

NEWS & Notes

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 2015

Merry Christmas

From Your PLS Headquarters Staff!



Standing (left to right): Dorothy Tay-Ellingboe; Dennis Sheppard; Cliff Lesh; Janet Ayles; Karen Van der Woerd; Tora Volkers; Linda Duplessis; Rae Weniger; Emma Stewart; Fred Richard. Seated (left to right): Carol Downing; Wendy Hodges; Alrene Dempster; Rose Marie Finch; Katherine Wiebe.
Absent: Julia Little; Janet Schultz; Sheri Goff.

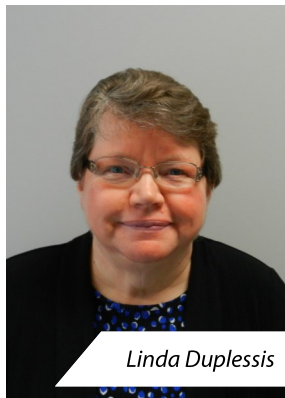
PLS welcomes Fred Richard, Network Administrator



Peace Library System is pleased to announce that Fred Richard began work with us on October 1, 2015. Fred is looking forward to working with the libraries in his new role as Desktop and Network Administrator. Fred earned his diploma at the Nova Scotia Community College (his home province) in 2014. He worked in IT in Halifax before moving with his family out to Grande Prairie.

We know that you'll enjoy getting to meet him when he visits your library in the coming months. In the meantime, feel free to contact him with any IT questions and concerns you have. Fred can be reached by phone at PLS Headquarters or by email at frichard@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. >>

>> From the Director



Linda Duplessis

It was great to see so many of you at the Rural Libraries Conference in September. We had a very good turn-out, interesting keynote speakers and many excellent workshops. We know that most people went back to their libraries inspired and more informed as a result of the conference. Thanks to Emma Stewart for so capably coordinating her first ever RLC – even amidst issues with the venue.

Early Childhood Library Services Symposium

The Public Library Services Branch is offering a symposium called Little Ones in Libraries on February 25-26, 2016 in Edmonton. It is targeted to staff and managers from all public libraries in Alberta, and we encourage as many as possible to attend. Topics include the science of early childhood development; the public library's role in early childhood development; potential partnerships; and related information. This fits in nicely with Peace Library System's goal to support member libraries with early literacy. In 2016, training funds have been allocated to assist smaller libraries in attending the symposium.

Linda Duplessis
Director

2016 – 2018 Plan of Service

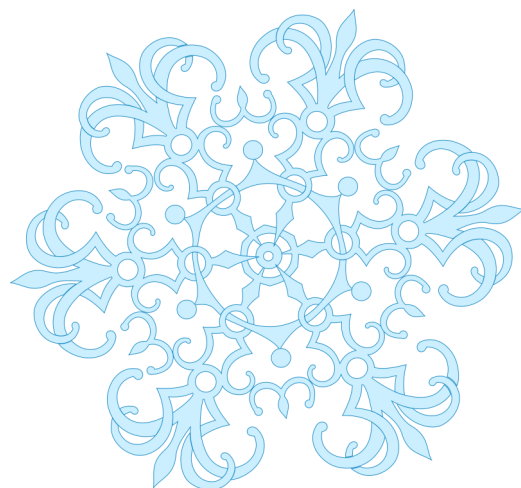
Watch for Peace Library System's new 2016-2018 Plan of Service. It will be presented to the Peace Library Board on November 28 and sent out to members in early January. It incorporates strategies to assist member libraries and boards in key areas identified in the needs assessment. Thank you all very much for your valuable input. The staff here at PLS will continue our commitment to support your library and help you offer excellent services in your community.

GST Procedures

Peace Library System (PLS) was granted municipal status for GST purposes through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Effective July 1, 2015, PLS no longer charges GST on invoices to its members. The monthly Polaris statements will no longer identify the GST spent as libraries will no longer need to track it for rebate purposes. Beginning in 2016, PLS will consolidate member libraries' Full and Partial accounts into one account. The entries on the financial statements will continue to identify the types of deposits and purchases going through your account. Separate sub-accounts may still be set up to track special purchases, such as those made through a grant program.

Safety Audit

We recently had a certified safety officer from a local company review PLS policies, procedures and forms relating to employee health and safety. This was a very useful exercise which will help PLS improve its policies and procedures, update its reporting forms, and encourage staff to respond appropriately when safety is an issue.



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 Emma Stewart at estewart@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 Emma Stewart.

