



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

In March I was mainly focused on cataloguing as much as possible and keeping up with the incoming requests and replacements.

The last of our Bookland Explorers grand prizes have arrived so we are all set to go with that!

After discussion at our all-staff in-service meeting, we've decided to discontinue our story kits and re-catalogue those books into our collection. We found they are no longer as valuable as a resource after we had to remove many kit components due to Covid concerns. We will instead focus on maintaining and expanding our collection of puzzles and board games.

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### **Program Coordinator Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob**

In March I was able to set up an author visit with Steve Van Vlaenderen from Winnipeg, to visit our Altona, Manitou, Morden and Winkler branches. Steve will share from his photobook *Vanishing Wheels*, about abandoned vehicles found throughout Manitoba. In addition to that, Canadian Children's Book Week is taking place at the end of April, and I was able to book author-illustrator Joanna Cacao from Winnipeg, to visit our Morden and Winkler branches. Joanna will be running a Workshop called *Characters from Start to Finish* to kids ages 8+.

In April, my focus will be on finalizing all Bookland Explorers things and preparing for summer student training.

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### **Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen**

We started off March by attending an all staff meeting. It was very informative and lots was covered. It was good to hear programming ideas from other branches and be able to see everyone from the other branches.

We had Conrad Stoesz come speak on the basics of Genealogy and how to go about starting your search for your family tree. He was very interesting and gave great information which the people that attended really appreciated.

We also had our first silent book club. Patrons came and we spoke briefly on what they planned on reading while we waited for everyone to arrive. We then read silently for about 45 minutes and then the floor was opened for anyone who wanted to share, on either what they were reading or what they had read. A great discussion ensued. Silent Book Club seems to be a hit, we will be doing it again in April.

For spring break, we had Lego, colouring and take home craft kits, but the big event was Nerf Battles! Our first battle in Altona went well. We had many kids and adults come to play and we are all looking forward to doing the next one in May.

For April we will be celebrating National Canadian Film Day, we will be having an author and car show event, Silent Book Club and a painting night!

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

Manitou branch was busy with programming throughout March, kicking off with a Board Game Night on March 12 and a Story Time with craft on March 19 that brought in five children and three adults. A big thank you to students Soren and Ryan for reading the story.

During spring break, we hosted another Board Games afternoon and Lego Club which weren't successful, but the Beaded Bracelet Craft attracted eight children with three adults.



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

We received notification that the Pembina Manitou Foundation has granted \$1000 towards the purchase of a shed for the Reading Garden, which is greatly appreciated. It will be purchased shortly.

Two staff attended the All-Staff Inservice with the branch admin at Winkler and feedback was generally positive. They found it most useful when they were able to compare notes with staff who do processing from other branches and would have liked to participate in more practical demonstrations of some of the procedures had time allowed.

Thank you also to Shirl from Winkler, who came to our branch a couple of times to assist staff with processing procedures and made some great suggestions for better streamlining the processing space. We have now installed shelving in the area, which has helped a great deal with organization and as a result staff have been busy catching up with the processing.

Other staff have been planning the decorations for the summer program and are excited by this year's theme.

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

In March, we attended an all-staff in-service. We had a lot of topics to cover and Miami staff appreciated the opportunity to share their thoughts. Table discussions seemed to be the staff favourite.

During March we had our regularly scheduled programs like LEGO Club, a board game night, Crafters & Co., and our book club meeting. This month we read *Between Black and White* by Dr. Ganesan Abbu, who then joined us for a book discussion. This went over really well, with 17 attendees. We had patrons from out of town, and non-book club members join us.

For spring break, we had 4 extra programs planned. A second LEGO Club, egg dying and decorating, a perler bead session and a kid's card making class. All programs were successful and had good attendance.

We were also able to finally find an electrician who was able to move our printer from the entrance to our clerk space. Thanks to RMaddock Electric for their speedy service. With the printer moved we were able to shift our YA space over and create more room for our back clerk desk with the help of the RM.

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

With the temperatures going up and down all month, we saw more puzzles going out than the previous month (at least if seemed that way!), people were excited to see almost 30 new additions to our collection through donations and purchases by the office.

For programming, we had Lego drop-in on early dismissal day and during spring break we hosted another Lego afternoon, a Perler bead event and an all-day Easter egg hunt on our last day before the long weekend.

Spanish Conversation group continues Thursday evenings with a fairly solid core group in attendance.

Book Sale prep has started, April will be a month full of even more preparation and anticipation as we get ready for our first "big" book sale in over 3 years!

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

The beginning of March was a bit quieter. The week of March 11th is the first week since the beginning of the year that we haven't had a program, and it was a welcome break. However, the last half of the month was busy as usual.



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

Our Nerf battle nights continue to grow in popularity with 63 people attending the last one. The other branches are starting Nerf battle nights of their own so we'll see how that affects attendance but if we continue to have such a large group we will be moving to two Nerf battle nights a month.

We also had a Bob Ross paint night that went over very well. The spots filled up so quickly that we decided to hold a second night in April. Patrons are really enjoying having programs for adults as well as kids.

Conrad Stoesz also visited in March and held a presentation on genealogy and tracing your family tree. It went well and we may look into holding another genealogy event in fall, since family heritage is often a project people take on in the winter months.

We of course had programs during spring break and the kids enjoyed the perler beads, easter egg decorating and extra Lego club session. We started our spring story time session at the end of the month and each week we are inviting different members of the community. The first session we invited a police officer, he brought his patrol car and the kids really enjoyed it. We also have visits scheduled from fire fighters, school bus drivers, nurses and more. In March we also finished weeding the adult nonfiction section and are now working on shifting and rearranging to give us more room in the other sections.

In April our focus turns to the summer reading program. We already have schools booking tours so the plan is to have the decorating done by the middle of May. It's going to be a challenge because we also have the following programming in April. Spring preschool story time every Wednesday, Bob Ross paint night, Lego club, National Canadian Film Day, Nerf battle, Creatives Connect, a presentation on the book Vanishing Wheels, a Taylor Swift friendship bracelet workshop, Books & Brew book club and an author visit to celebrate Canadian Childrens Book Week.

We are also hoping to have a solar eclipse viewing with Kenton Dyck who runs the Astro Club, but that will be dependent on weather and visibility. In April we also start planning a 50/50 raffle fundraiser to take place in May to start planning the eventual Teen Room. To say that April will be busy is an understatement.

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