



# Summer & Early Fall Youth Report

## Future Engineers and Architects Design with Legos

A new Wednesday afterschool program started this fall: “Legos for Future Engineers and Architects.” Returning library lovers as well as kids who have never been involved in library programs are showing up to design and build lego creations. Holly Davis recommends building and design books like How To Build Your Own Treehouse for these kids to continue learning and reading at home. What is especially exciting is the number of boys who are drawn to this program. Libraries are statistically female-dominated places, and it’s wonderful to get boys excited about the library as a place to learn and have fun.

The afterschool lego program is made possible in part by the generous donations of community members who brought their legos to share, including the Olsen family, Myrna Cornelius, the Davis family, and Sandy June-Degen.



Boys working together at the library

## Totem Pole Dedication Brings Community Together to Celebrate



How would you like to write a letter to the future? That’s just what people did when they entered their letters into the time capsule for 2034 in the library’s new totem pole. The totem pole tells the history of the library, starting with the female figure on the bottom. She represents the Haines Women’s Club, the group that started the first library in Haines. They continued to support the library and help it grow into the place it is today. The time capsule is in the box of knowledge and will be opened in 25 years.

The celebration to unveil the totem pole was a celebration for the whole community, with Tlingit songs and dances, elders giving speeches, library board members, and staff, the library receiving a Tlingit name, everyone singing “The Alaska Flag Song”, and a wonderful potluck luncheon for the approximately 200 people who came to the library.

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First-grader Macey Martin enjoys her book

# Mother Goose Draws Record Crowds



Eliot Johnson enjoys looking at classic children's story Ferdinand

Mother Goose started six years ago with a few songs and stories every Monday morning. It has grown this summer to crowds of about twenty children age three and under and usually ten to fifteen mothers or caregivers. Part of the reason the mothers continue to bring their young children is the joy of sharing stories and songs in a group, a rare treat in the modern age. Another reason they come is to find out what or who is under the storyteller's hat. Last and maybe most important, it is a time when mothers can connect with others who are in the same line of work: the unpaid and often isolated job of being a mother at home alone with a young child (or more than one).

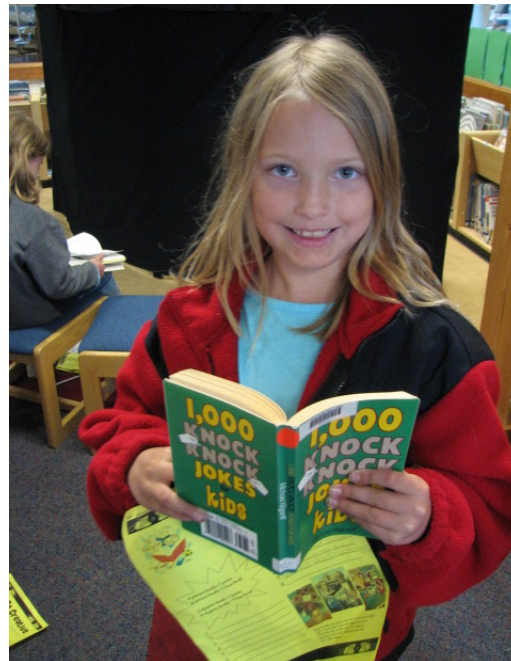


Vanessa and daughter Sydney talk with Alicia and daughter Faith and Susanna with daughter Saraiah. Beautiful scarves and rhythm eggs are a big draw for the little ones; they like the movement and sound.

## School and Library Help Each Other

This fall the library already got off to a good start helping teachers and students by pulling books for teachers and arranging for the new kindergarten class to visit every other Friday morning this year.

The school helped the library this summer with the loan of big books to read aloud, science supplies like a hot air balloon blower, game day sports equipment including hula hoops, soccer balls, and goal cones. It is great to be able to work together with the school and help each other.