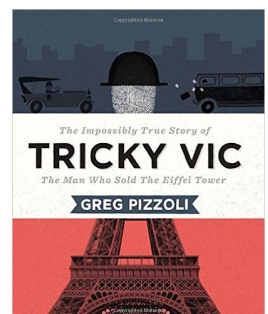
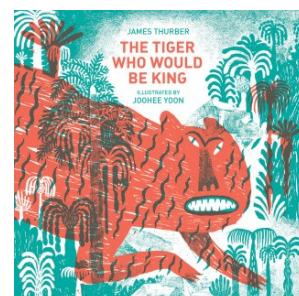
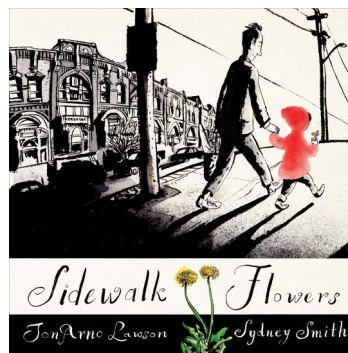
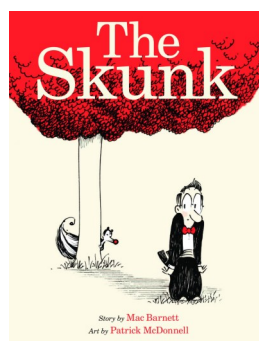
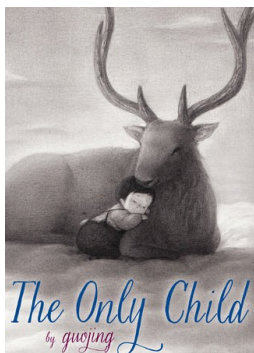
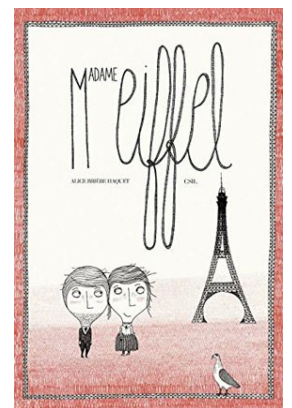
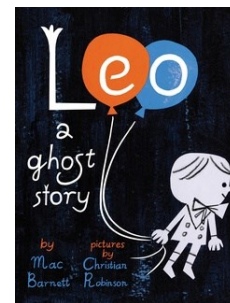
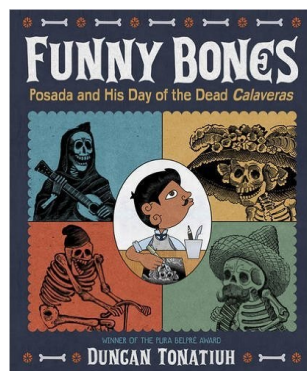
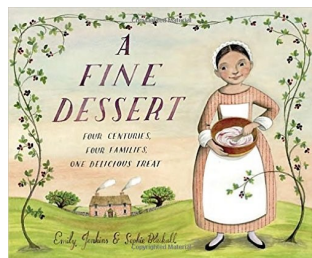
What's trending in books

THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2015

Whether you're looking for a Christmas present for the little ones or looking for the best and most beautiful books to round out your children's collection, these titles are the best place to start. This annual list, which has been around since 1952, is judged purely on artistic merit and is selected by an independent panel of judges.

This year's best illustrated children's books are:

- Big Bear Little Chair**, written and illustrated by Lizzy Boyd
A Fine Dessert: Four Centuries, Four Families, One Delicious Treat, by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Sophie Blackall
Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras, by Duncan Tonatiuh
Leo: A Ghost Story, by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Christian Robinson
Madame Eiffel: The Love Story of the Eiffel Tower, by Alice Brière-Haquet, illustrated by Csil
The Only Child, written and illustrated by Guojing
The Skunk, by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Patrick McDonnell
Sidewalk Flowers, by JonArno Lawson, illustrated by Sydney Smith
The Tiger Who Would Be King, by James Thurber, illustrated by JooHee Yoon
Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower, by Greg Pizzoli



>> 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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Katherine Wiebe and Emma Stewart

We've had a very busy fall!

Rural Libraries Conference

The Rural Libraries Conference saw 146 delegates, slightly up from last year, and we were thrilled that 32% (46 delegates) were first-timers! Public library staff accounted for 52% of the attendance, school library staff 23%, and trustees and councilors 23%. Congratulations to Emma and the PLS staff for all their hard work, and thank you to all the speakers and exhibitors for making it a success. For more on the Rural Libraries Conference, see page 15.

Excellence Awards

On September 24, the Excellence in Library Service awards were presented to Charlene McCoy, library manager at Hythe Municipal Library; and to Colleen Rook, librarian at Worsley Central School. Great work Charlene and Colleen!

Author Tours

The author tours were well received in October with a total audience count of 1012. Emma drove illustrator Gerry Rasmussen through our Eastern region and Katherine drove Joan Marie Galat, children's non-fiction author, on the Central tour. For more on the Author Tours, see page 14.

New Library Managers

We'd like to welcome four new library managers to Peace Library System: **Ruth Reay** at Smith Community Library; **Margaret Janzen**

at Menno-Simons Community Library; **Susan MacDougall** at Keg River Community Library; and **LeeAnn Berry** at Peace River Municipal Library.

