



Cataloguing Technician Report – Office – submitted by Joanna Dueck

Shipments from our fall Whitehots order have been arriving weekly, so I have been focused on cataloguing holds, Halloween and fall-themed items, and now Christmas and winter-themed items. We received and assembled our new storage shelves and cabinets for the office. There's still more work to do before we're finished rearranging the office but removing the old counter has already greatly improved our use of space and it feels much less cluttered. I also ordered another batch of DVDs, mostly patron requests and new releases.

Program Coordinator Report – submitted by Britany Morgan

October was Library Month. Each branch received some prizes to giveaway within branch, as well as a couple of activities to have in the branch for both adults and kids, so they could earn tickets. Throughout the month I had gotten in contact with a couple of people from Genesis House so we could start planning a drop-off donation date for our Power of PJs event. This is when all libraries collect pjs, and comfy clothing for adults and children. I also worked on tweaking and updating a few things on the library's main social media. The updated hours and social media are now available on Facebook and Instagram. We also have a Linktree with the website, the blog and everyone's social media there. I moved onto creating something for Christmas Cheer fundraising promotional material for each branch. Additionally, every week I've been creating a post that outlines what each branch is doing each week, in hopes it will get us more traffic. It's also easier for everyone to promote each other's events this way, in my opinion. I have also been working on our "Novel Experiences" book blog; working on having each post running consistently and smoothly each week.

Altona Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Rachael Friesen

October was a very busy month for us! We had many programs running, and we also had some school tours. October is library month, and we had passive programming and opportunities to gain tickets for a prize during the entire month.

Our first Astro Club event happened at the beginning of the month, it was well attended, even with a last minute date change due to viewing conditions. We will be part of the club's rotation come spring and are looking forward to more events with them!

We had our very first Coffee & Chat event, we watched a short video and then discussed organizing your home, we had a nice turnout, and everyone seemed to have a great time. Many great tips were shared amongst the attendees, and we are looking forward to the next one in November with our guest, Sandy Hutchinson from Health Canada and his information on Radon.

Silent Book Club and Nerf Battles have started again. Nerf battles are always a favorite event for many and having something so active inside the library is always fun. Our next battle night will be at the end of November and then we will break till the new year.

We tried a paint night in Altona called: Pass the Canvas, it was where you can paint for 3 minutes then you must pass your canvas on to the person beside you. It was very well attended, and many unique paintings were created. I think this will be something we will do again, but we will be more aware of the time this takes, we were expecting to be done by 8pm and instead were only done at 9pm. Attendees did not seem to mind the extra time, but an early start and a couple of tweaks at our end will help the next one to be even better!

We also had an all staff meeting during October, it was really great to see everyone, and a lot was covered. I especially liked the craft we all did, it's nice to learn a new technique for creating things.



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

November will be another busy month, we have another Coffee & Chat planned, Nerf Battles and a Christmas Ornament Craft night, we have also partnered with the Altona & Area Family Resource Centre for Deck the Halls programming that will start at the end of November and run throughout December. During the month of November we will also be collecting items for Genesis House and their Power of the PJs campaign.

Manitou Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Angela Lovell

October was library month and Manitou branch had a lot going on, including a draw throughout the month for prizes and different programs including Kid Librarian of the Week. Two of our young patrons were thrilled to see their forms and their 10 favourite books displayed in the library and on social media.

We also hosted our first Stuffy Sleepover on October 29 where the kids heard a spooky story, made a craft, hunted for treasure and finally left their beloved stuffys in the care of library staff overnight. A big thank you to our volunteers, Tyler and Takashi who took pictures so the kids could see what their stuffys got up to! This is definitely a program to repeat.

Another intake of our popular Acorns to Oaks Pre-K program also got underway this month. We have four children registered, and again we are grateful to Carol and Dianne for helping out once again, and to our clerk, Susan, for the music.

Staff have been busy processing the new books now that we have an additional couple of shelves to fill.

Miami Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Raina Teigrob

In the office I was able to order and assemble new furniture with Joanna, rearrange and sort out our supplies, and slowly make room for our programmer to move in. I also attended the financial meeting on Oct 29th.

In October Miami ran our regular programs of LEGO club, book club, Crafters & Co. and a game night. We also tried out a miniatures paint night (using RPG models) and had a successful evening with some out of towners even joining us. We look forward to planning a few more in the new year to continue the paint nights. On Halloween we handed out candy to the kids who stopped in during the day

We have also applied for and received a grant from Miami and Area Foundation for \$4000! We are very excited and grateful as this will go a long way towards new shelving for our east wall. We have placed an order with Accent Environments and are now waiting for the order to be filled.

In November we are focusing on Power of PJs, our Remembrance Day displays, our regular programs and a festive craft event for children.

Morden Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Gail Hildebrand

Cooler weather and families getting back into their school routines meant an increase in traffic for October.

We had our first story/craft Friday this month and hope to make that a regular event again. It is currently planned until the beginning of December. The puzzle board continues to be a gathering place for those that prefer to puzzle in the library instead of at home.

We have spent the last 3 months planning a shuffle of shelves to maximize the library floor. We were full top-to-bottom in several areas, including Inspiration, Junior Fiction & Adult Fiction.



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

This move has given us additional shelf space in almost every section, as well as a new seating area and YA nook that feels much more welcoming than the previous setup. Thank you so much to everyone that listened to my brainstorming and helped with the planning as well as the move last week. We accomplished a lot of work in 3 days and our patrons have been loving it (mostly). Thank you to Cathy for all the help and for being the voice of calm and reason when things weren't measuring out during the planning phase.

Library Month activities (book bingo, ghost hunt, draws) were appreciated by our patrons, thank you to everyone who helped plan and carry out those things.

Winkler Branch Administrator's Report – submitted by Jess Martens

In October we started back into our regular programming including the new cookbook club that has gone over very well. Our puzzle competition was also very successful and if we had a second date available enough people were interested that we could have run two. Our Halloween story time was also very popular, which came as a bit of a surprise to us since whenever our regular story time program falls near Halloween they are usually very poorly attended. It is something we will do again in the future. The bookmark embroidery workshop also went over well, and we've had requests for another embroidery themed workshop. Nerf battles are now held on Monday's instead of Wednesday's and we had 56 people attend. If the attendance continues to be around 50-60 people for each session, we will be looking into adding registration and a second date. Our reference and EAL sections have now been integrated into our regular nonfiction and we will be looking into the possibility of integrating the Mennonite collection as well. We had quite a lot of yearbooks in our reference section that never circulated and those have been donated to the Heritage Society.

In November we will be holding a game night and a Christmas craft workshop towards the end of the month. We of course also have our usual book club, Nerf battle, cookbook club, story time and Lego club. We will also be decorating the library for Christmas after Remembrance Day. Ten Thousand Villages has rented our meeting room for Nov 26-29 for their Christmas pop up store. We will be collecting any fines paid that week and donating them to the local food bank.

In late summer we began noticing a couple of homeless gentlemen had been sleeping in our reading garden. They use the library and have always been polite and cleaned up after themselves and never disturbed other patrons. I have spoken with them and told them they are welcome in the library at any time and if there is anything we can do just ask. However, the staff and I are concerned for their safety as the weather gets colder. Apart from getting a hot meal at Central Station there are very few resources for homeless people in Winkler and while we can offer them a safe warm space when the library is open there are no options after we close. With the current economy and housing crisis I suspect this is something that will be coming up more frequently in the next several years and we would like to be able to pass on information about available resources in the community.
