

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
May 16, 2019

I am working on a project to provide "Take Home Packs" for all of the children at Freedom Elementary. I got the idea from Scholastic which provides generic packs for each grade, but I've decided to customize my own for each child, with their interests and reading level in mind. Each pack will include 3-4 books, a Freedom Public Library notebook and a pack of Crayola markers, all inside a drawstring backpack. It is taking quite a long time to choose the titles for each child, but I am excited for the kids to have books for the summer. Some of them do not have access to books when school is out, so this will help with that at least a little. I will also be buying several hundred books to give out to summer reading participants when they return their weekly reading log. With some savvy shopping I am doing this for a good price and using the Morrow Bequest to fund it.

I spoke to Mark Morrow yesterday and he is aware of our need to nail down the wording for the bequest so that we – and future librarians and trustees – will know exactly what this fund is to be used for, but he is too busy to deal with that now. It sounds like he will give us another amount in the fall similar to what he gave us last November. I told him about what I've spend the money on so far and the plans I wrote about above. He feels that this is perfectly in line with what his mother would have wanted.

Planning for the summer reading kickoff at the school, summer reading, summer programming and Ducky Day activities has pretty much consumed my focus at the library. Summer is nipping at my heels and with a to-do list a mile long, I have been putting in a lot of extra hours at the library. I know it will all get done – it always does!

Programming has slowed down this spring. School visits and storytime continue and tomorrow is the last Afterschool and Pizza & Movie night of the school year. Tuesday's Game Night was only attended by 4 people. We played dominoes and had fun, but it was disappointing to have so few attend. It's a busy time of year for everyone. Game Night will be on hiatus now until fall.

I am happy that the Friends of the Library agreed to add a museum pass to the MWV Children's Museum. It will be a year-round pass for families with young children to use. Squam Lake, Remick Farm and Castle in the Clouds are the others they are providing. They also approved a trial run of the streaming movie service Kanopy which we will get going in the next month or so. Patrons with a library card in good standing will be able to stream movies from home.

Chris' 3-year anniversary is coming up and that means I will need to meet with him for his evaluation in the next couple of weeks. I am taking vacation next week. We are pleased to have Irene Hopper back after a volunteering hiatus. Two people have told Chris that they are interested in being front desk volunteers, which we very much need. He will be training them soon.

Louie's 16th birthday is this Saturday, May 18 and we are having a birthday party for him (really more like an Open House) that day from 10-1 with cake. We hope he will attend.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rhymer
Library Director