Salary Survey

The 2015 Salary Survey of Peace Library System public libraries was sent out on November 6, so we hope you've had a chance to review it. We gathered data on questions ranging from benefits to salaries to library training. Seventy-one percent of public libraries responded to the survey. A summary of the responses showed that hours open to the public and paid staff hours have remained stable. There have been improvements to the pay scale for all staff, and the average wage for library managers has risen by \$1.96 per hour since the 2011 survey. A quarter of the library managers who responded receive some sort of employee benefits; little correlation was shown between years of experience and salary; and between library training and salary.

ME Libraries

The ME Libraries initiative celebrated its one-year anniversary on October 1. ME Libraries allows patrons to register online to use their local public library card in-person at over 300 public libraries across Alberta for free. In its first year, there were 2,534 registrations from around Alberta to come visit TRAC libraries, and patrons of TRAC libraries placed 14,560 registrations to visit other libraries around Alberta (each patron can register a number of times depending on how many libraries they wish to visit, so this is not a count of individuals, but rather of registrations).

We wish you all happy holidays and Merry Christmas!

Katherine Wiebe and Emma Stewart
Consulting Services Department

>> Board Service Awards

At the September board meeting several Peace Library Board members were honoured for their long service. These include **Raoul Johnson**, MD of Smoky River (5 years), **Belinda (Linda) Halabisky**, County of Northern Lights (5 years), and **Brock Smith** County of Grande Prairie (20 years), all pictured below. Those not present are **Lynn Coulter**, City of Grande Prairie Library Board (5 years), **Cheryl Novak**, Village of Nampa (5 years), and **Brenda Stanich**, Town of Spirit River (5 years).

We thank you for all your service and hard work on behalf of Peace Library System!



Left: Linda Halabisky, Veronica Bliska

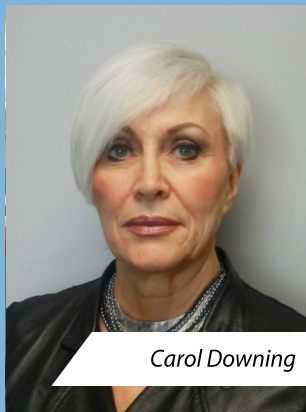


Right: Raoul Johnson, Veronica Bliska



Left: Brock Smith, Veronica Bliska

>> Tech Services Tidbits



Carol Downing

We are happy to report that cataloguing is current at headquarters.

Since June 1, Acquisitions staff have been attaching library barcodes to all items catalogued at headquarters for public libraries. Barcodes are stored at headquarters and are placed on the upper right hand corner of the back cover. This process will ensure that there is only one barcode on each item and will alleviate the issue of libraries not replacing the barcode in the item record created by Peace Library System, but creating a new item record which did not link to the item. We have left a few library barcodes with each library to attach before they send items into headquarters for cataloguing.

Acquisitions staff have been busy preparing for year-end rollover

activities. The libraries have been notified that the last day to have **orders** into headquarters for ordering in 2015 is November 27th including TS3 orders. The last day to have **vouchers** at headquarters for payment in 2015 is December 14th. All orders or vouchers received after those dates will not be entered until January 2016.

We welcome new school Information Specialists in the following schools: **Adele Alexander** at Holy Family School in Grimshaw; **Kristy Boerchers** at St. Andrews R. C. Separate School in High Prairie; **Joanna Hilton** at Menno-Simons Community School in Cleardale; and **Amanda Roy** at Oscar Adolphson Primary School in Valleyview.

The Public Library Services Branch is conducting research on the most efficient way to deliver interlibrary loan material to libraries in Alberta. More information will be forthcoming down the road.

The Technical Services staff wishes all of you a very Merry Christmas.

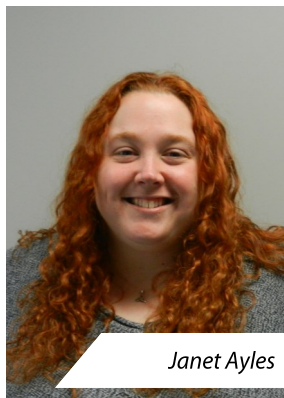
>> Library Needs Assessment Yields Valuable Information

Peace Library System recently distributed a Needs Assessment Survey for the residents of the County of Northern Lights to assess library services in the region. Our thanks to all area residents who took the time to fill out the survey. The results will be analyzed and used to help improve the services available in local public libraries. A draw was made by Peace Library System from all respondents to the survey. Congratulations to **Mona Salzl** of Manning who won the **Kobo Glo HD eReader**. Thank you as well to the County of Northern Lights for the distribution of the survey.



Pictured: Amber Jacobson (Library Manager, Manning Municipal Library), Belinda Halabisky (Councilor, County of Northern Lights), Mona Salzl (winner of the eReader) and Terry Ungarian (Councilor, County of Northern Lights).

>> From the IT Desk



Janet Ayles

Christmas Hours

As the Dropkick Murphys once said, "The season's upon us, it's that time of year." The snow is here (at least in Grande Prairie) and the Christmas lights are being lit. I already have my trip back home for the holidays planned. Do you have your holidays planned? Will your library be closed so you and the rest of your staff can take advantage of some time with the family or some well-

deserved R&R?