Keva searches for good joke for her puppet show

## Library Summer Programs Provide Safe, Educational

When teenagers are babysitting kids in the summer, they sometimes need a safe, educational, and fun place to take the kids. The library is all that and more. Several teens brought their young charges to library programs like puppeteers, story time, and gardening. The kids had a great time learning. During the half-hour of free reading time between each session, teens read to younger kids and had fun choosing more library books to read to them.

## Story Times by Ages Allow Kids to Enjoy Longer Stories

Story times in the summer are divided into four age groups: 0-3 year olds, 2-5 year olds, 4-6 year olds, and 6-8 year olds. Having different target audiences means that longer stories can be chosen for the older children. It makes story time more interesting for

those who have outgrown the nursery rhymes and silly songs of Mother Goose. There is usually a mix of ages every story time, and often after story time, children want to be read to more as they choose books to check out and take home.



Sally, Sadie, mother Casey, Sanona, Mark, and Trygve at library

## Gardeners Work Hard to Beautify Library

This summer Niki Fitzgerald volunteered with the kids' Gardener's Club and taught them about planting gardens, weeding efficiently, and decorating flower pots. Each person was able to make his or her own flower pot decorated with crushed pottery, and then they planted strawberry plants gathered from the library's strawberry garden where plants needed to be thinned.

Kids enjoyed working outside and learning more about how to make things grow in the sometimes difficult climate of southeast Alaska.

The projects the gardeners worked on tied in with the Strawberry Festival, which has been dormant in Haines for many years. This year it returned, thanks to the grant written and administered by Niki Fitzgerald She and other

volunteers coordinated efforts at the Southeast Alaska Fairground. Now there is a strawberry garden with plants flourishing in an inviting area.

It is exciting that kids can still get interested in real things like plants and gardens in an era of so much technology. Kids spend a lot of time plugged into things: texting on cell phones, listening to iPods, playing computer games, and surfing the web. It is great to have the hands-on opportunity to help things grow, whether by planting, watering, or weeding the unwanted garden-invaders. It makes a real life Nature experience the kids will remember for a long time.



Anndrena Hotch plants her strawberry plant

## Accelerated Readers Fill the Jar as They Compete for Cash

Fifty-seven Accelerated Reader quiz tickets were won this summer. Readers competed for the \$10 cash donated by the Friends of the Library.

On the computers, kids enjoy taking the quizzes about the books. Even though they sometimes read books that are easier than what they could read if they pushed themselves to be challenged, they are lively, happy readers all summer.

*So many good books...  
so little time.*



Eli likes reading and puppeteering

## Detective Time Gets Kids Using Their Logic and Listening Skills

With detective Holly Davis reading Encyclopedia Brown stories, young detectives are using their logic and listening skills each week in the summer to try to solve the mystery before Encyclopedia Brown does.

Visitors enjoy looking in the window of the kids' room and seeing Holly's trenchcoat and sunglasses. The kids enjoy the parts of the story where they can put together the clues. Often it helps if there are a few older children in the crowd who are

able to start puzzling the mystery out. With a little nudging (like asking the question, "How does a chocolate bar really sound on a hot day?"), the mystery can often be solved.

Hearing a story be read-aloud is a rare experience for many kids today. They spend more time watching DVD's and satellite TV than they spend with books. It is wonderful they are still willing to listen to a good mystery "live" with a small group.



Autumn enjoys a chapter book at the library

## Alaska Knitters Use Generous Community Donations for Good



Atlin & scarf. Photo by Linda Moyer

Thanks to gifts of needles and yarn from residents, kids and adults knit together in the children's room every week on Wednesday this summer. They came with a wide range of abilities, from learning how to cast-on and make the beginner's stitch, to teaching others learn how to knit. It is wonderful for the kids to get a chance to be the experts, as well as the adults, and share skills and information that others want to learn. Knitting has become quite popular in recent years. In Haines there are many new knitters of all ages.



