

Director's Report – submitted by Cathy Ching

February seemed like a busy month despite how short it was. There was many learning curves for me, Joanna and Raina. I was able to take a week of holidays and left the office in good hands with both getting used to their new roles and tasks.

The new bookkeeping service is going to work well once we all feel we understand each other. Library accounts are definitely different then business accounts so there has been a lot of questions going both ways. Soon Raina and I will find the routine so it doesn't feel like we are constantly questioning the process.

I am looking forward to the news from each of our branches when they begin their spring programming. It is exciting to see the children come in with their families. Having the options like LEGO and book clubs is really catching on and it helps to reinforce why we keep offering these services to our patrons. Good job to the staff and the admin of all the branches.

Special thanks to the Altona staff for the exceptional Gala they hosted on February 22nd. The library looked beautiful and so did the staff! Thanks to the fund-raising committee, Jordan, Guy, Amanda, & Rachael for making it happen. Great job everyone!

Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

There have been some changes in the office with Raina joining the office staff as our new Office Manager! I have now taken over most of the acquisition's procedures including placing Whitehots orders and entering all acquisitions invoices. I look forward to working with Raina as we have already collaborated on projects before.

The first 2023 DVD order was placed and JF/YA audiobooks and playaways will be ordered soon. I've also started submitting the winter Whitehots orders as the branches finish their selections.

Raina and I have also begun planning prizes for this summer's Bookland Explorers Club so we will be shopping for all the books and grand prizes in the upcoming weeks.

Programmer Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

Programming has been busy with preparing and executing I Love to Read month plans and finalizing event plans with John Warms for his Strange Creatures Seldom Seen exhibit he'll be running. We look forward to seeing him in Morden on Feb 28th + March 1st, and Altona on March 2nd. I was also able to spend a little bit of time purchasing and scouting out Bookland Explorer prizes with Joanna. We have begun filling our weekly book draw prize cart as well. We hope to finish purchasing everything in March.

Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

We had more class tours and visits during January, we really enjoy that the schools and teachers are taking full advantage of what the library has to offer them!

Book Club met in January, this book was much less popular and we hope with our new novel, "The Ensemble, by Aja Gabel" that we will have a large turnout in February.

In January we had a PJ Party to celebrate family literacy, we were very fortunate to have the principals from Gretna, Elmwood and West Park schools in Altona, join us and read. We had a great time and are so thankful to all the patrons that came and participated.

Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen – continued

During January the finishing touches for the fireplace and canopy were completed, it looks great!

February is I Love to Read month and also Black History month. We will have a display for Black History and we will be having a contest for I Love To Read, make sure you stop in and check everything out! We will also have our next Book Club meeting and we will be having an event to honour our donors.

Manitou Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

February was I Love to Read Month and also Black History Month, so Manitou branch had displays to celebrate both, as well as offering prize draws for adults and kids.

A big thank you to Xander who hosted a Story Hour on February 11th. The 12 kids that attended had fun listening to a funny story, colouring and completing a scavenger hunt.

On February 16, we held our first ever Lego Club and it was a hit with the 12 kids and 2 adults who came along and put together some truly inspired creations. All of them wanted us to make sure they knew when the next one is. This is definitely a great program for older kids, and we are so grateful for the donation of Lego by Chris and the Creations for Charity organization.

Four children have signed up for the second Acorns to Oaks Pre-Kindergarten program that began on Friday, February 24 and will run for five weeks. The program has been revised and improved thanks to feedback from parents and staff from all five branches. Once again, we will enlist the help of our 'elders' in the community, Carol and Dianne and thanks again to Susan for adjusting her work schedule to help us out on the days when we host the library sessions.

Book Club also met on February 24 with five members attending.

Finally, we wish a speedy recovery to our clerk, Kyle, who unfortunately broke his ankle in early February – we hope you will be back soon.

Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

Miami library is excited to welcome our newest addition to our team, our (former) volunteer Charlize!

Welcome Charlize, we look forward to working with you as a clerk 😊

Miami celebrated I Love to Read Month with a checkout contest draw, scavenger hunt and patron picks display. Scavenger hunts are always a hit in Miami, and we even saw a few new faces show up and return thanks to our programs in February. Lego club was also a hit compared to our past few programs, with five kids joining us for the evening, and multiple questions during the month about our next Lego night.

Our Book Clubs first meeting will be held February 28th, and we currently have about 8 patrons expected to show up. So far community response has been good, and we anticipate more to join as the club continues. Our goal is to reach both young adults and adults with a mixture of YA and AF novel selections.

Acorns to Oaks has also been advertised and we are preparing for another run starting March 8th. If we don't have at least a minimum of 5 kids, we may follow Winkler's idea of doing a story time, snack and craft and try Acorns again in the fall.



Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand

We love to read and so do our patrons! The cold weather kept people home to some degree, but it was still an active month. Dorothy, Tracy and Gail went to the elementary schools in town for their “I Love to Read” kick offs and signed families up for library cards. Between the 2 schools we had over 40 new accounts!

Our scavenger hunt and draw themes for each week were a success, as was our “Love” themed book display. Lego club was well attended again this month. We are gearing up for story/craft time to start again at the beginning of March.

Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens

The month of February has passed quite quickly. It has been a busy month with several groups stopping by the library for a tour and signing up for library cards. Regional Connections has been in several times with groups from various programs and we've had several classes stop by from the Winkler Elementary School. In addition to that we also had great turn out for our Lego Club program, and it continues to be popular with kids and parents. In February we also started our preschool story time program, we have 14 kids registered and we have had excellent turnout and so far it's been better received than Acorns to Oaks. We of course had I Love to Read month activities as well and the kids are big fans of our scavenger hunt. In February we also hired a new page and another casual clerk.

In March we don't have much planned yet. We will be putting up a leprechaun scavenger hunt until St. Patrick's Day and I'm sure the kids will enjoy that. We have the John Worms author visit coming up at the beginning of the month. Spring Break is of course at the end of March, and we will be working on developing some programming for that week, so the kids have something to do while not in school. Beyond that in March we'll be starting to work decorations etc. for the Bookland Explorers program. The theme for this year is space and the staff have already had several great ideas and we are looking forward to this summer.
