

Westwood Public Library

Director's Report

7 November 2017



Programs and Collections

There are more than 50 programs scheduled at the Branch Library and the Main Library for the month of November. Some of the programs include Great Decisions, Teen and Adult Knitting Programs, and Storytimes and Book groups for all ages: Baby Rhyme Time on Friday mornings at 10:30 for babies 0-24 months – and Wiggle and Giggle Storytimes on Tuesdays for all ages; Wondrous Wednesday Storytimes for all ages (also at 10:30) are just a few of the programs. Lego Mania is a fan-favorite at the Islington Branch on Tuesday afternoons for kids in grade K and up.

There is a mother-daughter book club for students in grades 3 through 5 on Tuesday, November 7th at 6 pm; Creative Kids with Karen Cagan for kindergartners and first graders on Thursdays, the Just for Fun Bookgroup for teens on one early release Wednesday every month – and the newest addition to Library Book Groups, Adults Who Read YA Literature - (YA for adults) – will meet next Tuesday, November 14th – 7 pm at Chiara Restaurant . The Friends of the Library will provide the appetizers! This month's book is *The Sun is also a Star* by Nicola Yoon...

Capturing Nature in Westwood Art Exhibit at the Westwood Public Library

This week, the Westwood Land Trust opened their annual "Capturing Nature in Westwood" exhibit which will be on display at the Westwood Public Library throughout the month of November. All are invited to stop in to view the fabulous and varied artistic projects from both local artists and students at the Middle and High Schools celebrating the natural beauty around us. The exhibit is sponsored by the Westwood Land Trust, Westwood Schools and the Westwood Public Library.

Staff and Staff Training

Marketing and Library Promotion

Lizzy, Molly and Tricia recently participated in a Marketing Workshop that was hosted by the Minuteman Library Network at the Wellesley Free Library. One of the takeaways of that workshop is that we have created a working group for Westwood Public Library Publicity and PR. We will be creating templates and design standards for all of the publicity that is produced for Library programming – including some standardizing our "brand" with formatted templates that will inform font and color selection for all brochures, bookmarks, postcards, etc...

Customer Service Training

Five library staff will be participating in a "Customer Service Training Workshop" at the Newton Free Library in November.

Teens and 'Tweens

- There has been a lot of interest in the new VolunTeen program which Lizzy is coordinating. The program began in October – more than 20 students are participating so no additional spots are available currently.

- The Teen Mentor program began in September – many thanks to Sara Baroud for her work in recruiting applicants. We have 4 students currently assisting on early release Wednesdays and Friday afternoons.
- Staff Training – Teens and Social/Emotional Training with Dr. Nadja Reilly will take place on Monday, January 22nd at 9 am.
Background on program and Nadja -- as everyone knows, we are struggling with trying to figure out how best to make the early release Wednesdays more positive – for both the 120-150 6th and 7th graders who come to the library every other week –and also for the staff! When the new library opened in 2013, the influx of middle schoolers was unanticipated I think – and as the year goes on, we see increased numbers of students (because we are walking distance from the middle school – and have essentially become a defacto child care option for parents on these very frequent early release days.) Nadja recently did a program on teens and social/emotional training for the Westwood Schools. I spoke with her this week – and we have scheduled her for a one hour session that all staff are strongly encouraged to attend – it will be at 9 am on Monday, January 22nd. The goal is to provide all of us an opportunity to talk about strategies that might lead to more positive interactions and more positive experiences for everyone using the library’s facilities. Trying to get the students to understand that this is not a playground or a rec room – but a public library that has many different individuals using the resources – and trying to study!

Book Clubs

- Karen Gallagher has been doing a lot of community outreach. She is working now with 7 local book groups and book clubs to coordinate obtaining advance copies of the titles they select. In addition, she facilitates a monthly book group at the Highland Glens.

Fall Programming and upcoming events

John Cummings is creating a new cable show “Westwood Information” and he wants the Library to be part of it – promoting programs and activities and resources.... Right now it is planned to be a monthly item – but optimally would like to host 2 shows per month.

Fine Forgiveness – Month of October

For the month of October, we offered patrons the opportunity to have their fines forgiven if they brought in a donation for The Circle of Hope or Westwood Food Pantry. Both organizations received significant contributions from Westwood Library patrons – and the Circle of Hope was most appreciative of being included in this outreach effort. Thank you to everyone who contributed – and special thanks to Karen Gallagher (Head of Circulation) and Trish Tucke (COA –Food Pantry Coordinator) for their assistance and involvement in transporting the donations throughout the month.