

Oct. 1—Dec. 31, 2009

Written by Holly Davis



HAINES BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Winter Youth Report

Lighting of the Library Brightens Winter Days

This year's theme for the Lighting of the Library was Winter Wonderland. Thanks to the hard work and creativity of Frankie Jones and her legions of volunteers, the library was transformed into a beautiful display of snowflakes, gold and white ornaments, garlands, and a star-topped masterpiece of a tree reaching almost to the ceiling of the Reading Room. The fundraiser took in over \$2000 for the Friends of the Library.



Photo by Hunter Badgley

Crowd fills the main hall at the Lighting of Library November 27th

Susannah's Sourdough Starts Alaska Eating



Naomi Green and Jordan Stigen knead bread after school while Susannah Dowds helps Kaylee Verhamme test dough texture.

Kids are excited about Susannah Dowds' new additions to the after-school program, including "Alaska Eating!" Kids have learned about how to make sourdough starter and use it in bread, waffles, and pancakes. Susannah visited the classrooms at the school so they could watch the sourdough feeding and shake the starter themselves. Kids like learning practical skills like baking.

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When is it a good time to go to the library?

- When you need to do research
- When you want to get a good movie
- When you have to check your email
- When you would like to read a great book
- When you want to learn something new!

Bartering: Youth Practice the Ancient Tradition at Library

Bartering has been used for thousands of years as people have traded what they had for what they needed. Alaskans still use bartering today when they have fish, moose meat, garden vegetables, or beadwork they are willing to trade for homemade soap, firewood, or housing for visiting relatives.

One challenge for teachers is how do we give young people a meaningful chance to practice bartering in their world when so many things, like toys they might want to order online, require a credit card and a Paypal account?

Surprisingly, when we give kids a chance to do the work of play, they end up developing skills that will be useful for their whole lives.

During “Legos for Future Architects and Engineers,” a weekly afterschool program at the Library, kids have been heard bartering and negotiating their own complex deals.

“I’ll trade you four diamonds for an airplane.”

“You can have the helicopter if I can keep the airplanes.”

“You have all the airplanes!”

“I only need two airplanes, so you can have this one.”

Maybe there are future diplomats in our midst, learning to make peace amidst the pieces of their Lego world.



Kids at the Lego Afterschool Program spread out on the floor to create masterpieces of imagination and engineering

Elders in Community Share Knowledge and Stories

One important resource the Library has is elders in our community who are willing to share their knowledge with the young people.

This fall retired elementary school teacher Julie Folta donated a seal she designed and sewed herself. The seal’s midline attaches with Velcro and pulls apart to reveal the lungs,

intestines, stomach, muscles, and blubber inside the body. Folta shared her story with the children at the Afterschool Program. She told about how a long time ago her Tlingit grandpa would help his mother catch seal by putting out a decoy seal on a rock and calling to the other seals... Folta told how they would thank the seal (called T’saa in Tlingit) for offering its life to them, and then they would use every part of the seal, cooking it or preserving it in different ways. The kids were fascinated to



Natalie and Tommy hug T’saa and teacher Julie Folta



Megan and Cedar investigate seal intestines



hear the story and see the long intestines emerge from the inside of the seal. Folta explained that we are mammals and have many of the same parts inside of us.

It is wonderful to sit at the feet of a master storyteller. Passing on the Tlingit language and culture will continue to happen when children have the chance to gather and listen to elders who are willing to share their stories.

Headstart Enjoys Visiting Story Time with Books, Songs, and Dance



Holly Davis holds out the drum to Gaelen at Headstart so he can give it a try

Every other Monday morning, Holly Davis visits the Headstart Preschool and takes stories and songs from the Library. The children know the routine well: the act starts with a ringing phone, a welcome song, and then there is always someone hiding

under her hat. Mothers have told Davis that sometimes kids will sing the song “Who’s That Hiding Under My Hat?” when they are at home. It is great to have simple tunes with memorable words so kids become happy singers alone or with a group.

One of the best additions to the story times at Headstart this year is resident ukulele player and teacher’s assistant, Kalani Kanahale, who joins the group and accompanies many of the songs, like “The Hokey Pokey” with his ukulele. The fun of singing, dancing, and reading together make these story times wonderful memories the children will have for a long time.

Story time ends with the song “We Sang Songs and Had Some Fun,” and Davis says, “Come see me at the Library. I’ll come back and read with you here again, too!”



