

SL Shelf Life

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE
METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

August 1, 2017

From Your IC Coordinator What to Expect from the New Shelf Life Newsletter



Are you an employee of the Metropolitan Public Library System? If the answer is yes, then you're in luck. This newsletter was created just for you.

Why a newsletter?

1. To open the lines of communication at Metro.
2. To give about 500 employees at 20 different locations, community.

Some of you may remember the original Shelf Life newsletter. We chose to keep the original title because it is part of the organization's history. We added our mission statement at the bottom of each page, because it represents who we are today and serves as a reminder of what we strive to be.

I sincerely hope that you all enjoy reading it as much as I look forward to writing and curating the content. This publication will be a bi-monthly, one to three page, newsletter with unique and informative content representative of Metro Library's culture.

I welcome you to email me/call me/yell across the building at me (haha - people think libraries are quiet). But in all seriousness, contact me with your latest news and events. You are also welcome to contact me with suggestions for better communication.

I had the opportunity to visit most of the libraries in our system, and I am enjoying getting to know each of you. I look forward to hearing from you. -V.

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Staff-Wide Events August 1st -15th

SA OKC Dodgers Game - 8/11
(If you RSVP'd)

Intranet Briefs

New Report Available on OrangeBoy Savannah Dashboard - New reports are available for libraries to see utilization across departments. Take a sneak peak on Morgan's intranet post.

Overdrive Updates -

- Reading levels added
- Holds list updated to now include the below for members to view
 - Hold ratio
 - Holds position
- Title metadata updated to include reviews
- Bug fixes and performance improvements

Commission Packets Moved -

You can now locate commission packets from Board Docs. There is a link to the page on the intranet from "About," "Commission."

Metro Gives You More -

The marketing team launched a campaign to promote our new borrowing policies. If you would like a promotional poster for your library, you can contact Kim Terry.

Summer Reading Challenge Wrap-up -

July 31st concluded our summer reading Program challenge. Look for an update on the winners posted on the intranet. Contact Victoria with any questions.

Department Moves -

The next move is organizational development and HUM on August 2nd, followed by Digital Library and Member Services Leadership - go to the intranet for the full list. You can contact Morgan Jones with questions.

Tim Briefs



A Return to Our Roots -

I was listening to Great by Choice, by Jim Collins & Morten T. Hansen on my way to Spencer, and something that was said in the audio book struck me. The authors were discussing the importance of consistency and discipline to achieve high results. This reminded me of our library's core values. While we may undergo changes over the years - we can count on these roots of our organization as guiding principles and long-held beliefs...(Go to "Tim Talks" on the intranet to read more)

Library Discourse What would you do?



"We had a regular member come in one day really agitated. She had five books that her new puppy had chewed up. Ironically, the books were on puppy training. She knew that she was responsible for them. She also knew that there was no way she could pay for them all at once- they totaled over \$120.00. She was panicked because she did not want to lose her borrowing privileges. All five books had been checked out twice - so she was also at her limit.

I suggested that she let me check them in and then immediately check them back out to her account. With the items still under her number, we knew where they were, and we could make note of this on her account. I arranged for her to come in once a month and pay for one book at a time. Each time she came in to pay for an item, I placed the item as lost and then went to the POS and had her pay for it. We continued this process until she was able to pay off all her books. I always made notes in her account and made sure that we had an accurate account of what she had paid for and what she had left.

A scenario like this would be even easier to accomplish now with our new lending guidelines."

-Cindy, Belle Isle

Belle Isle

Little Hands Art Camp Experimenting with Texture



Oklahoma City children had the opportunity to take part in a home-grown art project with a styling they could relate to – one in the artistic style of children's illustrator Eric Carle.

Belle Isle children's librarian Katherine Hickey, together with local artist Heather White, created a unique summer art program to encourage children to take ownership of their local library. In the collaborative project, children painted pieces of paper with different textures, and White cut out shapes to form them into the Oklahoma landscape.

"This project allowed families to spend quality time together, and created a unique experience they can remember each time they walk into the children's area and see the mural," Hickey said.

World famous illustrator Eric Carle of "Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?" among other titles, is known for his unique artistic style. He creates texture with paint on tissue paper, cuts out the shapes, and stores the shapes in color-coded drawers before assembling his well-known pieces of art.

White and Hickey created a list of Oklahoma plants and animals, and assigned each family a piece of the mural. The families used a "texture cart" with things like bubble wrap, balls of scrunched paper, plastic

utensils, various paint brushes, and cotton balls to create their unique designs.

We challenged each family to create the texture of their plant or animal, White said. For the hawk design the family used forks to create the lines of the feathers, for the turtle they mixed salt with their paints to create a rough bumpy texture, and for the horse they used their hand-prints to create spots, White said.

Children ranging in age from three years to ten participated in the program. Over twenty-five children participated in the art project. Following the installation of the mural, Hickey and White hosted an Eric Carle story time, and sang songs with the children.

The Little Hands Art Camp started with a member and her interaction

with her local children's librarian. White walks to the library regularly with her two-year-old, and asked Hickey to suggest some art related storybooks. The relationship resulted in a regular art program for children at the Belle Isle Library.

"The Eric Carle mural [it] encouraged members to view the building as "their library," thereby strengthening their commitment to it," Hickey said.

White teaches pre-k through 2nd graders art at a local school and works for the Oklahoma Museum of Art. She started a program at the museum called Babies at the Museum aimed at children two years old and under to get them experiencing the art in a fun child-friendly way.

White will continue to teach the Little Hands Art Camp at Belle Isle each month this fall.

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Resource Highlights

Lynda - This is an online learning platform that offers videos, exercise files, and transcripts to help develop skills in a variety of areas.

Codecademy - This is a free site that teaches coding through interactive lessons.

A to Z World Travel - This site not only offers information for travelers, but for knowledge seekers as well. Some things you can find here are information on time zones, clothing, food, language and more.

U.S. Department of State - Travel.state.gov is the official U.S. travel base, including passport information and travel alerts.

Culture Grams - This database has information about various geographic regions with information such as population, area, flag, fun facts, history and more.

Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center - This database has all you could want to know on hobbies - from bungee jumping to knitting.

For more information on these databases, contact Sadie Bruce.

Contact Internal Communications

Reach out with ideas or suggestions anytime.

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