

*From the Director*

January got off to a great start with the all ages Winter Reading Challenge. The challenge encourages readers to read books outside of their norm and discover new library services. The Challenge features three different Bingo cards, available on paper in the library and as a PDF on the library website. Prizes include gift cards to Powell’s Books and wintry treats. The Winter Reading Challenge ends February 29.

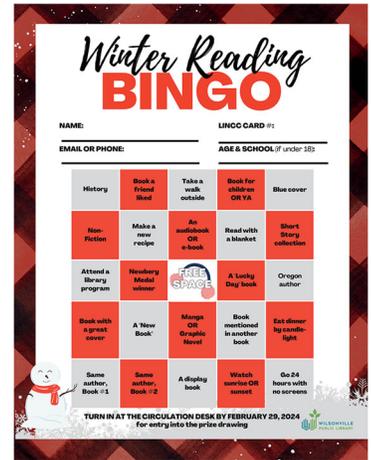
Youth programs resumed with Baby & Toddler Time, Family Storytime, Play Group, and Teen Afterschool Drop-In Activities. Three new programs debuted in January, all on weekend days in answer to the community feedback for more family weekend programming and as part of the library’s strategic plan. Spanish Storytime is presented by Adventures in Spanish, a local organization that specializes in immersion-style classes and storytimes, and occurs on the fourth Saturday of the month. Saturday Classic Movies and Board Games featured the movie “Hugo” followed by a wide selection of board games for participants to play. Families brought their toy trucks and cars to explore “Tape Town,” a big space with lots of blue tape roads leading to fun parts of a miniature town including a car wash, airport, and zoo.

The library’s youth librarians attended the Family Night held at Wilsonville High School in conjunction with the Family Empowerment Center. Youth librarians also held a Family Night for each primary school starting with Boeckman Creek, followed by Lowrie and Boones Ferry. At the family nights, students and families are introduced to library services and build lasting connections with the library’s Youth Services staff. Many students sign up for library cards at Family Night, too.

Adult programs included a Space Talk about NASA’s OSIRIS-REx mission, which saw a jump in attendance after a local resident announced the program on the Portland subReddit forum. The online “Profiles” program discussed famous artists who were considered failures during their lifetimes, and also saw a similar increase in attendance. Due to popular demand, we now have two weekly English as a Second Language classes available: a new Beginning English class meets on Monday mornings at 11am, and the continuing Intermediate English class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30am. The American Red Cross held a blood drive on Jan. 26 and 22 people donated blood.

Staff focused on planning for the upcoming all ages Tiny Art Show in February, and the Library birthday on February 14. Staff have also kicked off planning for summer reading, which is the library’s busiest time of year with lots of fun activities, programs, and, of course, books.

Also coming in February is a celebration of the 12th anniversary of Wilsonville Imagination Library. This “Thank you, Dolly” event will invite currently enrolled children as well as graduates of the program and their families to celebrate the program and write “thank you” notes to Dolly herself. Wilsonville Imagination Library partners with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to gift books to Wilsonville children from birth until their fifth birthday. The Imagination Library program mails a high quality, age-appropriate book to each child once a month at no cost to the parents. The program has been incredibly successful, and we are delighted to partner with the Wilsonville Public Library Foundation to support it.



*-Shasta Sasser, Library Director*