Jordan Stigen listens to volunteer expert knitter Mary Musseman

## Teen Advisory Board Gets Dog Beds, T-Shirts, and New Lights

Teen Advisory Board made several important contributions to the library this year. With the money from their fundraiser, they were happy to purchase dog

beds for the teen area. Dog beds are very similar to bean bag chairs, but less expensive and more durable. They also ordered t-shirts to promote the library Teen Advi-

sory Board, and new lights for the young adult area. Perhaps the most dramatic change is to the ceiling in the teen area: if you walk through that corner of the library and

look up, you will see an amazing underwater scene, painted by local teens guided by professional artist Tim Shields.

## Writer's Workshop, Book Club, and Incentives Inspire Teens this Summer



Young people in teen area enjoy meeting to discuss the books at the Teen Book Club

Jolanta Ryan coordinated Writer's Workshop, the Teen Book Club, and the Teen Summer Reading Program incentives. By reading this summer, young people enjoyed the chance to work on their writing, read and discuss books, and win coupons to local businesses. When teens are involved in the library, they have a chance to nurture their own lifelong love of reading.

# Nature Walks Open Eyes of Kids to our Local Treasures



Nature walker Chris Cranston-Stuckey leaps

Taking kids ages 4 to 15 on nature walks this summer gave them a chance to see with new eyes the local treasures we have. When we first started looking for edible plants on our treks, we mainly noticed the local summer ice cream stop. By the end of the summer, the kids were able to find and identify many edible plants they liked!



Luke, Elena, Mark, and Skyler on Nature Walk

Nature Walks this Summer included:

1. Counting number of flowers surrounding the library to see if the number was higher than the Dewey decimal number where information about flowers is located. Just so you don't have to count, we'll tell you: yes.
2. Searching for edibles within a ten-minute walk of the library. We found salmonberries, strawberries, raspberries, rosehips, sorrel, and, of course, dandelions.
3. Collecting rocks from a nearby beach to paint at Art 101 and use as garden lady-bugs.



Second-grader Dylan Chapell excels at reading

## Game Day Provides Exercise and Education

Jolanta Ryan led a new addition to the Summer Reading Program: Thursday afternoon "Game Day Fun." Kids played outdoor games on sunny days and indoor games on rainy days. Learning cooperation and getting some exercise made a fun way for the library to reach out to kids who like to be active while learning.

## Science Fun with Jolanta Showcases Volcano and Rockets

At the Summer Reading Program Finale, kids had a chance to show off some of the most spectacular science experiments they learned to do this year. With the help of Jolanta Ryan, they combined an acid (vinegar) and a base (baking soda) to make a paper mache volcano explode on stage. They shot off a kid-made rocket designed with paper wings and a soda pop

plastic bottle body. The older kids were proud to be able to share with the younger ones some of what they have learned. The science experiments were exciting crowd pleasers for kids and adults alike.



## Fairytale Theater is a Favorite for Dramatic Children



Mark Davis, Sally Chapell, Riley Ahmuty, Baylee Pearson, Keva Shull, Clay Pearson, Trygve Bakke, and Sadie Anderson pose after performing “Cinderella” at Fairytale Theater

Kids love to get dressed up and act out stories. The library’s Friday afternoon Fairytale Theater is a perfect opportunity to do just that. With storyteller Holly Davis narrating the story and the kids acting out the parts, they enjoy being part of a theatrical spectacle without the burden of rehearsals, lights, sound, make-up and hair, sets, or big audiences. The appreciative audience that gathers to watch mostly mothers and hopeful actors. Each fairytale is usually acted out at least twice or three times, Everyone gets to be in the show at least once.

Some of the fairytales we did this summer included the following:

- Cinderella
- Tikki Tikki Tembo
- Hansel and Gretel
- The Fisherman and His Wife
- The Three Billy Goats Gruff
- The Three Little Pigs
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears

## Travel Spanish Gets a Dedicated Following

Parents and kids appreciated the chance to learn Spanish with a fun Spanish, immersion class: conversational greetings, songs, stories, restaurant skits, and games. With language-learning for kids it is especially important to keep things fun so that they will remember what they learn.

