

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
June 17, 2021

The Summer Reading Kickoff last Saturday was a big success. 92 people came and signed up and we have a lot of beautiful flags to hang as well! We have a flag-making station in the lobby and we hope that people will continue to make flags through the summer. Our first outside Storytime yesterday was fantastic, with 19 kids and 8 adults out in the back yard. The awesome shed that the Friends of the Library bought for us really came in handy – we have the tables and chairs stored in it now and we are so glad that we're not having to schlep them in and out of the library. HUGE shoutout to Chuck for all the work he did to prepare the site and assemble the shed and to Bill Barrett for assisting him.

I went to every class at the Freedom Elementary School to promote summer reading and our other summer events. It was good to be able to see the students in person! I gave all the kids a summer reading poster to color and the 6th graders got an additional present – a color-your-own mandala jigsaw puzzle. They were happy about that.

The refurbished computers that I got from Dell at the end of 2019 are not performing well. Joel Clement has replaced the hard drives of two of them, but he has one of THOSE back because one day it wouldn't boot up. The main circulation computer that Amanda uses is also not working well. UGH. I will probably have to buy some new computers and I think we don't have much left in the computer line, so we will have to do some shifting of funds.

Our new copier is great! It's fast, easy to use, is set to scan to all the staff computers, and has a better print quality than the old one. The old one is at the bottom of the stairs; I haven't listed it yet.

I have until Friday to submit an ARPA grant. There have been approximately 1.5 million emails and dozens of zoom meetings about the grant process and I became overwhelmed by all the information and didn't have the bandwidth to deal with it. However, the State Library is sternly insisting that all libraries complete the grant. It is a non-competitive grant and as long as I fill it out correctly, we will get \$2851, an amount that is based on such stats as our population and poverty level. It appears that computers are not eligible and it can't be used for PART of the price of something (like the copier) or for construction, so I've been brainstorming what we can use the money for. I've come up with: Library of Things items to circulation (such as metal detector, popup canopy, bicycle pump, ice cream maker, bird watching kit, etc). If possible I would also like to purchase a printer with EcoTank ink which will be much less expensive to run and allow us to serve patrons who need color copies better. Application is due Friday!

We received \$200 from Altrusa International of Carroll County in support of our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. I used all of this donation to purchase 25 copies of How to Raise a Reader by Pamela Paul and Maria Russo, editors of the New York Times Book Review. I will give a copy to every family who signs up for the program.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director