

Library Director's Report

November 3, 2020

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

September Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of October 2020 will be available at our meeting

Financial Donations: The state aid check arrived via SALS (\$995).

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings
- We are very excited to have many new books on our shelves that are available for our patrons. These books are being checked out quite often. Book ordering continues to be on track.
- We continue to have more and more patrons using our computers, and utilizing our fax and copying services. Many patrons have expressed how happy they are that we have opened up for limited browsing.
- We have placed an order for two new computers as planned. Looking ahead we will be ordering 6 new computers over the course of 2021 and will be replacing some of the monitors (recommended by SALS).
- We hope to have Proudfit Hall open soon so Salem students can use our WiFi to complete schoolwork. Our scheduled opening date is Wednesday, November 4th.
- We continue to have many new patrons coming into the library to apply for library cards. It's great to be able to welcome new people to our library and our community.
- The Friends of the Bancroft Library have begun taking orders for holiday wreaths and kissing balls. Orders and payment are due by Saturday, November 14th. Pick-up will take place Sunday, November 29th from 11:00-1:30 in the old Fire Department garage bays next to the library.
- We continue to keep our patrons informed of new books and library news through the use of the library's Facebook page, our webpage, and our newsletter.

Looking Ahead:

- Notary Information: In addition to the usual funding to pay for us to take the training (\$85 through SUNY Adirondack) and the test (\$15), there is also a \$60 fee to apply for the Notary certification. That would bring the total to \$160 each.
- 2021: The Fourth of July is a Sunday during 2021. As we prepare our calendar for next year, would the library be closed on Monday, July 5th?
- Post - Star: Our subscription ends November 5, 2020. The renewal they sent us is \$444.

Programs: All in-person programs are currently on hold

- We have made available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community. All the grab and go craft bags are gone by Friday. These have been very popular and we have people asking for them each week now. We would also like to add a once a month adult take away craft activity. Karen has been working on some ideas for them.
- During two weeks in October the Bancroft Library (with help from the Salem Central School Elementary Library and Books In Kids' Hands) put together a StoryWalk using the book The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin. The StoryWalk took participants to 10 places in our community. After returning to the library, children were given a free book from Books In Kids' Hands (the books had been sanitized and quarantined). Our count for this program is 78 participants, however, since the StoryWalk could be done anytime there has been many more kids doing it that we didn't know about. We were able to promote the StoryWalk through the library's Facebook page, our website, our newsletter and also through the elementary library at school and the school's webpage. (Also, Lily and Jacob Armstrong were our amazing volunteers that starred in a video promoting the StoryWalk and Bev Kratzert helped us with our window decorations). Our goal was to provide a fun activity where children could safely participate during COVID. It was also great to have an activity where we could involve the community and the school! The feedback we received from participants was great!

- Looking ahead to December, we are planning an "I Spy" activity for the library windows.