Headstart kids enjoy singing the Hokey Pokey with Mr. K. playing the ukulele and everybody shaking the rhythm eggs

Spanish Lessons Include Restaurant Skills: Ordering and More



Mark and Megan order in Spanish

When traveling, one needs to eat. Kids at the Friday Spanish time practice vocabulary including names of food and drinks, numbers, how to say please and thank you, and how to ask for a check in a restaurant.

To help kids remember what they learn, they get to put it together in a restaurant skit including two patrons, a waiter, and a cook. Sometimes the skits are humorous (like when the res-

*I hear , I forget,
I see, I remember,
I do, I understand.*

taurant goers say, “Gracias. Adios.” and start to leave before they have paid the waiter). They also have the opportunity to make sad scenarios, like when they order tacos, and there are

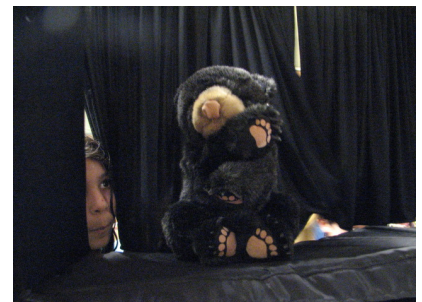
no tacos. Or burritos. Or nachos. Or water. But whatever the restaurant skit story, one thing is certain: when kids get to practice using a new language like Spanish themselves, they are more likely to remember and understand it.

Puppeteers Delighted by New Puppets for Brer Rabbit Tales; IMLS Provides Support to Make New Purchases Possible

The Institute of Museum and Library Services provides support in many ways for our library, but one very special thing the IMLS did for us this fall was provide the money for beautiful new puppets and Big Books. We had added only a few puppets and Big Books to our collection in the last ten

years. Thanks to the grant from the IMLS, we purchased 39 new Big Books and 12 new puppets, including Brer Rabbit, Brer Bear (and Papa Bear), baby bear, Goldilocks (who with a red cape quickly becomes Little Red Riding Hood), a woodcutter/boy/prince, a frog, three pigs, a

crocodile, tortoise, and mouse. These puppets are all Folkmanis puppets, which means they are high quality and will last a long time, bringing joy to many future audiences and puppeteers as well as the children in the library today.



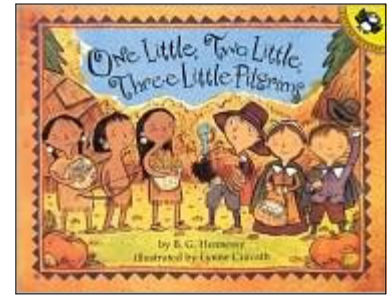
Holidays Provide Fun Opportunities to Bring Stories to Life



Clifford becomes life-size in kid costume

At Halloween time, many kids are thinking about dressing up (and eating candy), so it was a perfect time to let them try out different storybook character costumes. Clifford popped out of a suitcase, and we read one of his stories. At the end of the story time, the kids enjoyed trying on many different costumes and making Halloween cards to take home.

Just before Thanksgiving, we sang songs about turkeys, Pilgrims, and the Wampanoag people. The Wampanoag were the Native Americans who helped the Pilgrims survive to that first Thanksgiving. The traditional tune of "One Little, Two Little, Three Little Indians" works with the verses about the little Pilgrim and Wampanoag boys and girls. The song "The Turkey Ran Away" gives kids a chance to practice sign language, get out their wiggles (by running in place),



and enjoy the delight of seeing the turkey puppet peek out of the story suitcase once he was sure it was safe in the library.

In December, we read stories and sang songs about snowmen, Santa, dreidels, candles, friendly beasts, and Christmas trees. The kids and adults enjoy celebrating stories in the beautifully-decorated library.

Afterschool Homework Time Perfect Chance for Kids to Finish Work Before Heading Home

Some kids arrive at the library after school and the first thing they do is pull out their homework to finish it right away. Those kind of work habits will help kids now and in the long run. By finishing the work first, they are able to enjoy the rest of the evening. They know they don't have to worry about whether or not they'll be able to finish because it's already done!



Jordan Stigen finishes homework

When other kids see the homework out, sometimes it reminds them of their own homework that they need to do. There is a positive ripple effect. The library's atmosphere is conducive to doing homework: a librarian on hand to help, plenty of reference materials, no television or radio playing in the background, and a warm, well-lit area with pencils to borrow and a big table for all the papers and books a kid may need.

Mother Goose Time Kids Enjoy Stories and Songs



Why do young ones and their families keep coming back to Mother Goose Time? Sharing stories and songs at the library is fun and good for us. 90% of a child's brain development happens in the first five years of life. When a child can enjoy stories, puppets, fingerplays, and nursery rhymes at a young age, brain tracks are being laid that can later be widened into

highways and freeways of information. When we swing the scarves back and forth, we are activating both sides of the brain on purpose. When we sing in Spanish or Tlingit, we are keeping those synapses alive in the young brains. Research has shown optimum learning happens when a child is happy and loved, which happens at the library.