If the answer is yes, please make sure you let me know at helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. In order for Polaris to calculate due dates and fines correctly, we need to input the dates that your library will be closed.

Staffing in the IT Department

I am pleased to welcome Fred Richard, our new Desktop and Network Administrator. Fred comes from Nova Scotia and has recently moved to Grande Prairie with his family. He brings with him a whole lot of enthusiasm and willingness to learn. So if you encounter any technical problems, feel free to reach out to Fred and he will give you a hand!

Leap

Web-based circulation is here! Leap is a Polaris tool which will allow you to perform circulation functions (check-in, check-out, patron registration, etc) from a web interface. This will allow your library staff to step out from behind the circ desk and visit your community on their turf! Leap can be accessed from the handy-dandy new quick link on the PLS website or at <https://leap.tracpac.ab.ca>. Information on how to use Leap can be found on the PLS website under Training Toolkit > Polaris > Leap.

Mobile Lab

Peace Library System is the proud owner of two mobile computer labs. Each lab contains five laptops and a projector. Labs are available for library use and can be booked through me at jayles@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. This is an excellent opportunity to include computers in your library programming!



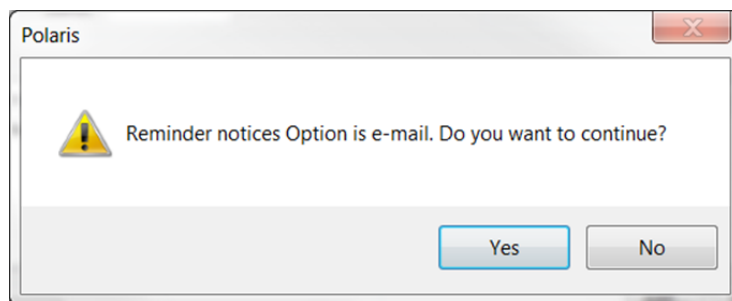
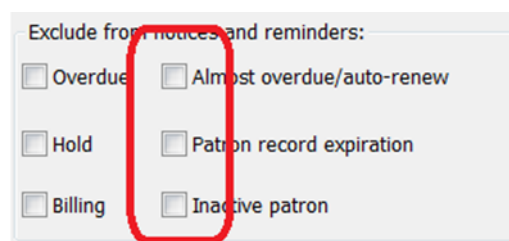
HelpDesk

As always, if you have any questions or non-emergency concerns please submit them to helpdesk@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca. However, for emergencies (see the following definition), please call! Emergencies, also known as **critical functions**, are problems logging in to Polaris, checking items in or out, patron registration, or searching in TRACpac.



Polaris Error – reminder method is email

Since the Polaris upgrade in early October, you have probably seen Polaris pop-up with an error message during patron registration letting you know that **Reminder notices Option is e-mail**. This is a result of a new feature in Polaris 5.0. Patrons are now able to opt out of reminders (Almost overdue, Patron record expiration, and Inactive patron) which are only sent by email. So if your patron has not provided an email for their account and you have not checked to exclude them from these reminders, you will get the pop-up. You will also see this pop-up message when removing an email address from an account and not opting out of the reminders. This is not a deal-breaker though. Library staff are able to click yes, get past this pop-up, and save the new patron account.



Janet Ayles
IT Services Manager

>> From Grande Prairie Public Library

by **Charlotte Anderson, Emerging Technologies Librarian, Grande Prairie Public Library**

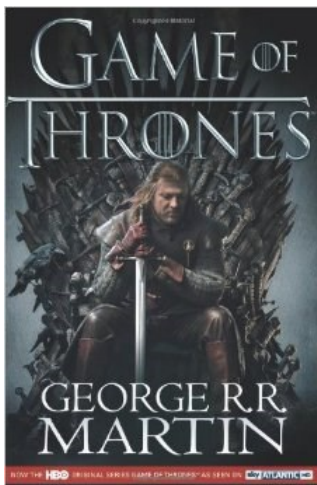
I have, and will, stand on tabletops to reinforce the Library as a Geek Space, because we already are and it's time to embrace it. It is now a norm for people to openly celebrate their enjoyment of the things they like, and they are doing so in public forums on a day to day basis. It's easy enough to see

when you consider the line ups for the last Harry Potter book, or the way Game of Thrones has become a common conversational piece, so that even people who haven't read the books or watched the television have heard the phrase "Winter is Coming" said in dire tones (probably all through the month of October). Books turned to movies are becoming blockbusters, and books turned to television shows are some of the most commonly watched shows on television. Part of this

popularity is due to the fact that they already had loyal fans eager to watch adaptations and consume new media of the thing they love, but part of it comes down to the fan's enthusiasm being contagious because it is visible, it is public, and it's about things right within our walls.