There was usually some creature

hiding under the big sombrero. The kids know the song “Who’s that Hiding Under My Hat?” which makes it easy for them to guess the meaning of the words, “¿Quién está en mi sombrero?” Colorful scarves, rhythm eggs, dancing, and sign language all help the children learn Spanish by using different parts of the brain.



Holly Davis sings “¿Quién está en mi sombrero?” with kids



Art students hard at work doing realistic illustrations for book

## Art 101 Puts Talent to Use for Tlingit Children’s Book

Cultural Coordinator Katrina Hotch wrote a Tlingit children’s book this summer and gave Holly Davis’ Art 101 class the opportunity to illustrate it. The kids searched in the library to find realistic animal photographs in books, and then they used pencil and watercolor paints to illustrate different animals in the Tlingit story. Kids

were excited to be a part of the production of the book. They are looking forward to seeing the final version.



Cousins work on beading in blue at library

## Kids Learn to Read Beading Design Instructions and More

A variety of beading projects gave a wide range of ages some difficult but fun things to sink their teeth into. The most difficult projects we did included making a keychain decorator with the beaded American flag and making a fish suncatcher out of beads. These projects required being able to read directions and follow them accurately, or the flag and the fish wouldn't look quite so realistic.

There were also "Free Beading" days where kids put their creative energy to work making bracelets, necklaces, and rings of their own design. We even had a day when we used the fattest beads and letter beads and made spell-your-name necklaces, which was perfect for the beginning-to-bead fingers of the preschoolers.

Everyone had special beaded projects to take home and give to loved ones this summer. One local mother has been seen still proudly using her key-chain decorators this fall.

Beading uses math (patterns and counting accurately), reading (the instructions), art (choosing the colors that are pleasing together), and social skills (sharing and getting inspired by the other beaders). It is also a still-popular Tlingit art form. Intricately beaded works are proudly displayed by Tlingit bead artists in town. It is great to keep a love of beading alive.

## Treasure Chest and Winning Books Key to Program's Success

Kids love to read, and they love to win. Having the treasure chest full of wonderful donated treasures from the community as well as the official prizes from the Summer Reading Program made fun incentives for reading. Every four picture books a child could pick a prize from the

treasure chest. Every eight books meant a free book to take home. At forty books, they would win a beanie baby (a soft, stuffed animal). The donated prizes were often higher quality than the budget could have afforded to buy. We'll ask for donations of treasures again next year.



Baylee Pearson smiles with yellow reading log



## Ken Waltman Delights the Crowd with Fiddle and Poetry

Special guest star Ken Waltman, Alaska's fiddling poet, put on a show for adults and kids this July at the library when he came through town. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Waltman told stories, shared poetry, and fiddled delightful songs for everyone. Accompanied by a banjo-playing opera singer, the evening of culture was enjoyed by an appreciative audience. His books of recent Alaska poetry and original music CD's are available at the library.

## Volunteers and Donations Hit New Highs

The Summer Reading Program has never had so many volunteers or so many donations from so many people! This summer there were 55 volunteers and \$8387 worth of donations, including money, time, and things. One reason for the upsurge in giving is that people were given the opportunity to give things they were able to give: treasures for the treasure chest, yarn for the knitting program, art supplies from the attic, high-quality, barely-used children's books, hot dogs, buns, chips, and desserts for the end-of-summer celebration.

Local stores, the recycling center, and the school helped, too. Olerud's and Mountain Market gave scraps for the composting project, the recycling center gave bottles, and the school loaned valuable science equipment like the hot air balloon machine and Big Books for reading aloud.

We are very fortunate to live in a community where so many people care about and are willing to donate to the children's program at the library.