Kindergarten and Fourth Grade Reader Buddies Visit Library

One new improvement this fall to the kindergarten library visit is the addition of fourth grade reader buddies. In the past lots of kindergarteners wanted someone to read aloud their chosen books after story time. Even with a teacher, a librarian, and several parents, there were still not enough readers to go around for a class of fifteen kids who have each picked out a book or two they want to hear!

This year, teachers Sandy June-Degen and Patty Brown came up with the idea of bringing the fourth grade reader buddies over to the library to read with the kindergarteners one-on-one right

after the story time. The kids love it! Not only do they get to hear the books they pick out read aloud immediately, but they also enjoy spending time with their reader buddies, and the buddies have the chance to practice reading aloud to their younger friends.

We also enjoyed special guest local musician Tom Heywood playing guitar and fiddle and teaching the kindergarteners several new songs about friends and friendship. The library is a wonderful place to meet, read, and sing.



Kindergarten class on Library front steps after their story time

Homeschool and Library Connection Fun for Families and Kids



Jack-o-lanterns carved by homeschoolers at October event

Susannah Dowds organized a Homeschool Harvest Afternoon at the Library this fall.

Homeschool families shared ideas and carved pumpkins. They enjoyed a pumpkin-seed counting contest, with the winning pumpkin producing over four hundred seeds. Their pumpkins decorated the library's front steps for the rest of October, delighting library patron of all ages.

*Happy childhood memories
make happy memories for a
lifetime.*

The library is a wonderful resource for homeschool families. They find or interlibrary loan the resources they need as well as the “extras” at the library: books for pleasure, educational programs, and an inviting space to meet and exchange ideas with other people.

New Book Organization Helps Beginning Readers

How easy is an easy book? And if you pick any book from the “Easy Reader” section, will it be easy enough for the kid who can read “Cat sat. Rat sat. Rat sat on cat.”? And why is the Henry and Mudge series (chapter books!) mixed in with the “Easy Readers”? These questions inspired a re-organization of the Easy Reader section this fall. The answers are as follows:

First, a book should be easy enough that a child can read it and miss no more than 1 or 2 out of every 10 words. It should be

fun. Secondly, not every book in the Easy Reader section is easy for someone just starting to read about cats and rats.

Third, the Henry and Mudge series is great for beginning chapter book readers. Kids just starting chapter books need easy chapter books, just like kids starting picture books.

Now thanks to the organizing by level instead of only by author's last name, it is much easier for kids, parents, and teachers to find the easy reader book that is just right for each phase of a developing reader's progression.



Megan (age 7) smiles near new book boxes

Art Gives Kids a Great Start at the Library



Using straws to blow the white paint-and-water mixture makes interesting tree branches and Jackson Pollack-like masterpieces.

How often do young children get a chance to play with paint? Because of the high risk of spills and mess, many parents opt for rarely to never at home. At the library, Friday arts-and-crafts time is a special opportunity for young kids to make (sometimes messy) art while wearing protective smocks. Parents are all around to guide and encourage the young artists.

Art is an important way for kids to express themselves. Sometimes early tantrums, biting, and frustrated behaviors are worsened by the inability to communicate verbally. When a child can master different forms of commu-

nication, like talking, drawing, and writing, that child is empowered to express feelings in a socially acceptable way.

One scientist said that for our brain, drawing does during our waking hours what sleep does during our sleeping hours. Art organizes and makes sense of the world around us. For children, this is especially important. There are so many things kids have to make sense of for the first time. It is great that they have a chance to use art at the library as they are organizing the world in their brains.

Mooney Opens New Daycare in Haines and Welcomes Storytime

Helen Mooney opened a new daycare in Haines this fall. Mooney's daycare, Bright Horizons, is run out of her home on West Fair Drive. When I called to ask if she would like a visiting story time from the library every other week, she was very excited to take advantage of the opportunity. Kids love finding out what is under the hat and in the

We give children a gift for a lifetime when we give them a love for books.

colorful suitcase. Their favorites are the stories, the rhythm instruments, and the scarves for singing and dancing. Waving the scarves in a figure eight from right to left is activates both sides of the brain because it crosses the midline. This helps prepare the brain for reading. It is great to have the library-daycare connection.



