In the Know:

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

As you know, our libraries are making a concerted effort to increase early literacy for children in our communities through our Outreach to Childcare and summer reading programs. Now, our Medford branch has added another opportunity to support parents and children by launching the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

Research consistently shows that early literacy has a far-reaching and lifelong impact on learning. Children who are read to develop listening skills and are exposed to a wider variety of words which prepares them to become readers themselves. A strong start with reading and writing can set children up for greater academic success and has been linked to higher graduation rates.

With the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, any book that a child is read, whether by a parent or in a group setting, can count toward their total of books read. For every 100 books read, children get to add a segment to the caterpillar art piece in the Medford Children’s library that tracks the progress of the young readers. After the 1,000 book goal is reached, kids will create a butterfly to place on the “wall of fame”.

Sweet April showers do spring May flowers.
-Thomas Tusser
Welcome New Volunteers!

Teri Clifford (Medford)
Barbara Barnes (Medford)
Theresa Reilly (Ashland)
Grace Boolukos (Ashland)
Hadley deTerre (Ruch)

May Anniversaries

One Year
Russ Harrop (Rogue River)
Debbie LaPorte (Rogue River)
Dona Spence (Eagle Point)
Karen Tyler (Ashland)

Two Years
Margaret Schmidt (Ruch)
Faith Johnson (Medford)
Kathy Mohr (Jacksonville)

Five Years
Bonnie Yates (Talent)
Larry Thompson (Medford)

Six Years
Peggy Mekemson (Ruch)

Eight Years
Barbara Krack (Ruch)
Jon Card (Medford)

Nine Years
Julie Anderson (Medford)

Ten Years
Cynthia Oliver (Shady Cove)

Twelve Years
Suzanne Polich (Medford)

Fourteen Years
Cathy de Wolfe (Medford)

Fifteen Years
Joan Spear (Ashland)

Nineteen Years
Jean Kraft (Central Point)

Our wonderful volunteers donated over 1,380 hours in the month of March!

Many Thanks!
Branch News

Our very own Thalia Truesdell from the Ruch branch was awarded the Pearl Award at the Oregon Library Association Conference on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. The Pearl Award is presented by the Public Library Division to a deserving person employed in any capacity in an Oregon public library who has displayed exceptional effort and excellence. The annual award represents those who are like the pearl in an oyster—one who agitates, makes change over time, and is highly valued.

CONGRATULATIONS Thalia!

Name: Rina Pryor
Position: Ashland Children’s Library Associate 2
How long have you worked with JCLS? 4 ½ years
Describe yourself in five words: perceptive, organized, introverted, interested, caring
Name of a book you have read more than once? Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
Who or what inspires you? My daughter inspires me to be my best self every day. She never hesitates to pick up trash on the side of the road, lend a hand to someone who needs it, stand up for what she believes in, sit with someone who feels left out, pursue even the hardest to reach goals, and spread warmth and joy to those around her.

Best present you ever received as a child? When I was six or seven, a friend of my parents went to India and brought back a brightly painted treasure chest made of sandalwood. I cherished that little box and put only my favorite keepsakes in it. I loved to open it and smell the peppery scent of sandalwood, conjuring exotic, faraway lands. Even now, when I smell that earthy, woody scent, I think of that special box from my childhood.

What is the most useful advice you were ever given? My mom always told me to “float downstream” whenever I would get bent out of shape about something. It’s served me well when I find myself worrying about things I can’t control.

What is an interesting fact about yourself that someone might not know? I was living in San Francisco in October, 1989, when the Loma Prieta earthquake struck. I had just started a job in the Marina District, the hardest hit area of the city, and was walking to the bus stop to catch a bus home. I felt the sidewalk rolling underneath my feet, and at first didn’t recognize what was happening. I turned a corner, and there stood an entire apartment complex, lifted off its foundation and sitting in the middle of the street.

What title would you give your autobiography? A Quiet Life

One thing you wish people knew about the library? I’m often surprised at how many people don’t know about the many movies we have access to, both in DVD format and on Hoopla. Even first-run films are usually available if you’re willing to wait a short time.
Fast Facts: The Kentucky Derby

- The Kentucky Derby is always held the first weekend in May.
- The first race was held May 17, 1875, making the Kentucky Derby the oldest continuously held sporting event in the United States.
- In 1904 the red rose is named the official flower of the Kentucky Derby.
- When a horse wins the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes in one year, they are Triple Crown winners. Only 12 horses in the history of these races have taken the Triple Crown.
- The Kentucky Derby was televised for the first time in 1949.
- Only three times in its 143-year history has a female horse won the Derby.
- In 1973, the horse Secretariat wins with the fastest finishing time to date. Secretariat completed the race in 1:59:40, and went on to win the Triple Crown for the first time in 25 years.

JCLS says:
“Thank You”
to our volunteers!