It's a pithy way to put it, but when planning LibriCon 2015 our mantra was "You like stuff? We like stuff too! And we like people who like stuff." It's simply put, but what it comes down to is that there is a sense of openness and pride associated with enjoying comic books, spy movies, and young adult dystopian books, to name a few, that brings fans right to our doorstep. Where better to find out where "Winter is Coming" comes from firsthand than by checking it out at the library? We have options, even: do you want to find out in DVD format? Book format? Audiobook format? eBook format? Graphic novel? We are well aware of the impact these adaptations have on circulation for items in our collection, ranging from Fifty Shades of Grey's prolonged popularity to sudden requests for the Giver.

We're also thinking of what this means in terms of programming. I am a huge geek who spends a lot of personal time delving into online communities, but while it is advantageous to know certain things about fan engagement first-hand, it's also not impossible to run programs based on fan engagement with very little knowledge of it. Like the people who understand that "Winter is Coming" is a quote from Game of Thrones, we can all look at a list of YA books being turned into movies in 2016 and anticipate which ones will take. When it comes down to it, programs that cater towards fans



are really just providing space for them to be themselves with other people with similar interests. That's the Library's bread and butter, and one of the major factors we took into consideration when planning LibriCon as a day-long series of programs and community engagement.

(I would like to add as an aside: this year the planning committee was comprised of 5 members of our programming staff through all departments and only 2 of them identify as geeks.)

The schedule for LibriCon 2015 contained a showing of Ant-Man, a trivia contest, the Cosplay Fashion Show contest, a Role Playing Dating Game, crafts, colouring, outside experts and partners, and high staff involvement. This year, LibriCon expanded into the Theresa Sargent Hall, which is a city-owned hall in the Montrose Cultural Centre, the building that houses the Library. This allowed us to invite in local comic book stores as vendors, but more interestingly, invite local artisans and artists to sell their wares. Since vendors are a huge component of Comic Cons, and community engagement/partnerships falls into our strategic plan, one of our main goals for 2015 was to figure out a way to make it happen when working with Library policy restrictions. We had local experts from the comic book stores running tournaments with us, including: Wii gaming, Yu-Gi-Oh cards, and Magic!, which took a lot of the pressure off of staff, and two of our partners also agreed to be sponsors.

We're estimating between 500-600 people attended this year, up from 300-400 from last year. Unpacking the statistics from LibriCon is a challenge considering so many people were there to socialize rather than attend programs and spent a lot of time in the Hall, but some of our most popular events included the movie (60), the trivia contest (40), and a Doctor Who sonic screwdriver craft (45). The Cosplay Fashion Show was the main featured program of the day, with 70 entries, including groups to round the number of entries up to about 100, and approximately 2-300 in the audience. We followed it up with the Role Playing Dating Game, which was also a huge success with 9 contestants and 80 people in the audience – the basic idea was to run the Dating Game with people role playing as their costumes and it was a hit!

We're looking forward to 2016 LibriCon on October 15.

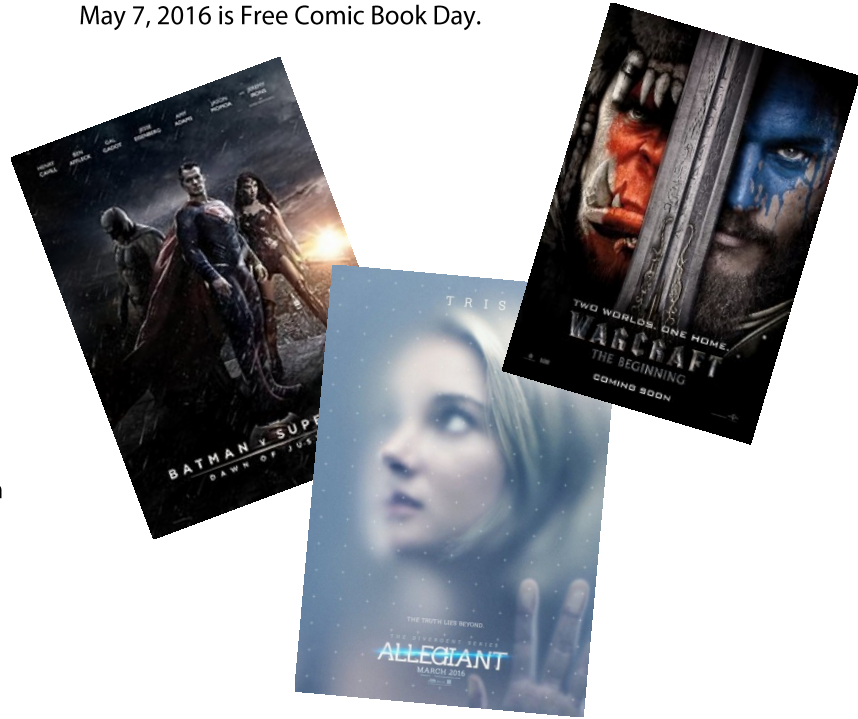


Upcoming dates to work in a Geeky Programming Idea:

- Movie releases:
 - **Batman v Superman** in March 2016
 - **Captain America: Civil War** in April 2016
 - **X-Men: Apocalypse** in May 2016
 - **Star Trek Beyond** in July 2016
 - **Suicide Squad** in August 2016
- Book releases:
 - **Allegiant** in March 2016
 - **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** in November 2016

- Other:
 - **Warcraft** in May 2016 [Warcraft Video Game]

May 7, 2016 is Free Comic Book Day.



