

Report from the County Librarian

Friends of the Calaveras County Library – September 8, 2021

Recruitments:

First 5 position: The recruitment for the First 5 position is open. Although HR reached out to some candidates to see if they had work experience with children, I still didn't see much promise. One of the candidates who applied for the Arnold position was one who had applied for the other children's position. She is qualified and had a very good interview. I spoke to her, explained the position and she is interested. I am hoping to move forward with her this week.

Retirement: Fran Devlin has retired. We are operating on reduced hours in Arnold, W-F, 10-2. We were unable to hire an extra-hire person to fill in our hours there because the position was already posted. Code did not allow hiring an extra-hire in this circumstance.

We will be holding interviews for this position on Friday. There are some good candidates and we are hoping for a good result and quick appointment.

ZIP books: I have gone through all ZIP book requests, placed some orders, sent some to LINK+ and am waiting on others. No word yet on when that will happen, but we hope it will come soon. We have reached out to the facilitators to see if there is a projected start date, but they have no news yet.

Summer Reading 2021: We had 598 children enrolled in this program. We planned for 461, so as you know, we created all the extra packets needed. We always know that all who register will not participate and that proved true again. We counted a "participation" any child who picked up more than 2 packets. A completion was participation in the majority of weeks – 4 of 6, 5 of 8. Of the 598 children who registered, we had 476 participate (80%) with 403 completions (85%). Our best participation and completion was in the 0-2 age group, with the Grade 5-6 following a close second. We hope our analysis of our numbers will help us in our planning and execution next summer!

We will keep the leftover books and packets and use them in other ways. We had lots of fun creating them, but this program is very labor intensive! Nalatie and I were so glad to have Maria, Mariah, Megan and Myra to help!

Lunch at the Library: Lunch at the Library service is complete for all sites. We gave out 4,062 lunches. This effort was a success at all sites. If the grab-and-go option continues for next year and Amador continues to help us, I hope we can continue this service next summer.

Bookmobile:

Wrap: I reached out to 3 artists until I located one who has agreed to work on the mock-up for our wrap. She worked over the weekend, but I have her only her first attempts to share. The idea is a frog on a bike, riding up a road from some lakes at the lower end of the picture to some mountains and trees at the upper end. The words will be CALAVERAS COUNTY LIBRARY ON THE GO! Once the drawing is done, I will send it to TechOps and they will create the wrap.

Construction: The Sprinter has been built and is now in NY where the doors are being installed. Once done, it will go to Maryland for TechOps to begin the installation of the library shelves, etc.

Programs:

Yoga: We have 4 kits in process: 2 for pre-school, 1 for older children, 1 for families. We have materials for us to do some in-person instruction/games as well, for mobile and site programs.

Gardening: We have purchased 4 small boxes that Nalatie has planted seeds. We will use these for in-person and mobile programming.

Social-Emotional development: We have 3 kits completed for the youngest children: My Feelings, Talking about my Feelings, Everyone has Feelings. These have begun to circulate. We have 2 more in development: Showing Kindness and The Worry Box. All of these kits have 2 books and a fun activity or two.

We are also developing a Worry Box kit for the older children.

We hope to have some things ready to bring out to the community in October...

JLG subscription for the Bookmobile: In October, I plan to get a subscription with Junior Library Guild to get new books each month for the Bookmobile. I will choose categories that I think would be good to have based on our experience: K, PreK, Early Readers, Intermediate readers, some graphic novels, character building, some NF books in various age groups and maybe a series for the young readers and older children. This will keep this collection fresh.

I have a phone conference with Scholastic tomorrow to plan some purchase with them, so we are ready with a good children's collection when the Bookmobile gets on the road.

I have also placed a book order with Penworthy books.

We also need to work on the adult collection.

I have some grant money for this and there is also a materials component to your \$90,000.00.

Budget 21/22: My budget is being presented as I submitted it. It includes \$39,228 for materials from the Shared Vision grant, \$60,049 for materials from County funds and includes the nearly \$19,000 from FOTCCL fundraising. The decrease we experienced last year for the rise in rent in AC was given back to me for this year. The budget also includes nearly \$4600 for Little Leaper programs, books and supplies.

Just as a reminder, when I came to CC Library, my materials budget was \$350.00. ☺ [This did not include the money (about \$4000) given by FOTCCL for materials which was not noted in the budget but paid directly by Shirley.]