Kids plant seeds for the garden that was created at the Senior Center



Tia, Haley, Aly, and Jolanta celebrate the end of summer

## Summer Reading Program Finale at Tlingit Playground

The Summer Reading Program Finale was attended by a record 100 people this year at Tlingit Playground. Tom Heywood opened the show with guitar sing-alongs; the kid puppeteers and adult musicians performed "Peter and the Wolf;" and kids enjoyed singing Spanish songs, acting out The Bremen Town Musicians, and trying their hips at the hula-hooping contest. The

event culminated with everyone receiving a certificate, a "Be Creative" plastic or paper bag, five prize books of their choosing, a survey about the programs, and a picnic lunch: hot dogs, chips, lemonade, and desserts. The beautiful weather was the jewel in the crown of a wonderful finale.

## Teen Programs Make Positive Difference for Teens

From Teen Nights to Summer's End Teen Celebrations, teens were an important part of the library this summer. Summer is often one of the busiest times for teenagers in Haines because they have opportunities to work in local tourism and fishing. There are also sport camps, music and art camps, Christian

camp, and babysitting to help all the parents who work summer jobs. With everything else that is going on, it is amazing teens find time to come to the library and read at all, but they do. It is really a testament to how much they feel the library is a place for them as well as adults.



Tom Heywood on guitar leads the kids in "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean"

## Steve Vick Leads Digeridoo Workshop for Kids on Opening Day



Following the initial kick-off with the storyteller from Juneau and the songs and refreshments, on the first day of the Summer Reading Program, Steve Vick led the kids in a diggeridoo workshop. With the hand-painted PVC-pipe diggeridoos, complete with beeswax mouthpieces the kids had formed and attached themselves, he demonstrated how to make sounds effects like a kangaroo, dingo dog, racing car, and more. Many of the kids were quite successful at getting the diggeridoo sound to come through. It is not an easy process to make the embouchure just right. It was fun for kids to be able to start the summer with these unusual instruments from Australia. They were able to take home the ones they made and keep enjoying their music all summer long.

## Who Made “Peter and the Wolf” Happen?

In a town as small as Haines, you would not expect to see a production of “Peter and the Wolf” every year, but for the past few years, it has been an almost annual occurrence. Professional French horn player John Plucker was the musical director as well as the wolf (played on the horn), the duck/oboe (played on a mouthpiece), and the

hunters (with timpani drums made of upside-down trash cans!). Matt Davis played the grandpa part on the trombone, Michael Ford assisted with the keyboard for the cat and bass chords for the wolf. Crystal Badgley played the bird’s flute part, and Tom Heywood played fiddle for the story’s hero, Peter. Reading aloud from the library’s children’s book, Robert Plucker was the narrator.



Unseen backstage as puppeteers: Skyler, Eli, Chris, and Keegan

## Students Collaborate with Elders on Gardens at Senior Center



Megan and Brandon water at Senior Center



Kids age 7 to 15 tend garden (elders help, too)



Kids and seniors enjoy lunch featuring harvest

## Public Praises Library Programs in Survey at Summer Finale

What do parents say about the kids' programs at the Library? Survey results are in, thanks to the 20 people at the Summer Reading Program Finale who took the time to share their opinions on paper. Here are the three questions and results:

1. Do you feel like valuable things are being learned at Mother Goose Time, story time, and/or Summer Reading Program events?

**100 % of responders said yes!**

2. Do your kids read more (or get read to more) than before you started coming to the library?

**90% of responders said yes!**

3. If your kids take Accelerated Reader Quizzes, are they reading at a higher level than when they started taking the quizzes?

**87% said yes!**

### Quotes:

"Because of all the wonderful things going on at the library my kids want to spend time there finding wonderful books to read and friends to share them with. Keep up the good work! What a great place of learning."

"My daughter is reading chapter books all the time. She is only 7 years old."

"The Summer Reading Program is a great bridge from spring to fall to keep my boys reading. It is so easy to get involved in all the summer activities outside and not keep up with reading. The SRP makes reading and learning fun—thank you!"

