

KEY MONTHLY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES - 2012

Month: January

REACHING OUT TO...

FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS

1. The menu of Saturday programming has expanded with the introduction of the Drop-In Lego program for children 4-12 years old. The response has been excellent with about 30 children participating each week, building a Lego object to complement a weekly theme, which promotes the library's collection. Aside from offering fun for all ages, Lego clubs enhance children's fine motor skills, problem-solving skills and special perception, foster co-operative play, build friendship and community and nurture a positive relationship with the library.
3. In partnership with the Region of Peel, the Children's Department is offering a free 8- week Family Literacy program which familiarizes parents with pre-reading skills and how to nurture and develop them in their children from birth to 6 years of age. An average of 15 families have been participating, many of whom are new to the library.
4. Sciences and Business staff conducted a program "Adjusting to Motherhood" for 3 families. Staff supplemented this session with a Library information and book display.

YOUTH

1. High school students have been recruited by the Children's Department to be Reading Buddies for young and beginning readers. Through weekly reading sessions, the young volunteer will coach and encourage children to develop positive attitudes about reading and books and ultimately, develop a lifelong reading and library habit.
2. The Nexus Youth Centre has added 2 "Youth Peer Workers" to the Centre's staff. These positions will help Nexus to develop a more robust approach to youth engagement through the youth perspective. The Library continues to work in partnership with the Nexus.
3. The January exam period has been a very busy time for Central Library. Attendance in Central doubled during this period with numbers in January showing an average of over 1000 people in the building at peak times.

OLDER ADULTS

1. Arts and History Department staff presented a workshop on life-long learning at the library at the Square One Older Adults Centre.
2. Sciences and Business Staff held 4 computer classes (Computer Mouse Skills, Internet Level I,

and Email for Seniors), welcoming Older Adults.

NEW CANADIANS

1. An Arts and History Department staff member was specially thanked by a foreign trained professional studying for her English equivalency exam. After getting help from staff for 3 months, the customer returned at Christmas with a gift and the news that she passed her test with a 91% mark and had an interview in two weeks to register for her nursing program.
2. Sciences and Business staff coordinated 11 Career Tours for the following community agencies: Fleming Adult Learning Centre, Newcomer Centre of Peel, ACCESS Employment, Peel Multicultural Council, St. Gabriel Adult Learning Centre. 120 attendees left with the ability to navigate the Library's Career Centre and various job searching databases. 37 attendees returned for a Career Research Day to expand their knowledge of resume writing and interview skills.
3. Central Sciences and Business staff researched, planned, and conducted a new program entitled "The Canadian Citizenship Test: Get Ready!" This program highlighted information on practice tests, application procedures, documents to bring on test day and the Oath of Citizenship. Citizenship Judge Mina Yung-Fang also attended the program and answered questions from participants.

COMPLETING OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

1. The Arts and History Department is hosting the "Movies for Change" film series over the next months to help citizens challenge the way they see the world through screening a dozen thought-provoking documentaries.
2. Sciences and Business hosted Tiffany Sahakian Heikkila, BSc, MSc, ND (Naturopathic Doctor) who conducted a session "Beating Colds and Flus Naturally" for 5 enthusiastic attendees. Staff supplemented this session with a Library information and book display

BUSINESSES

1. The "Readers to Writers" network is growing with new writing submissions. As a pilot program, library staff have been working with readers in the Central Library book club to provide feedback for local writers. If successful, plans include the expansion of the program to include all dedicated readers in the Mississauga community.
2. Sciences and Business staff, in partnership with The Centre for Education and Training, have started hosting one-on-one Resume Help sessions. The first session, held in January, accommodated 5 attendees and took place in the Central Library Career Centre.

LIVING GREEN

1. Sciences and Business staff have spearheaded the ebook movement in the Library System by compiling and uploading “help sheets” for the public and the staff-at -large, which answer many “frequently asked questions” posed to staff on a regular basis. Staff has also established a dedicated email address (ebooks.library@mississauga.ca) where ustomers can send their questions. In January alone, staff answered 69 in-depth queries from the public.

OTHER (special initiatives)

1. 150 books were packaged for 17 different “Books to Go” groups in January. Library staff were with local book clubs to co-ordinate book selections and reading guides for club enjoyment.