>> LibriCon 2015



Start of the Cosplay Fashion Show



Team Rocket Cosplayers



Charlotte Anderson in Agent Peggy Carter Cosplay



Vendor set-up in the Theresa Sargent Hall.

Around the System...

Libraries around Peace Library System have had a busy autumn! Here's what's been going on around the system. 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 from you!

Rotary Club of Slave Lake Municipal Library

On Halloween the Slave Lake Library held its first haunted house and it was a great success! We completely transformed the library into a dark maze and got so many great compliments! Some of the things we had in the haunted house were an aisle filled with spiders and bugs, a graveyard, a creepy librarian, people popping out, and a mad scientist. About 500 people came out; we had a line out to the road until about ten minutes before the haunted house was over. With such a great turn out it is definitely something we plan on doing again next year!

—Submitted by Desiree Remillard, Rotary Club of Slave Lake Municipal Library



Peace River Municipal Library

Peace River Municipal Library had a busy Halloween! We started our day with a Witchy Story Time. In the afternoon, teams carved pumpkins and decorated pumpkin, skeleton, or spider web shaped cakes. Then we remained open until 8:00pm so the Peace River Interact Club could use our basement for their annual Haunted House. There was much laughter, more than a few screams, and the odd tear, but everyone had fun!

—Submitted by Beverly Shewchuk, Peace River Municipal Library



Smith Community Library

Smith Community Library has been newly decorated for the holiday season!

—Submitted by Ruth Reay, Smith Community Library



McLennan Municipal Library

McLennan Municipal Library has jumped onto the bandwagon and now boasts an adult colouring group. Membership is free and open to anyone who wants to spend an hour a week rediscovering their inner child.

On October 21, in partnership with the nearest Parent Link Centre, McLennan Municipal Library kicked off its new *Welcome Baby* program. The program is designed to create awareness of the benefits of early literacy.

Finally, on October 25, McLennan Municipal Library was pleased to host an author reading by hometown girl, Cecile Lussier Gannon. Sixty people packed into the library to listen to Cecile read the thrilling tale of her parents' clandestine courtship in the 1930s. She also sold and autographed copies of her book, *Cream Can Romance*.

—Maureen Fisher, McLennan Municipal Library



High Prairie Municipal Library

High Prairie Municipal Library held its Annual Kids Christmas Party on Friday, November 20th. There were crafts, games, snacks and even Santa! We had a great turn out.

—Submitted by Tracy Roberts, High Prairie Municipal Library

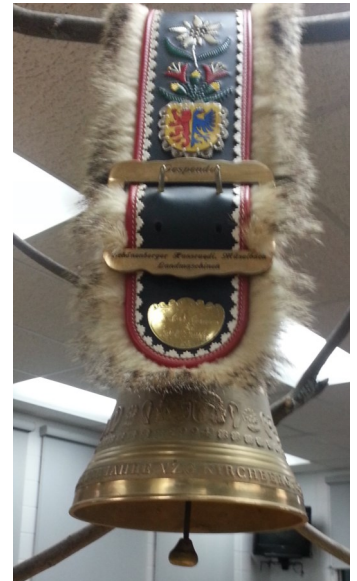


More from around the *System*...

Elmworth Community Library

New, beautiful, and colorful things are happening at the Elmworth Community Library. We've decided to change our little place into a more endearing and inspiring corner of the school by featuring local craftsmen and artists, as well as interesting collections. Our first exhibit began the third week of September with a fall theme that featured local quilter Joan White. Currently, we have a winter display that includes brilliantly crafted quilts from Joan, Judy Gundersen and Colleen Alder and an amazing collection of Swiss Bells!

—Submitted by Barbara Johnson, Elmworth Community Library



Dixonville Community Library

Dixonville Community Library was closed for much of the summer for renovations, but we are very excited to be open again! Our renovated library now includes our own entrance from outside, more shelving, an open floor plan, a smart tv, new tables and chairs, and a kids corner! Stop in for a complimentary coffee and enjoy our new facility! Also, watch our Facebook page and website (www.dixonvillelibrary.ab.ca) for upcoming events.

—Submitted by Cayley Russell, Dixonville Community Library



Fox Creek Municipal Library

Fox Creek Library enjoyed a month of BookFacing, as we challenged our patrons to pose with, or wrap themselves around a book trying to merge with the book cover. We had some really cool entries and over 225 people voted in our three categories, elementary and under, high school and adult for the three winners who took home iTunes and Amazon gift cards. It was not unusual to look up and see people posing, some with their shoes off! It is difficult to see on the bulletin board but the grade 7 phys ed class was set up to do a tug of war with the book, "Limitations" by Scott Turow. For close ups, check out our Facebook page, Fox Creek Municipal Library.



