

KEY MONTHLY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES - 2011

Month: July - Aug 2011

Area 1 – Central Library

REACHING OUT TO...

FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS

The annual Toronto Dominion Summer Reading program theme was SPLASH. Over 600 children dove in to track their reading over the summer months. This is an increase of 25% over last year.

Research has shown that children who participate in this program maintain or improve their reading skills from the previous school year.

3922 children signed up online to track their reading and 1198 reviews of books were shared electronically with other children.

The Children's Department conducted 98 programs over the summer months. These were enjoyed by 4020 children, and in some instances, their caregivers. The Children's Department programming took some out onto Celebration Square. Children had a whale of a time splashing in the Splash pad as a kick-off to the Summer Reading program and at the Grand Finale. This afforded the library greater visibility with onlookers in the Square.

YOUTH

The Arts and History Department hosted a youth writing contest intended to encourage reading and writing about Mississauga's history. The contest will honour local historian Kathleen Hicks who has written a number of books about Mississauga's past. The contest closed on August 15, 2011 with 20 entries submitted. The Kathleen A. Hicks Historical Writing Award will be presented on Saturday, October 1, 2011 in the Canadiana Reading Room by judges Jan Noel from University of Toronto at Mississauga and Matthew Wilkinson from Heritage Mississauga.

The Arts and History Department provided in-depth resource support and instruction to 390 summer school students in Grade 11 and Grade 12 English classes during the third week of July. A total of thirteen classes visited the department for literary criticism sources and staff provided 17 electronic resource workshops.

Central Library hosted our 3rd Annual Summer Teen Poetry Showcase, in partnership with its Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and Mississauga Celebration Square, in the new Celebration Square amphitheatre. Over 120 came to watch 14 teens perform their own poems and spoken word work.

Over 90 teens enjoyed drop-in gaming and documentary film programs, workshops on 'Handmade/Craft Film' and 'Button-Making,' and a visit by local youth author Philippe de Jocas (*It Was the Worst of Times-- Then It Got Worse*), who presented his 'High School Survival Guide.' Readers' Den staff also hosted a job search workshop by the Mississauga East Service Centre for Youth.

Over 180 young adults have participated in Central's Teen Summer programs so far. Teens have enjoyed drop-in gaming and book club programs, a 'Harry Potter' launch party and workshops on 'Writing & Performing Poetry,' 'Realistic Drawing,' 'Urban Agriculture,' and sewing 'Fluffy Monster Cases.' Many more activities are scheduled as teen summer programming continues in August.

The first Teen Summer Reading program has been a success, challenging and rewarding many teens for reading books of different genres. Teens collect BINGO cards and read items to form a line on the card. Small prizes are awarded for completing each of 4 levels.

Several Teen Advisory Group members have contributed to making the various youth programs a success. They have been helping to set up, handing out materials, and assisting with preparations.

OLDER ADULTS

The Arts and History Department participated in Celebration Square festivities by providing three talks (with books) for Older Adult Day on Tuesdays in August – featuring travelling the world, inspiring arts and crafts, and researching your family history.

Popularity of computer-based instructional programming continues to grow. This summer, Central Sciences and Business staff conducted the last "Email for Older Adults" for the season.

NEW CANADIANS

The Arts and History Department participated in the Newcomer Centre of Peel's Newcomer School Orientation Day (August 18) by reaching out to 150 attendees including 12 very new families in Mississauga.

The Arts and History Department participated in Father Goetz Catholic Secondary School's Newcomer Orientation Day (August 29) for newcomer high school students and their families. Staff ran a busy display table, distributed library information, and spoke to over 75 students. The event was hosted by the Newcomer Centre of Peel, one of the Department's settlement partners.

Central Sciences and Business staff coordinated 26 Career Tours for the following community agencies: Fleming Adult Learning Centre, St. Gabriel Adult Learning Centre, Newcomer Centre of Peel, and Peel Multicultural Council. 363 attendees left with the ability to navigate the Library's Career Centre and various job searching databases. 133 people also attended 1 of 5 staff-led Career Research Days in order to expand their knowledge of resume writing and interview skills.

The Central Library Newcomer Information area is now complete. Central has partnered with Newcomer Information Centre (NIC is a division of The Centre for Education and Training) to provide Newcomer referral services within the library itself. NIC staff will be staffing a table in the Newcomer Area six days a week.

OTHER (special initiatives)

The Arts and History Department has completed a two-year retrospective labelling project of all local author titles with a special “local author” spine label. The label will quickly identify all Mississauga writers and their works and help to promote local authors to readers and staff producing displays. The library catalogue lists 377 “Mississauga authors” with 3110 titles.

Central Sciences and Business has pioneered the use of “Quick Response (QR) Codes” in Library program promotion material. QR codes are designed to work with smart phones and enable customers to get quick access to program WebPages and library event calendars