

KEY MONTHLY LIBRARY ACTIVITIES - 2012

Month: February

REACHING OUT TO...

FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS

1. The Children's Department recognizes that in order to get ready to read, children need an environment that supports early literacy and learning. New play opportunities and furniture including a new train table, a play kitchen, childsize tables and chairs and a bright alphabet carpet have been purchased to further create spaces that support the five early literacy practices advocated through the Every Child Ready to Read initiative: reading, talking, singing, playing and writing.
2. The Family Literacy program offered in partnership with the Region of Peel continues to attract enthusiastic attendance on typically quieter Friday afternoons. One week 89 parents and children participated in the program.
3. Children's Department staff will be leading the selection process of children's materials in the coming year. The Senior librarian has assumed the responsibility of chairing the selection team in addition to selecting junior fiction titles and two librarians are leads for selecting picture books and easy readers.

YOUTH

1. A Teen Advisory Group (TAG) member, Trevor Sookraj, and a local poet, Ihsan "Teddy" Aksel, presented a deputation to City Council about the importance of poetry slams and the role that the Library has played in creating a spoken word movement in the city.
2. In partnership with Nexus Youth Centre and the Mississauga Arts Council, Readers' Den staff launched the Youth Writer's Guild through an event called, "I Have Roots." The event was well attended and gave participants a chance to read their writing in front of an audience.
3. Readers' Den staff coordinated a display of the Central Library's successful youth programs at the Child and Youth Expo at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference.
4. Sciences and Business staff hosted a library tour for 13 students from Olive Grove School, showing them library resources and space.

OLDER ADULTS

1. Readers' Den staff endeavour to answer customer emails in 24 hours or less. Many customer requests include purchase suggestions. After staff confirmed that her suggestion would be purchased, 1 such customer responded with an email saying, "Thank you very much. Now that really makes you our library, much appreciated indeed."
2. The Arts and History Department helped staff the Zoomers' Fair at Sheridan Mall promoting the many older adult programs and services at Central Library.

NEW CANADIANS

1. Sciences and Business staff coordinated 9 Career Tours for the following community agencies: Fleming Adult Learning Centre, Newcomer Centre of Peel, ACCESS Employment, Peel Multicultural Council, St. Gabriel Adult Learning Centre. 117 attendees left with the ability to navigate the Library's Career Centre and various job searching databases. One group of 27 attendees, returned for a Career Research Day in order to expand their knowledge of resume writing and interview skills.
2. In partnership with the KAIROS Canada, the Sciences and Business Department hosted a talk on "Migrant Workers and Human Rights in Canada" discussing why migrant workers come to Canada, how the Canadian economy relies on them, and why contradictions exist in Canadian human rights commitments and laws. 21 people were in attendance

COMPLETING OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

1. New writers continue to submit their work to staff in the Readers' Den Department for reader review through the "Readers to Writers Network."
2. Black History Month at Central Library was celebrated with two adult programs and two month long book displays of both fiction and non-fiction titles. Author Horane Smith read from his newest novel *Marooned in Nova Scotia* which tells the fictional story of a young Maroon caught in the struggle of surviving 18th century Canada. Professional jazz guitarist, author, educator Ray Kamalay gave an in-depth and engaging lecture with music on *Freedom, Slavery and the Roots of American Music*.

LIVING GREEN

1. In partnership with the Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science (RCI), the Sciences and Business Department hosted a very successful Science lecture: "Green Economy: Fiction or Pathway to Sustainable Development? Evidence from Green Energy", presented by Dr. Paul Parker, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo. The audience of 48 people included about 20 high school students who attend the lectures fairly regularly.

OTHER (special initiatives)

1. The Children's Department Manager delivered a lecture at the University of Toronto on Issues in Early Literacy.
2. The Canadiana Reading Room staff was asked (through heritage colleagues at Heritage Mississauga) how a local Business Improvement Association (BIA) would get permission to play the Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture on their website or at an event. Staff was able to refer concerned residents to Society of Composers, Authors, and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN).