

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

March 10, 2015

The library had a few cancellations and reschedulings due to bad weather, but the Valentine's Day Party on Saturday, Feb. 14, thrown by Marie Coady with the help of Jean Gallant, was attended by a large crowd of 50 for Valentine's Day games, stories, puppetry, and snacks. Photos on Facebook from this event and from the previous week's Pajama Storytime, were "liked" and commented on by numerous parents. Several parents also spoke to me personally to say how lucky they (and we) are to have the benefits of Marie's talents here!

The library community donated a total of 28 pairs of pajamas to the Boston Bruins and Cradles to Crayons Pajama Drive. This was the library's first year of participating, and it was very successful, thanks again to Marie Coady. Her creativity and energy were very much in evidence in organizing and promoting the drive, which ran from February 4 to March 5.

The Combined Book Club Potluck is organized twice a year by Jean Gallant, who calls it her favorite time of year, and was held on February 24. It was well attended despite the snowbanks lining the roads; Jean's selection of *Delicious!* by Ruth Reichl was read and enjoyed by everyone from the Afternoon and Evening book clubs. Susan's write-up on the event is on the Evening Readers' blog, along with some photos. Rose Ruel and I attended the event and enjoyed the book discussion and the delicious food everyone brought in.

Through the Customer Experience in a Digital Age LSTA grant with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, we are offering the following new services:

Online Museum Pass Reservations -- Click or tap on link on the library's Web site and log in with your SAILS library card barcode number. Passes may be reserved up to 60 days in advance and picked up in person at the library up to 24 hours in advance.

BookLetters – Subscription service for e-newsletters connecting directly to the SAILS catalog on the topics/genres you are interested in, as well as the monthly Holmes newsletter, which all trustees have been subscribed to. We on staff are also sharing "current reads" on our Web site, and hope to offer additional newsletters eventually.

OverDrive Advantage – The library now has a small collection of some of the most popular e-books and e-audiobooks that will be available only to Halifax patrons, cutting the wait time down on these titles.

Online Event Registration – This makes it easy for people to register through our event calendar for events that we are having at the library. We're easing our way into using this, but the hope is that it will make registering for events more convenient for people because it won't have to be done only when the library is staffed.

Through this grant, we also held a staff customer service training on Monday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., to refresh our customer service skills. Although this was a requirement of the grant, everyone reported that they gained some insights and ideas on interacting as well as possible with all who come in the building.

Regarding the winter weather which we all hope is over, I have been trying to spread the word this winter that library policy was changed last year so that the library is not necessarily closed when the schools are closed. If our parking lot and walks are able to be cleared and kept clear after a snowstorm, we will be open for business. With a regional school district, conditions in three towns are taken into consideration and also whether sidewalks are clear, while we only have to consider local conditions.