



March 2019 Branch Manager's Report

February Statistics

February's numbers continued the positive trends of last month. Checkouts increased by 9% over February 2018, with children's books up by over 20%. The door count went up by over 7%. The most striking increase of all was in program attendance, up by 51%.

Fundraising

The total for the Annual Appeal is now \$27,490. This represents a 52% increase over the 2017 total (\$18,070). The increase may be due in part to careful follow-up of past donors. Some people who had Donor status in the circulation database had not yet donated to the 2018 annual fund, and in fact some had not donated for several years. We were able to reach many of these previous donors through a reminder letter and/or a note placed in their library card records.

Facilities

Carpenter Kas Jaunzemis delivered three new custom-made tables this month. These tables are smaller than the previous ones, which makes for both more space and more separation between the patrons using the tables. We were even able to retain one of the larger tables, for group work, and still have a more open feel to the area.

Tech Assistance Program

Taylor Baugher has been widely publicizing her one-on-one tech assistance. One recent student had never been to Paoli Library before, but heard about the program through the Paoli-Malvern Patch. The sessions are now booked up weeks in advance.

Personnel

We are in the midst of adjusting the part-time schedule, as three employees have been offered (much) better-paying part-time jobs elsewhere in the past month. A new shelver/circulation assistant, Sonia Jeremiah, started work this month, but now we have additional open shifts (weekends and Mondays). We currently have a position posted but have not yet begun interviewing, as we are hoping for some better-qualified applicants.

Friends of Paoli Library

The Friends invited 17 library supporters and past members of the Friends group to participate in an advisory council, which met on Thursday, March 21. The purpose of the council was to craft a mission statement for the Friends and to set priorities for future Friends activities. We heard only positive comments as people were leaving the meeting, a good sign for the future of the group.

The Friends have rescheduled their spring book sale for Thursday, April 25-Saturday, April 27. The sale will be held in the bank hallway. I have arranged for some classmates of our Devereux volunteer to help with setup of the sale.

Children's Programs

February 1–March 8 was our first ever Winter Reading program for preschool through high school. Young readers completed challenges listed on a bingo card to earn raffle tickets. Three prize baskets were raffled off, each for a different age group. Fifty kids participated, and several parents commented that the challenges provided great motivation to get their kids reading.

March was a busy month for children's programs. In addition to the usual storytimes and book groups, there were special programs galore. On March 8, 30 people (kids and caregivers) attended a celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. On March 9, Jamie Smith from the Couples and Family Wellness Center introduced tweens in grades 6–8 to the Zen of Knitting. On March 21, kids ages 4–9 created seed balls to plant at home in their gardens, an activity connected with the Longwood Garden Community Reads program. And on March 22, teen crafters learned how to make folded book roses with Miss Stephanie and guest instructor Miss Kate (Boyle).



Beverly Michaels, Branch Manager
March, 2019