



Westwood Public Library Update
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director
April 11, 2022

Library Services and Programs

The library is getting busier with more and more regular visits from new and returning patrons. Storytimes attendance is almost back to pre-pandemic numbers but we are still limiting the capacity with registration. Storytimes are full with a waiting list but we let in walk-ins if we haven't reached 45 people in the storytime room. We have 4 storytimes a week including the new Alphabits storytime at Wentworth Hall on Monday mornings.

We had Lauren Wolk, author of middle grade novels *Wolf Hollow*, *Beyond the Bright Sea*, and *Echo Mountain* come for a virtual visit to both the Branch bookclubs and the YA for Adult bookclub. Over 30 participants enjoyed listening to Lauren and having a lively Q/A session.

In the last month or so we added a bunch of new titles in both eBook and digital audiobook formats to our Overdrive Advantage program. We have started re-publicizing Overdrive and Libby digital options for new titles and saw an increase of 200% in circulation checkouts in the last month.

Budget Update

- FY22 is on track. All lines are on their way to being fully spent by May/June for the fiscal close in July.
- FY23 budget will be voted on at town meeting on May 2nd 2022.
- The second payment of \$13,873.89 from State Aid was received on April 7th.

Islington Branch

We continue to receive positive feedback from visitors to the new branch. Monday (the additional day added to branch schedule) has been the busiest day of the week with continuously over 100 visits. Each of the three departments of Wentworth Hall have programs one after the other (starting with library storytime in the morning and Rec and Youth and Family programs in the afternoon). Tues-Thurs have an average of 40-50 visitors a day.

Annabelle Ho, our Branch Library assistant has accepted a full time position at Dedham Library. Her last day as a regularly scheduled staff will be Tuesday April 12th. Annabelle will continue on as an on-call substitute library assistant. Kristen Barenthaler will now be the Branch Library Assistant at 24 hours and Zoe Dickerson (on-call substitute library assistant) will replace Kristen as the 20 hour Library Assistant.

Strategic Plan

The last month has been very busy with the survey launch and getting the focus groups scheduled. I am so happy to report that at the time of this writing we have had over 945 responses! The survey from our last strategy process of 5 years ago had a total of 326 responses. I had the lofty goal of reaching 1000 responses and I am excited that it is a plausible possibility we may reach it. The survey will also be sent out to the schools in town via the principals which will increase our responses and also help us gain insight from parents of children, a demographic of which we want to make sure is represented in our findings.

Next up: Focus groups are scheduled and will be occurring this week of April 11th-15. We will also be reaching out to strategic partners for one on one interviews to better understand how the library can connect and complement services; these partnerships include: Youth and Family Services/Recreation, Schools, Friends of the Library and 21st Century. We hope to get these interviews scheduled this week.

Timeline: We will begin to synthesize all the data we have collected and be ready with preliminary key findings for the May Trustee Meeting. The executive summary of the Strategic Plan will be ready for the June meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director