Our Children's Christmas Craft Workshop is set to run on Saturday, Nov. 21, with a ton of really cool projects for our Grade 2 - 5 patrons. That is always a highlight for the kids and parents. Sometimes the parents are more "into it" than the kids, proving that you are never too old to do crafts.

We have retired our "Porcupine in a Pine Tree" Christmas tree and will sell it off at the Festival of Trees later this month. We have a new tree, but we are worried that someone could steal it. We have noticed an odd, green character around the library lately, who seems to have his eye on it. We are carefully locking up every night to discourage him, but I have a strange feeling

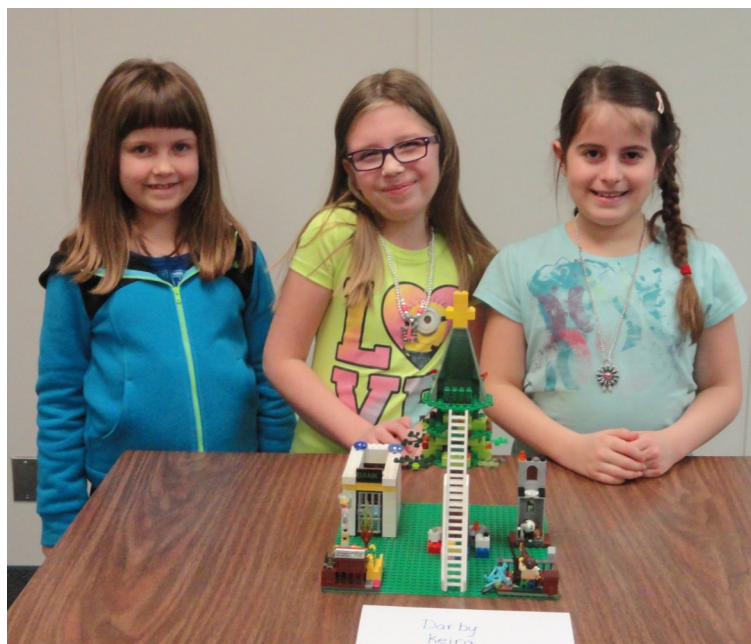
—Submitted by Leslie Ann Sharkey, Fox Creek Municipal Library



Fairview Public Library

The library hosted a spur of the moment Lego Competition on a day there was no school. We had 24 children in attendance. The children were split into teams of 3 and 4 people each. The pile of Lego was super high and the children had the challenge of building a Christmas tree in 1.5 hours. The tree had to be more than 12 inches high. We had 7 teams who took the challenge on with gusto. In the end, 3 girls from our Daycare won the event. Needless to say, the boys were not exactly happy when the girls won. Here are some pictures of our fabulous day. Winners were Kiera McEwan, Daytona Lambrecht, and Darby Peppler.

—Submitted by Chris Burkholder, Fairview Public Library



>> Author Tours

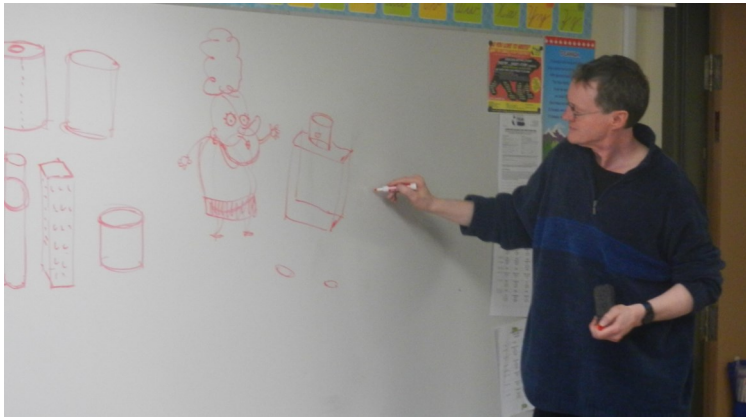
Eastern Tour

October 19-22, 2015

Emma drove illustrator Gerry Rasmussen through our Eastern region on the first author tour of the year. Gerry has been illustrating the comic Betty since 1991 and has recently collaborated with writer Loris Lesynski on the books *Crazy about Soccer!*, *Crazy About Basketball!*, and *Crazy About Hockey!*. Kids loved learning about Gerry's job as an illustrator and getting a chance to draw along with him. Ten presentations were made in High Prairie, Kinuso, Slave Lake, Red Earth, Wabasca, Calling Lake, and Smith to a total audience count of 557.



Wabasca students listen to Gerry talk about his illustrations.



Gerry demonstrates the basics of cartooning in Red Earth Creek.

