



**Director's Report – Tricia Perry
Westwood Public Library
February 2019**

Budget FY20

The Finance Committee has established sub-committees to review departmental budgets. The Library subcommittee is being chaired this year by Cindy Buckley, and a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 12th at 5 pm. Mike Jaillet will also be attending the meeting as well.

Staffing

Teen Librarian: Mary Boutet has resigned her position as the Westwood Public Library's Teen Librarian, after only 3 weeks, citing personal reasons. The job has been re-posted.

Programming

Harry Potter Book Night will take place on Thursday, February 7th!

Westwood Reads 2019 Library Events

The programs that took place were well-attended, and the molasses cookies and cakes provided by Bibi's Café and Bakery were very popular. Gary Hylander's program is being re-scheduled, and will likely take place on April 3rd, but we are still waiting for confirmation before publicizing. In addition, Stephen Puleo will be narrating a walking tour of the North End Molasses Flood history – date and time tbd.

Art in Bloom -- This week is "Art in Bloom" at the Westwood Public Library. On Monday, February 4th, Kira Seamon, who is our gallery artist of the month, worked with about 25 participants at the "Bloom Party" to create beautiful floral displays to accompany the gallery art featuring photographs of Machu Picchu and Peru. The floral arrangements are fabulous – and are on display this week in the gallery. Special thanks to Rick Canale of Exotic Flowers for the beautiful supply of blooms for the Bloom Party!





Teen Study Nights were held on Monday, January 14th and Tuesday, January 15th, and we had a great turnout from both students and parents on the Westwood High School PTO who assisted as chaperones and served pizza and bagels. Now in its 5th year, the program has been very popular, and I want to particularly thank Megan Coppola and Sean Bevan for working with library staff to make these evenings happen. Several teachers spent the evenings working with the student groups as well.

The therapy dogs and their handlers continue to be the highlight of the evening! Thank you to Dog Bones for publicizing the event -- this year we had four therapy dogs: Zeus (American Mastif); Diego (Labradoodle); Yuki (in photos above); and Lila (golden retriever).

Book Club Kits: The Library now has four titles that circulate as “book club kits”. Each kit contains 5 copies of the book (for distribution to members of the book clubs) as well as a book club discussion guide. Library staff are selecting newer publications which we think will be the most popular for book groups, and if this proves as popular as we hope, we will add additional titles in the coming months. Titles currently available are: ***Becoming***, by Michelle Obama; ***Educated*** by Tara Westover; ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens; and ***Watching You*** by Lisa Jewell.

ReadNext The ReadNext readers’ advisory service has exceeded expectations. We have capped the program for now, with over 100 registered readers! Participants have indicated that they love getting their special picks every month, and the feedback has generally been extremely positive.

WiFi Access: In December we upgraded our WiFi speed from 50 to 150 mbps. And while the increased speed has made some difference in access to wifi, we are still looking into options which might increase our overall capacity (reducing the number of instances where people are unable to log in due to high demand) and eliminate the “dropped” sessions that some users experience. Donna McClellan and June Tulikangas are involved in these discussions.