

### **Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck**

March was a very busy month as we received 40+ boxes of new books from our winter Whitehots orders, and there's still more on the way! There continues to be a high number of patron holds so those have been my priority for cataloguing, as well as any Easter or spring-themed books. Junior audiobooks have been ordered and should be arriving soon.

Raina and I have purchased most of the grand prizes for Bookland Explorers. We have a wide assortment of plushies, games, LEGO sets, books, and much more! We'll be buying the weekly book draw prizes as soon as possible.

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### **Programmer Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob**

Programming for Bookland Explorers in March was spent purchasing grand prizes, book draw prizes and looking into store items. Joanna and I were able to find an assortment of prizes ranging from Squishmallows (if you know, you know), Lego sets, board games, Disney figurines, and other random assortments of kid's prizes involving Peppa pig, paw patrol and more.

In April I'll be focusing on getting back to the monthly newsletter, looking into programs ideas that involve using Creativebug, searching for Canadian authors we could bring into the library with a grant and more fine details for the Bookland Explorers program.

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### **Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Wendi Friesen – Library Clerk**

We continue to have at least 4 to 5 classes coming into the library every week from the schools. Many of these students have signed up for their very own library cards.

We began the month of March rather 'strangely' with an all-day exhibit put on by John Warms who has authored the book *Strange Creatures Seldom Seen*. The display featured writeups, facts and stories that he had acquired over the years, however the most unique part of the display were the life size replicas he had showcased. One furry creature that stands out is the Beaver which measured well over 5 feet tall. Patrons enjoyed browsing and asked many questions throughout the day.

We had a great display up for Pi Day. It was something different and was well received by the patrons. Staff put much effort into preparing for spring break with daily drop-in activities. We had 2 Lego days, board games, all day crafting, scrapbooking etc & a few take home crafts for the younger patrons.

Altona staff took an all-day free first aid training offered through the fire department.

April book club - *Women Talking* by author Miriam Toews.

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### **Manitou Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell**

March was a busy month with Manitou branch running four sessions of its Acorn to Oaks Pre-Kindergarten program. We had four children, and their parents attended and once again had the assistance of volunteer Oak, Carol. Susan (clerk) changed her shift to Fridays to cover the desk while I helped host the program. She entertained the kids with songs and the Ukulele for two of the sessions. Feedback on the updated program was once again positive from parents who saw it as a good way to prepare their children to enter Kindergarten this fall.



### **Manitou Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell - continued**

The library also hosted two Lego Clubs in March – one on the school's early dismissal day and the second during spring break. We had a Story Hour and seed planting activity during spring break as well. Overall, we had good attendance for the Lego Clubs although Story Hour only attracted two children and their parents who still had fun planting sunflower seeds. Four members of the book club also met in March.

We have been awarded a \$25,000 grant through the Manitoba Government's Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund Small Capital and Special Initiatives Program. With the fundraising we have already done this will allow us to upgrade the flooring, a new coat of paint, replace the circulation desk and provide an outside book drop for patrons. These upgrades will enhance our ability to better serve our patrons by allowing us to reorganize our space, provide new seating areas and give patrons the ability to return books outside of library opening hours.

We anticipate these improvements will be made in April/early May.

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### **Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob**

Miami branch is happy to announce that we're officially the recipients of a \$12,000 grant from the Arts, Culture and Sport in Community (ACSC) Fund! We are looking forward to starting the work in improving our checkout desk, adding storage, replacing our filing cabinet-turned-book drop, and adding space to our clerk area, just to name a few projects.

In March we hosted a book club night for *The Firekeepers Daughter* and introduced our next book, *The Midnight Library* for April. We had four people attend the meeting and had more patrons who chose to read the book on their own. We are slowly gaining more interest and the word seems to be spreading as we have consistent enquiries about the club. Our Lego club's second night took place in March. We unfortunately had no patrons show up, though our first night had five kids. We hope numbers rise as we continue the club throughout the year.

We had a story time and craft session for 5 weeks (in place of *Acorns to Oaks*). This way we were able to open the story time up to anyone without registration and on a drop-in basis. We had a local volunteer help run the event each week, and our last session takes place April 12th. So far, it's been a big success, even with slightly less numbers than the last run we did. During spring break, we also had a perler bead session and a few kids showed up to that as well.

We look forward to hosting a planting/seed event in collaboration with our local horticulture group in the spring, as well as preparing all our Bookland Explorers décor to start going up in May.

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### **Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand**

March has come and gone quickly even though winter won't do the same for us. We have kept our patrons busy with our "Craft Month" display, puzzles in the library, Lego club and Story & Craft time.

The puzzles are still flying off the shelves, I'm curious to see if Morden will puzzle its way through the summer too!

We are ending the month with Spring Break Craft week, which was very popular last year and looks like it will be again this year, with a different craft kit for pick up each day of the week.

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### **Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens**

The library was busy in March, our regular programs & a week of activities for spring break. We had a perler beads workshop, Lego club, spaghetti structures and cookie decorating as well as an easter egg hunt. We had 73 children attend the programs that week. We finished combining the Junior Fiction and Junior Series sections and now just need to move the shelving so we can have access to the door to the reading garden. We also have the spring preschool story time sessions that will be starting at the end of the April. Every year we celebrate National Canadian Film Day and this year we are showing two films. Ballerina an animated film for kids and All My Puny Sorrows, a film based on a book written by Miriam Toews. We just want to say we have received a lot of support from our patrons over the last month and we appreciate it.

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