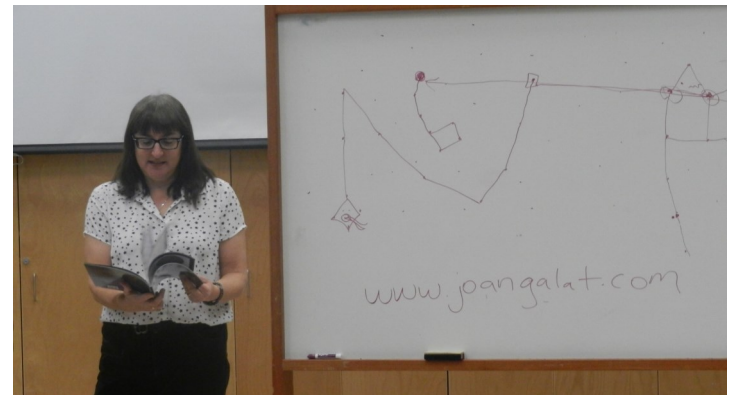


Berwyn students listen to Joan Marie talk about stars.

Central Tour

October 27-30, 2015

Katherine drove Joan Marie Galat, children's non-fiction author, on the Central tour. Joan Marie Galat is an award-winning author who is perhaps most well-known for sharing her love of the stars in the *Dot to Dot in the Sky* series. and her audiences shared her passion about learning about the night sky. Eleven sessions were presented at Bonanza, Spirit River, Woking, Rycroft, Fairview, Berwyn, Grimshaw, Hines Creek, Worsley, and Menno-Simons, to a total audience count of 455.



Joan Marie explains constellations in Spirit River.

>> Rural Libraries Conference

This year's Rural Libraries Conference took place at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre on September 24 and 25, 2015 and was a big success. The conference itself had 146 registered delegates, up from 138 in 2014. Keynote speakers John Pateman and Karen Bass were very well received, and a number of helpful sessions were offered for public and school librarians and trustees on a wide variety of topics. The **Excellence in Library Service** award for public libraries was presented at the conference and went to Charlene McCoy of Hythe Municipal Library. In the school category, the award went to Colleen Rook of Worsley Central School, who unfortunately was unable to attend the conference and was presented her award at a later date. Congratulations to Charlene and Colleen! Your hard work and dedication are much appreciated.

The 2016 Rural Libraries Conference will take place on September 22 and 23 at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre in Grande Prairie. Save the date!



Delegates listen to John Pateman's keynote presentation on Thursday.



Karen Bass talks about her passion for libraries in her Friday keynote.



Veronica Bliska presents Charlene McCoy her Excellence Award.

By the Numbers:

First Time Attendees:	46 of 146 delegates = 32%
School Library Staff:	34 of 146 delegates = 23%
Trustees & Councilors:	33 of 146 delegates = 23 %
Public Library Staff:	76 of 146 delegates = 52 %
Other:	3 of 146 delegates = 2%
PLS Member Libraries:	118 of 146 delegates = 81%
Non-Member Libraries:	28 of 146 delegates = 19%



Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2016

The Sylvan Lake Municipal Library (of the Parkland Regional Library System) has initiated a friendly challenge to all public libraries and library systems in Alberta regarding **Family Literacy Day, January 27, 2016**. The idea is to get the most people reading in your community for 15 minutes on Family Literacy Day. The 15-minutes of reading per person must take place between **12:00 a.m. (midnight) through to 11:59:59 p.m.** on Wednesday, January 27. The winning community will be determined by the number of people who self-report reading for 15 minutes that day divided by the community's 2014 Official population (as reported by Municipal Affairs at http://municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc_official_populations) x 100 to arrive at the winning percentage.

Please see below for ideas on how to implement the challenge in your community, and ways to count/promote your community's reading. When you've gathered your community's final reading percentage, send it to Rae Weniger at Peace Library System. We will gather up the scores for each library in our system, and forward it to Caroline Vandriel of the Sylvan Lake Municipal Library, and she will announce the Alberta winner. There is no prize for the winning library, but you get bragging rights!

Read for 15 Family Literacy Day Ideas:

- Read upside down
- Read in the tub
- Read in a tree fort
- Read a blog
- Read directions to assemble furniture
- Read directions to a location
- Read grocery lists
- Read citizenship information
- Read children's report cards
- Read instructions to operate equipment
- Read facebook, twitter....
- Read books
- Read poetry
- Menus
- Short stories

Peace Library System's events calendar

peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca/calendar

Peace Library System Closed for Christmas Holidays

PLS Headquarters will be closed at noon on December 24 and will reopen at 8:00 am on January 4.

Family Literacy Day

January 27, 2016

Freedom to Read Week

February 21-27, 2016

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBA

February 27, 2016, 10:30 am

PLS Board Meeting

PLS Headquarters

March 19, 2016, 10:30 am

Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS Headquarters

April 11, 2016; 10:30 am

PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Location TBA

April 16, 2016, 10:30 am

Alberta Library Conference

Jasper Park Lodge

April 28-May 1, 2016

Public Library Meeting

PLS Headquarters

May 9, 2016, 10:00 am