatives from Peace Region Family Resource Network, Grimshaw/Berwyn and District Community Adult Learning, and Peace River Area Monitoring Program join us in the park for the afternoon, too, as well as a handful of teenage volunteers. After site cleanup, it was time for ice cream, and a group photo on the deck.

Vivianne Gayton



Kinuso Municipal Library

Over the summer Kinuso Municipal Library was open two days a week. It has been great to see so many children come out for our children's programming.

Susan Moody



Smith Community Library

Well, I have had a very busy summer. I had 28 children registered for our summer program and it turned out to be fantastic. We did activities such as hot potato water balloon, bubble art, we painted stones and made a tic tac toe game. Other activities included tie dying bandannas and making stress balls out of balloons. A lot of excitement was when we had a pinata, the kids loved that. Water balloon baseball fit in with the weather and was a great way to cool off. Most recently, we made bouncy balls.

Ruth Reay



Tangent Community Library

This summer Story Under the Maples is back at the Tangent Community Library. Patrons can enjoy a story as they walk around outside the library. From August 10th, 2022 until September 30th, 2022 families can also enjoy a Story by the River at Tangent Park.

Pat Boettcher



Heritage Day 2022

On Saturday July 30th, 2022 Peace Library System Partnered with Grande Prairie Public Library and had a booth at the Grande Prairie Heritage Day festival. Grande Prairie brought fun games from their Library of Things for families to enjoy, discarded books for people to take home or read in the park, and a laptop to sign people up for library cards and to check out Heritage themed books in the park. Peace Library System promoted various eResources such as Ancestry Library Edition, Read Alberta eBooks and Prairie Indigenous eBooks, and Library and Archives Canada. We interacted with 180 people and loved the opportunity to interact with the public and promote the many services and resources Peace Library System Member Libraries have to offer. Having a community presence is so important for libraries and I highly recommend keeping an eye out for potential outreach opportunities that take place throughout the year.

Mallory Bruinsma



>> Interlibrary Loans and Relais



Every library has one. That insatiable reader, the student stressed for Coles Notes or that intellect that just won't let it go. You have searched your library, then the TRAC catalogue.... Now what?

Our next step, would be to turn to our provincial group catalogue, RELAIS, to search the holdings of participating Alberta libraries. These libraries include the collections of other systems - academic, research, and public. Chances are good that you may be able to find what your patron is seeking.

How to...

Simply log into the staff RELAIS portal. <https://alberta.relais-host.com/user/login.html?group=staff>. Your login and password are your library acronym, all in lower case. Once you have signed in you will have access to document services which provides a staff search engine for two search groups: Academic or Public Libraries. Requests can be searched by title, author, or subject. For best results use the items ISBN to ensure that you find the exact edition. Try to avoid using semicolons, hyphens or dashes when searching by title or subject. Less can be more when searching – use precise language as using too many words may obscure the results.

Now that you have received a hit on your item, you may expand the selection to submit the request for the patron. RELAIS will prompt the user to search for the patron. If this is a first-time request for a patron you may have to enter the patron's barcode twice to expedite the request. Once you have located your patron, submit the request. A request number will then be generated. Once you have a request number you can use the staff portal to follow up on the requests.

Additional thoughts...

What happens when you cannot find the item in RELAIS? The National Union Catalogue – Voila is a great resource. A subset of Worldcat, this catalogue accesses collections of libraries across Canada. This can help locate a possible lending institution. Armed with this information, send me the details of the request. Every reasonable effort will be made to locate item for your patron.

When submitting requests, please be realistic with expectations. Many lenders outside of RELAIS will not loan audiovisual resources. Similarly, certain reference materials, particularly old/rare items, may be subject to in-house use only policies. Finally, new publications are difficult to obtain because of demand. Consider purchasing the newly released items for your library. Chances are you will enjoy higher circulation stats.

If you need a RELAIS refresher, check out the video tutorial available on Niche Academy. And as always, you can call or email questions to me.

Barbara Johnson
Relais ILL Technician & Member Services Assistant

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DID THE MOTHER BUFFALO SAID TO HER SON WHEN SHE WENT TO THE LIBRARY?



Hythe Municipal Library got creative with the Peace Library System Button Maker Kit this spring and made some truly amazing buttons. In honor of their artistry we want to ask all of you "What did the mother buffalo say to her son when she went to the library?" Send your best guess to

mb Bruinsma@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca and your response could be featured in the next issue of the News and Notes Newsletter!

To learn more about the button maker and to request it yourself visit <https://peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/Our-Services/Blocks-and-Kits/Programming-Kits>. You can also use that link to watch a tutorial video on button making and view button making resources.

If you have questions about the kit please contact Barbara Johnson at bjohnson@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca or Duncan Lotoski at dlotoski@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

>> Stronger Together 2022

2022 Stronger Together

VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE

THE ALBERTA LIBRARY + PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
+ PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM + YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL LIBRARY

October 6 & 7, 2022

Registration is NOW OPEN for [Stronger Together](#), a virtual library conference hosted jointly by Parkland Regional Library System, Peace Library System, The Alberta Library, & Yellowhead Regional Library.

The conference will take place over two days from October 6th—October 7th, 2022, and will feature:

- Keynote speakers Hamza Khan, Cicely Lewis, Dr. Philip McRae, and Dr. Debbie Reese
- A virtual poster exhibit
- A virtual puzzle room
- Sponsor panels
- Two days of excellent panels presented by amazing speakers

Stronger Together is once again **free to attend**, and we welcome anyone with a passion for libraries to register today.

At our conference website, you can explore all the details of the [conference schedule](#), find answers to [frequently asked questions](#), and [register to attend](#).

Join us from **October 6th–7th, 2022** as we become [Stronger Together](#).



Peace
Library System

8301-110
Street
Grande Prairie,

Peace Library System's Events Calendar

Land Acknowledgment

Peace Library System acknowledges Treaty 8 territory of the Cree, Beaver, and Dene people, and Region 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta. We are grateful to live, work, and learn together on this land which has been home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples since time immemorial. We recognize this land as an act of reconciliation, and we also commit to supporting and celebrating our local indigenous communities while working to break down institutional barriers to make our libraries

Submit to News & Notes!

Submissions are welcome at any time and will be in the next newsletter. **Submissions from public and school libraries welcome!**

Please send photos and articles to Mallory Bruinsma at mb Bruinsma@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca.

Please note: PLS email inboxes can only receive emails less than 10 MB in size. If you do not receive an email acknowledging that your submission was received, delivery may have been prevented due to file size. Please contact Mallory Bruinsma.

Alberta Culture Days

September 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022

International Literacy Day

September 8, 2022

PLS Board Meeting

September 17, 2022

November 26, 2022

Orange Shirt Day

September 30, 2022

Canadian Library Month

October 1, 2022 - October 31, 2022

Stronger Together Virtual Conference

October 6, 2022 - October 7th, 2022

Register at

strongertogether.heysummit.com

Canadian Library Workers Day

October 15, 2022

Executive Committee Meeting

October 22, 2022

Canadian School libraries Day

October 25, 2022