Jayda and Paige love books

Visits to Kim Larson's Daycare Build Bridge to Library and Books

Kids at Kim Larson's daycare have been enjoying stories since the library-to-childcare centers outreach program began in the fall of 2003. Babies from 2003 who loved the stories, songs, and shakin' egg hokey pokey at Kim's are now in first grade and reading fluently. It is obvious from the way even her two and three-year-old children can sing along to the songs like "Twinkle,



Twinkle Little Star" that the nursery rhymes and songs are being reinforced even when it is not the official library story time visit. It is wonderful to see the love of books nurtured and flourishing at such an early age. These kids are well on their way to becoming lifelong learners. They will be able to reach for the moon with this foundation of a love of learning.



Riley makes sourdough afterschool



Natalie and Laila are library reader buddies



Boys know reading at the library is fun

Mrs. Claus Delights with Stories at Library

Mrs. Claus (who bore an uncanny resemblance to Holly Davis) read stories and sang sing-a-long songs with the crowd on Saturday, December 12th, the town holiday celebration day. Accompanied by Mr. Kanahale's ukulele class and Linda Moyer, the school librarian, people enjoyed singing old favorites like "Jingle Bells" and Tlingit Christmas carols like "Sindi Tlaas ya Andei Kwagoot." For the door prizes, each child won a holiday book of their choice from the donated winter holiday books that never get cho-

sen during the Summer Reading Program. Kids just don't usually pick Christmas and Hanukkah books as prize books in July.

After seeing Mrs. Claus, people headed out to Main Street to catch the parade. Between the activities at the museum, Mr. Claus' free photo shoot at the Visitor's Center, a Gift-for-Grub dinner, and bell concert/Christmas play that evening, children were expected to sleep well that



Kids enjoy reading together at library

Afterschool Candles Are Bright Spot

Susannah Dowds has introduced Tlingit history and modern science into the afterschool program with her candle-making unit. Explaining to the kids that in the past, Tlingits used dried hooligan as candles, Dowds showed the kids a modern method of making their own candles using nothing but a cotton string, boric acid, salt, and wax. First, the kids made their own wicks. Then they learned they made dip candles they were able to take home.



Chilkat Valley Preschool Braves Weather to Enjoy Storytime

The Chilkat Valley Preschool is enjoying story times and checking out books at the library this fall. Even on the coldest, windiest Wednesdays, their parents drop them off at the library for a 9 A.M. story time. Afterwards, they bravely walk all the way back up the hill to their school.

The preschool building is about a half mile from the library. For the legs of a three- or four-year-old, that is a considerable distance. The teachers, Melina Shields and Sylvia Heinz, make sure every child has boots, gloves, hats, and warm snowsuits securely zipped up before they head out into the cold.

The kids do benefit from these early positive experiences at the library. They learn at a young age the fun of reading good stories and getting to check out books to take back to preschool. The

process of picking the books they want is important because it gives the child an opportunity to be in charge of a small but important decision. They have to think critically about the differences in the books (and there are so many to choose from!), and then pick the one they like best. The teachers check the books out to the preschool account and keep them at the school, making it easy to return them.



Holden, Jacob, Ohlin, Sylvia, Jackson, Luke, Melina, and Koa

Kids Decorate Tree to Raise Money at Silent Auction



Sadie, Gracie, and tree

At the Lighting of the Library, local businesses and individuals decorate miniature Christmas trees to be auctioned off to raise money for the Friends of the Library. This year Mike Case organized 30 miniature trees, including the Afterschool Program and the Teen Tree.

The kids at the Afterschool program specialized in glittered snowflakes, red, yellow, and green paper chains, and beaded candy canes. At the bottom of their tree, they used some two-dimensional and some three-dimensional origami boxes of miniature Christmas presents to add a festive touch.

The teens focused on beadwork, using iridescent blue beads to look like our local blueberries and rainbow beads to add some fun to the branches. The teen tree raised \$30 for the library, and the kids' tree sold for \$35. The kids are learning to give back to the community in real and meaningful ways.



Teen auction tree

Monthly Family Movie Night Gets Families Together at Library

A surprising range of ages enjoyed the first family movie night the first Friday in November, preschool up to 17 years old, with their families. The movie was *Monsters versus Aliens*. Healthy snacks were provided by the library.



The second family movie night was the first Friday in December, featuring the movie *A Night in the Museum*. The movie was determined by votes on the library's new Facebook account.

In the dark winter months, it is important for people to continue getting out of their houses (though sometimes this gets pretty difficult shoveling snow to make a driveway



passable or navigating the ice on the streets and sidewalks). The library can provide a safe, alcohol-free, warm, and inviting space for the community to gather and enjoy a movie together. Haines does not have a local movie theater. The library can be a family-friendly mini-theater once a month, providing a valuable service for the whole community.