"Great songs, stories, activities. We love it! We check out a lot more books."

"Your program helps me a lot."



**Kadin is happy to be surrounded by books**

## Teen Pages Learn Work Skills and Help the Library

Two teen pages worked at the library this summer: Savanna Wilson and Alicia Morris-White. They enjoyed earning money as well as helping the library. They shelved books, checked books in and out, answered the phone, and helped out with projects wherever

they were needed. In a small town, there are not always enough jobs for the young people. It was wonderful for these two girls to get experience in a field they may someday want to pursue. One of the good



**Teen page Alicia shelving books**

things about the work in a library is that so many of the skills are transferable: customer service, working on the phone and with computers,

being helpful and efficient, and organizing information. It is a great first experience in the workplace, and one that these two will remember for a long time.



**Teen page Savanna working front desk smiles to greet patrons**



**Miranda (age 6) writes down books she read**

## Library's Central Location Helps

One of the great things about our library is how centrally located it is in the town. Kids as young as seven years old were walking younger siblings (age six and four) to the library to check out books. Sisters Miranda and Marissa Haddock enjoyed biking to the library with neighborhood friends. Other kids would walk with their parents or care-

givers. Babies arrived in strollers, grandparents and parents drove their grandchildren in from out the highway or from Mud Bay or Lutak. When visitors stopped at the Visitor Center one block from the library, they could get information about the events of the day and walk right over. People appreciate having a library in the heart of the town.

## Beautiful Weather has Surprisingly Little Effect on Library Use



This beautiful view of the library can only be captured for a few short months every summer. Snow melts in May and grass grows in June and July. By the end of August, the leaves turn orange.

This summer was one of the sunniest and warmest summers that Haines has enjoyed in recent memory. Several summers in the last five years were so grey and cold, they have brought people into the library just to get out of the weather.

Usually when there is sunshine to be enjoyed, people feel a certain urgency to get outside and enjoy the brief good weather. Although the summer's warmth and brilliant sunshine started in May this year, people continued to come into the library the entire sum-

mer. It was really pretty surprising on these beautiful, blue sky days to see the checkout line busy, the computer stations full, and the children's room packed with kids. However, it was also a powerful witness to how important the library is in the life of people here. Even in this often sun-deprived southeast Alaska rainforest, people will still come indoors on sunny days to use the library.

## Summer Reading Programs Benefit Tourists of All Ages

Haines has an influx of travelers in the summer, including cruise ship passengers, people waiting for the ferry, RV and car travelers, summer residents, children visiting their non-custodial parent, many grandchildren who come to visit their grandparents in the three warmest months of the year, and many visiting relatives of all ages from the lower 48.

Cruise ships passengers often make a beeline for the internet stations, but

they also enjoy the books for sale, magazines and newspapers, and the fun programs they see going on in the kids' room. Families with children here for the summer are relieved and happy to find so many educational and interesting programs for their children. The kids enjoy getting to meet and participate with other kids their own age. Grandparents are especially glad to be able to offer the fun learning programs as options for their grandkids. The Library helps an expanded summer population of all ages.



Gabi likes telling knock-knock jokes with parrot

## Library Welcomes New Temporary Education Coordinator

Susannah Dowds will be working as the Education Coordinator for the next few months while Jolanta Ryan is in Oregon having a baby. Dowds has museum and teaching experience and enjoys helping kids and adults learn new things. She looks forward to continuing Jolanta's work with the Science Fun afterschool program,

as well as coordinating teen programs and adult education. She graduated a year and a half ago from Smith College where she studied French and history. Originally from Buffalo, New York, she was drawn to Haines by the internship at the Hammer Museum. Dowds appreciates the small town atmosphere and beautiful scenery of Haines.



Jolanta and Susannah on Sept. 4th

# Library Kids + Good Books = Happy Kids



Record 180 kids signed up for the Summer Reading Program, reading 6382 books!





## HAINES BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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**Kids and Families  
Make it Happen!**





