

The Library Corner – December 2008

It's hard to believe that I have been at the Columbia Public Library four months already! I am truly enjoying my new job and have met many wonderful people.

One of my first priorities in my positions was getting plenty of new books on our shelves! Over October and November we have received over 200 adult books, over 100 teen books, and over 100 children's books. Another large batch of children's fiction is due to arrive soon! Many folks have been coming in and borrowing our new books, which include mysteries, biographies, thrillers, and today's hottest new titles.

We have also revitalized our magazine subscriptions. Thirty new subscriptions will be beginning this month – including *People*, *Marie Claire*, *Electronic Gaming Monthly*, *PC World*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Brio*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and more. Magazines do not circulate from the library but you are always welcome to read them during regular open hours.

Our library was host to two Park Elementary School class tours and one Tiger Cub Scout tour during the month of November. On November 12th, Mrs. Eileen Riter's class visited; followed by Mrs. Gail Troutman's class on November 19th. Joe Zink's Tiger Cub Scout pack visited on November 20th. All groups enjoyed a tour of the library, watched how our circulation computer works, and heard the Thanksgiving story "Pilgrim Cat".

"Daisy Duck" also visited Locust Street Park on the afternoon of November 14th. Unfortunately, due to rain, Daisy had to waddle indoors – resulting in a lower attendance than hoped! Daisy shared her story "Come Along Daisy" to seven children (and two moms!) on a rainy Friday afternoon

Future character visits for 2009 include: Winnie the Pooh (Thursday, January 22nd), Mr. Lincoln (Monday, March 9th), and Tacky the Penguin (Tuesday, April 14th). Otto the Dog and Skippy Jon Jones the Cat will be scheduled for later in 2009.

While on the subject of story times, don't forget that every Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM is our Family Movie and Story. All ages are welcome. Saturday mornings feature Mrs. Dottie Johnson, our "story and craft lady". Dottie's stories for the month of December are as follows:

December 6th: Is That You, Boomer?

December 13th: Winter Is Coming Soon

December 20th: Santa's Helpers are Busy

December 27th: No Storytime – Merry Christmas!

Monday, December 15th, at 6:30 PM, we will host Mr. Al Leo who will be presenting his monthly “College Aid” night. If you or a family member is planning to begin or return to college, technical school, or any other higher education institution, be sure to attend one of these informative presentations. With education costs soaring, you want to get the most from benefits available to you! Contact Mr. Leo at (717) 575-4512 for more information.

Lindsay Hartman continues her Teen Book discussions the first and second Monday of each month. December’s titles are This Lullaby by Sarah Dessen (Monday, December 1st) and Howard’s End by E. M. Forster (Monday, December 8th). Meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the conference room of the Columbia Public Library. Lindsay puts a lot of time and effort into preparing for these discussions – be sure to come out and join us! If there are any changes to dates and/or titles, Lindsay will keep us posted.

On December 4th, Mrs. Rhonda Kleiman from the Lancaster County Library System will be stopping by to help us weed our reference collection. Books that are not being used will be put in storage in order to make room for our Teen Center which has been in the planning stages for quite some time! The Teen Center will be located in the reference area of the library (with the window facing Park Elementary). It will be nice to get our growing selection of young adult books out of the crowded children’s room. It will also allow people of both age groups to feel more comfortable in “their” own special spot in the library! We will keep you posted as to the progress in creating this new area.

I had the pleasure of addressing the Columbia Rotary Club at their November 11th breakfast meeting. I enjoyed sharing with the group exactly what a public librarian’s job entails.

Our adult program for November (the last one for 2008!) featured Mrs. Joan Groh of the Lancaster County Hospice. Her program, titled “Reflections: Life Review and Reminiscing” was designed to help participants celebrate the uniqueness of every life by sharing past experiences. Rather than being a sign of senility, reminiscing is a vital process in affirming the importance of one’s life experiences – and the effect they will have on future generations.

This will be our last Adult Program of 2008 as we begin our winter break. Programs will resume in April 2009 when Mrs. Deb Bixler will share some recipes and tasty treats in a program titled “Healthy Eating and Cooking Right”.

On November 15th, Samuel Edmond, Robert McCarthy, and I attended a training session in the use of our new AED (automated external defibrillator) which will be coming to the library in early 2009. Hopefully, we will never need to make use of it – but it is good to have this on hand while waiting for emergency personnel if such a need should arise.

The annual Mitten Tree project will be held at the library from November 17th through December 19th. Bring new and unwrapped mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs, socks, and umbrellas to the library at any time during this period. A paper mitten will be added to our tree with each donation. All seventeen public libraries in Lancaster County participate in this event. Items will be sent to the Lancaster County Libraries system offices to be distributed by the Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Services Agency. Over 4,000 children will benefit from your generosity!

An addition to the Mitten Tree this year is our Toys for Tots collection box. From November 22nd through December 5th, new or new condition toys may be brought to the library to be added to the box in order to ensure that all children have a Merry Christmas! Our collection box is sponsored by Chris Milsom / State Farm Insurance.

Sam Edmond has been hard at work on our website. My monthly Library Corner now has its own link: "Lisa's Corner". The website also includes a link to the online card catalog, information about upcoming programs for all ages, links to online resources such as "Live Homework Help" and "Book Flix", even a brief history of Columbia! Be sure to check it out at <http://www.columbia.lib.pa.us/columbia/cwp/view>.

Sam also provides one on one computer instruction, tailored specifically to each person's needs. He has helped me a lot, especially in using Excel, and is an excellent teacher! If you would like instruction in any computer program (whether you are a beginner or experienced user) just give us a call at (717) 684-2255 and Sam will arrange a compatible time for you.

Holidays mean a few changes in our schedule. The following are days the Columbia Public Library will be CLOSED:

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 27th
Christmas Eve Day: Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25th
New Year's Eve Day: Wednesday, December 31st
New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1st, 2009

When bad weather arrives upon us, the Columbia Public Library will follow the snow cancellation schedule for the Columbia Borough School District. Delayed starts for schools mean that we will open at either 10:00 (one hour delay) or 11:00 AM (two hour delay). Early dismissals follow the same procedure – we will close when the schools close. If school is cancelled altogether, we will also be closed that day.

The Columbia Public Library is located at 24 South 6th Street. Telephone number is 684-2255. We are closed this month on Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday and on Wednesday, December 31st and Thursday, January 1st for the New Year's holiday. School year hours are Monday through Thursday: 8:30 AM-noon and 3:30-8:00 PM, Friday: 8:30AM – noon and 3:30-6:00 PM, and Saturday: 9AM – 4 PM. Please stop by and visit often!