Library Makes Facebook Debut

Susannah Dowds has helped connect the library with the many people who use Facebook. Haines Library now has its own Facebook account, and there are already 101 fans!

The library's Facebook account has many uses:

- Library information like hours and holidays is there
- Teens can vote for favorite movies for teen movie night
- Book discussions can happen for Book Club
- Staff picks of library books can be listed
- Families can choose movies for Family Movie Night
- There are postings of special library events, like author presentations
- Photos of library events can be shared.
- Facebook encourages general discussion and comments from the public.
- With just one click, people can become fans of the Haines Borough Public Library



Teen Keeping Busy at Library

Writer's Club, Teen Advisory Board, and Teen Night keeps teens busy at the Library. In Writer's Club, teens are enjoying making books out of the children's stories they wrote. The Teen Advisory Board decorated the tree for the auction.

Offering teen activities like Writer's Club and Teen Advisory Board on Saturday afternoon has helped busy teens still be able to fit the library into their schedules.

Friday Teen Nights have included movies such as Batman. They vote on Facebook to help decide which movies will be chosen.

Susannah's French Lessons Bring Culture to Small Town

Community members are enjoying learning French with Susannah Dowds at the Tuesday evening adult class. With eight students and a curriculum designed for Alaska (including how to talk about skiing), people are having fun brushing up on their language skills or trying it for the first time.

One of the wonderful things about a class like this in the winter is that people have time to concentrate on it. Those who

may have been too busy in the summer, trying to grow a garden in a short growing season, or earning money in fishing or tourism, finally have a quieter season when the tourists, fish, and sun are mostly gone.

This French class is a great addition to the educational opportunities in our town.



With our small school and population, not every language can be offered at school. In past years, French and Japanese were available at the high school. Now the school is offering Spanish and Tlingit. We are fortunate to have Susannah's expertise in French and her enthusiasm and energy to teach it.

Klukwan Class Gets Scavenger Hunt and Library Tour

Klukwan teacher Cynthia McFeeters brought her class to the library for their first visit this fall. Holly Davis led a scavenger hunt and tour of the books. They were happy to find great non-fiction for kids in the non-fiction section, including dinosaur books, comic books, and the history section.



The kids were also pleased to find some favorite sections in the kids room, like

Goosebumps and the Magic Tree House books. Their teacher was glad to see the Easy Reader books were leveled and easier to use as well as easy to read.

One advantage to using a scavenger hunt as a way to give a tour is that it gets the kids excited about finding the different kinds of books and makes it into a game. They already had a good idea about how to use the computer to

help them in their search, and they worked together to locate the books they were trying to find. This library is a wonderful resource. When kids know how to use it, that makes it more valuable to them. Living in Information Age (and sometimes drowning in a sea of information) means people need to be able to successfully locate information they want. Learning to use the library effectively is a big step in that direction.



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**Best Small Library of America
2005**

www.haineslibrary.org

Delicious Events at the Library

Susannah Dowds organized sugar cookie baking and decorating, which was popular at the Lighting of the Library. Kids made the cookie dough at the afterschool program, rolled it, and cut it into shapes to be baked. The night of the Lighting, each child decorated two cookies to take home (one to eat and one to share, or maybe two to eat).

Making an old-fashioned gingerbread house after school opened the discussion of traditional dwellings in Haines. Dowds showed the kids pictures of traditional Tlingit plankhouses and read to them about how these homes used to house as many as 50 people from one clan.



Keva and Susannah work on cementing angles

Kids Catch the Beading Bug at the Library's Afterschool Program

At the library afterschool program the six Wednesdays before winter vacation, the kids worked on beading projects including making necklaces, bracelets, and beaded candy cane ornaments.



Brennan Palmieri begins his project

Mrs. Ripley, who runs the local bead store where many of the new beads were purchased this fall, came in one afternoon and showed the kids a quick and easy pattern for making a daisy chain necklace or bracelet.

Beads were donated by Leanne Converse and Miriam Cameron, as well as in the past, Donna Catotti and many anonymous donors. Thanks to grant money from the Institute of Museums and Library Services, we purchased new beads, stretchy string, and for the first time, magnetic clasps for the jewelry we are making.

In an isolated, small town it is sometimes hard for local businesses to compete with bigger stores in the cities or with the internet. The local newspaper sometimes runs ads that say "Think globally. Buy locally." We have the opportunity to support local businesses, like the bead store, and keep the money circulating in Haines.



Shaye Otton beads at library afterschool program