



Director's Report – submitted by Cathy Ching

April was the most unusual month with 3 major storm systems leaving everyone feeling their aches and pains. Closing the library early in the week for the first one was a relief as I didn't have to make that decision first thing Wednesday morning. As we were preparing for the worst, all staff took craft & decorating projects home to work on them. I have seen some of the results and we have a very talented team. These were the types of fiddly projects that take time and make a mess when you are trying to do them during work hours.

I was very relieved not to receive any frantic phone calls regarding flooding during the last storm but we did suffer some computer damage with power surges during the 2nd storm. I will look into the surge protector packs and we will need to replace a server from the Miami Branch.

We had our first staff development webinar, which after listening to it live, we had access to the taped version. Each branch was asked to hold a staff meeting and listen to the webinar "How to Give and Receive Feedback (Constructive Criticism)..." I will be looking in to more of these very topical sessions from this presenter as she uses a library as the workplace environment for the discussion. All admin felt it was a very timely and well presented topic.

Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

Despite the snowy weather in April, our summer Bookland Explorers program is coming up soon so I ordered the last few grand prizes that we needed and distributed the grand prize packs and weekly draw prizes to the branches.

I was working from home for a couple of days due to the blizzard in the middle of the month. Instead of cataloguing I worked on Bookland Explorers decorations for Miami by cutting out designs for wall decorations and making "fairy doors" to go with the fantasy theme.

I also attended the webinar "How to Give and Receive Feedback (Constructive Criticism) so Everyone is Still Speaking to Each Other Afterwards" presented by Pat Wagner which I thought had some great tips on communicating effectively with other staff.

Programmer Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

April was busy sorting out final Bookland Explorers details and creating materials for the program. Store prizes have been purchased and delivered and now I'm just putting the final touches on most things. For the little time I have in May once I'm back from holidays, I hope to get started with our Acorns to Oaks project and start filming shortly after.

Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

Our fundraising raffle in partnership with the Altona IGA and Morden's of Winnipeg called Easter Eggstravaganza was a success! We sold all but 3 tickets and the winners loved their baskets. Selling tickets inside the Mall not only helped to raise awareness about our upcoming move but also gained us new patrons.

National Canadian Film Day was on April 20th, we had two films playing in the library for the afternoon: Birth of a Family and Our People Will Be Healed, both were very good documentaries but we did not have very many people attend, we hope that next year we will have more of a crowd.

For May we are starting to get our decorating done for the Bookland Explorers club this. Later in the month we will launch a new fundraiser that will end on Father's day, so keep your eyes open for that.



Manitou Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

Despite being closed for four days because of a blizzard and the Easter weekend, Manitou branch was a busy place as patrons stocked up on reading material in advance of the storm.

We are also pleased to welcome a new temporary/casual clerk, Rebecca, filling in for clerk, Lori, who is on a leave of absence.

Staff have come up with some super decorating ideas for the Bookland Explorers club's adventures in fantasyland theme. Kids who register will be placed in one of two competing teams: the red and blue trolls, and the branch will soon be transformed into the "Sapphire Forest" for the summer.

The book club met on April 8 and welcomed another new member, bringing the total active members to 10. Book displays for April celebrated poetry month and Earth Day.

Manitou, Miami and Morden Admin's are working collaboratively on developing the Acorns to Oaks 'prepare for Kindergarten' program that will be offered in the Fall. Manitou is working on outlines for outcomes and activities for the modules, as well as helping to locate resources. We have also recruited a volunteer from our seniors' community who is willing to help with this intergenerational program and filming of modules should begin later in May.

Review and updating of all branch procedures has now been completed.

Unfortunately, the winter has taken its toll on the reading garden gates, which have been temporarily removed. The contractor will return once the snow has gone to adapt their design and install a more robust anchoring system so they cannot blow open in windy conditions.

Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

In April we spent a lot of time prepping Miami for Bookland Explorers! We did a lot of crafting for decorations, brainstorming fun ways to incorporate our theme into programs this summer, and choosing names for our branch and teams. We were able to create a better space for events and programs for this coming summer and after, by rearranging some shelving in our junior section. We also were approved for two summer student positions from Green Team and Young Canada Works and look forward to hiring in May.

Miami enjoyed being able to host a streaming of the movie "The Bread Winner" for National Canadian Film Day, thanks to Reel Canada. We were very grateful to receive two new computers for the library, and will also possibly be looking into new a computer for our OPAC and public computer as a power outage seems to have fried our tower. We are still hoping to move our Young Adult section around and create better clerk space in the coming month or so. In May, Miami will focus on putting up summer decor and promoting our Bookland Explorers Program.

Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand

One of our displays this month has the captions "Spring showers, read for hours!" and that's what April has been like at our branch. Patrons continue to check out puzzles and books in increasing numbers as the weather continues to keeps us indoors.

Our March display stayed up a little longer than usual due to people still wanting to take out books on gardening and outdoor renovating. It did come down to make way for a Mother's Day display right at the end of the month.

We celebrated Earth Day with our planting station which saw a bit of traffic.



Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand – Continued

New “old” faces continue to come back to the library as things normalize around Covid and the removal of restrictions. We have new patrons coming in to register regularly, especially with tours starting for the different EAL groups and classes.

Decorating planning is in full swing as we get closer and closer to our summer program. People are getting excited that we are going back to a more in-person approach and are very enthusiastic about things like the store coming back and the weekly book draws being changing back to how they used to be. It looks like it will be a great summer for our new program to kick off!

Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens

April has been a bit of a hectic month as we tried to get everything ready for the book sale amongst storm closures and interesting weather. This month Blumenfeld School brought 50 of their students for a library tour and signed everyone up for library cards. It was a busy and interesting morning but it was great to see the building full of kids again. We also celebrated National Canadian Film Day and showed the film ‘Angelique’s Isle’. In March I gave two of the staff from Regional Connections a library tour and outlined our resources and programs. This month we had several families come in for tours and sign up for library cards. Besides that we spent the month prepping for the book and bake sale and putting together the final materials for the reading garden promotion. This month Tari, one of our library clerks decided to move to a casual position. Rather than hiring someone to replace her we will be hiring a library assistant and a casual clerk.

In May the initial focus will be the book and bake sale as that takes place at the beginning of the month. The bake sale will be a fundraiser for the creation of a library reading garden on the north side of the building. After the sale our focus will be prepping for the Bookland Explorers Club. The plan is to have all the decorations up by the end of May. We also have two school tours booked for May so we want to have as much up as possible to get the kids excited for the program. We are looking forward to the new program and getting everything underway.
