

News shared around the table at the MMLL Board meeting on 3/15/18

MCDL – Patti Skinner has been reaching out to the schools and coordinating meetings and sharing of information and resources with engagement from the librarian at the community college. They had a successful Business After Hours event for the Chamber of Commerce gathering. They were able to share lots of library information by “working the crowd.” Shannon Wheeler is their new Youth Services full time staff.

Luther – Lois Langenburg reported that Ariel Lucas did an “escape room” program that generated a lot of buzz and success at the library. Also, LeRoy and Luther are in the next round for MeLCat implementation.

Big Rapids – Chris Cook mentioned that she works with a lot of patrons on technology, helping them at their level of need. The library supplies little libraries to the senior centers and doctor/dentist offices in town and will be placing little free libraries in various locations in the community as well. They are working on their reading playground next to the library, which will have many cool features, and Miriam Andrus mentioned the water basin program they will have in October with a Smithsonian grant and materials.

Cadillac – Patti Colvin is getting back from being out of state for a couple months. She said the director position is posted, deadline to apply is March 26.

Benzie Shores/Frankfort – Susan LaBelle mentioned that patrons love the new chairs at the window where they can sit and view the channel. They have a new full-time youth staff member and are promoting Up North Digital and the “Libby” app.

Pentwater – Mary Barker reported going live with Apollo on February 27th. No major issues and they love the system. They are having a “peep-a-palooza” with the marshmallow peeps – stay tuned! Valerie Church-McHugh mentioned the fly tying workshop and the scarf wearing/tying workshop that patrons liked there.

McBain – Diane Eisenga mentioned they are in the heart of the Battle of the Books program, with the final to be held this weekend in Houghton Lake. The elimination round was held this past Saturday (3/10) and she has three teams going to the finals. The school selected STEM for March focus, and Diane has shared several of the MMLL maker kits with teachers who love them. She also has demonstrated the 3D printer and what it can do.

Reed City – Tom Burnosky mentioned that they are launching a seed library soon, have weeded about 3,000 items and are looking at using Apollo to do an inventory. Tom is looking for a grant to get a couple AWE workstations. The middle schoolers are entering Art Prize with a piece that will be stained glass with LED lights that is a book shelf, and they will donate it to the library when Art Prize is over.

Walton Erickson – It was noted, even though Cory Taylor was not present, that a local patron donated all the little buildings he constructed in miniature to the library. They had a drawing to give all but two of them away and had 300 interested patrons, some of them quite lucky winners.

Maker Kit Survey – Sheryl said she would post the results of the MMLL Maker Kit survey on the website.