This November, the Portage Lake District Library will begin overseeing the operations of the Hancock School Public Library. Through the partnership, the Hancock School Public Library will see an increase in their open hours and will begin hosting community programs for young readers. The partnership will also make it possible for the Hancock library to offer community meeting space and increase the library’s books and materials budget.

The Hancock School District and the Portage Lake District Library are thrilled to be working together to provide an increase in services and resources at the Hancock School Library. Under the terms of the agreement, the school district will pay PLDL to manage library operations for three years.

If you’d like more information about the partnership, you can reach me, Dillon Geshel, at dgeshel@pldl.org, or call the library at 482-4570 x2.

Dillon Geshel, Library Director

About the cover photo:
The cover of this edition of PRISM features the photography of Christopher Schmidt, a bike-racing, cross-country-skiing translator and graphic designer.
PLDL Recurring Programs

**SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**

**Baby & Me Storytime**  
**Mondays, 10:15am**  
For ages 1-18 months and a loving adult. Songs, stories, fingerplays and socializing. Older siblings are welcome.

**Read-to-Me Dogs**  
**Wednesdays, 4:00pm**  
Three gentle dogs will be available for children to read out loud. Bring your child’s favorite book or grab one from our shelves when it’s their turn to read.

**Knitting Nights**  
**Mondays, 6:30pm**  
The public is invited to knit, crochet, spin, or bring a hand craft and enjoy good company and conversations. All levels of skill are welcome.

**Adult Book Group**  
**First Wednesday, 5:30pm**  
This September, join the adult book group to discuss *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. New members are always welcome.

**Young Adult Book Group**  
**2nd and 4th Monday, 6:30pm**  
This book group is for young adults who love to read. Stop by any regular meeting to join the group.

**Storytime for Preschoolers**  
**Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:15am**  
Storytime for 2-5 year olds. Older and younger siblings may also attend. Join us for stories, crafts and a really good time.
FALL READS
Find these children’s books and more in the library’s online catalog at www.pldl.org
The new school year is here. We’ve compiled a number of quality, online resources you and your children can use to help them with their assignments. The following resources are made available at no cost from the Library of Michigan and can be found at www.mel.org.

**Britannica Middle & High School**
Primary sources for quick facts and in-depth information on history, geography, people, places, science, and much more. Biographies, world atlas, countries comparison, articles and interactive resources are available.

**InfoTrac Student Edition**
Over 1,300 titles cross searchable with eBooks. Gives access to a variety of indexed and full-text magazines, newspapers, podcasts, and reference books for information on current events, the arts, science, popular culture, health, people, government, history, sports and more. Michigan residents or Michigan library access only.

**Learning Express Library**
Seven interactive learning centers of academic and licensing/certification practice tests, elementary level testing for math and reading, and skill-building tools.

**NoveList K-8 Plus**
Find just the right book by subject, age, awards won, Lexile Reading levels, Common Core standards; even books made into movies, and much more. Read reviews and learn about the author. Create your own reading wish list.

**Opposing Viewpoints in Context**
Features contextual information and opinions on hundreds of today's hottest social issues. Continuously updated pro/con viewpoint essays, topic overviews, primary source documents, biographies, court-case overviews, periodical articles, tables/charts/graphs, and more.

**Scholastic BookFlix**
Grades PreK - 5. An interactive experience that allows beginning readers to explore fiction and non-fiction designed to increase understanding and fluency. Increase comprehension and have fun at the same time.
A strong connection with nature and a sense of community are cornerstones of a balanced life in the Nordic Countries. These three books offer insights into Nordic lifestyles.

-Anna Leppanen, Circulation Services

**Lagom: The Swedish Art of Balanced Living**
by Linnea Dunne

This book explains what is too much or too little, and what is *Lagom*, just right, the Swedish way. Whether it is the way you organize your home, how you eat, work or spend leisure time, it has to be *Lagom*. Except on Friday nights, when you can let go a little bit!

**The Finnish Way: Finding Courage, Wellness and Happiness through the Power of Sisu**
by Katja Pantzar

The writer tells her own story about finding courage and a balanced lifestyle the Finnish way. She explains what *sisu* is, how to tap into our inner *sisu* and how much is a good amount to have.

**The Little Book of Lykke: Secrets of the World’s Happiest People**
by Meik Wiking

You may have heard of *Hygge* but this book examines what *Lykke*, happiness, is and how it can be measured. The book not only talks about Denmark (often rated as one of the happiest countries in the world) but also looks into studies of happiness and well-being around the world.
Patrons of the Portage Lake District Library (PLDL) can borrow books, movies, music and more without accruing overdue fines, as of July 1st, 2018. It’s a change that should increase patrons’ access to the fifty-thousand-plus materials they can borrow from PLDL with their library cards.

“Research shows that overdue fines in libraries act as a barrier to access for many patrons and can prevent children and families from making use of vital educational resources,” said Library Director Dillon Geshel. “Overdue fines penalize patrons for their love of reading, and that is not in line with our commitment to the development of early literacy skills and school readiness in children.”

Research has found that late fees do not influence borrowing behavior. Public libraries that have eliminated overdue fines see no significant difference in late returns of library materials.

“Other libraries that have adopted similar fine-free policies see a telling increase in their circulation of library materials, especially children’s books,” said Geshel. “Without the threat of fines, families are more likely to take books and other materials home.”

Until now, if patrons who owed $3 or more in overdue fines, use of their library cards would be blocked. The Library will still charge patron fees for lost, missing or damaged items.

You can find additional information about the library’s decision to go fine free here: https://bit.ly/2z4QMNZ
Welcome to PLDL!

Meet Jennifer Miller, our new Business Manager

As the library’s Business Manager, Jennifer orders all the library’s books and office supplies, processes payroll, and assist the Library Director with special projects, among other tasks. Please join us in welcoming her if you see her in the library.

Where were you born and raised?
I grew up in Tapiola, Michigan. I attended and graduated from Houghton High School.

When did you first become interested in working in libraries?
I have worked in various libraries for years. I worked at PLDL when I was in high school, then as a student at Alma College Library, and at the Wayne State Library. I’ve worked at the Livonia Public Library, and other public libraries over the years. I’ve worked professionally at the Miller Canfield law firm in their library in Detroit. I worked at the Michigan Tech library. So it’s always been a comfortable place to apply when I’m looking for work. Initially, it was a job that supported my reading habits, and just a great environment. I worked professionally in the field for over 14 years and then stepped away from it for awhile.

What did you want to be when you grew up?
Who can remember that? Would my child self approve of my adult self? I’m not sure I was that introspective as a child. I had a moment where I was fascinated by ballerinas. But I don’t think I fooled myself that I could be one, I did take classes for awhile.

What hobbies are you interested in outside of the library?
I love to be outdoors and gardening. And so, a friend turned me on to a book called You Can Farm by Joel Salatin. I read that book at a point in time when it seemed like that was a possibility. We have a small farm where we sell vegetables, chicken, pork and beef, I hope to continue that. We recently purchased kayaks, so that’s been fun too. There are certain hikes that I like to take every year—nothing ambitious. The trail up to Little Mountain in L’Anse is nice. Silver Mountain near Prickett Dam. That sort of thing. But a nap on a Sunday afternoon is especially nice sometimes.

What are you reading right now?
Right now I’m reading Tenemental: Adventures of a Reluctant Landlady by Vikki Warner.
Your generosity helps us provide programs and services to develop readers, enrich our community and support lifelong learning for thousands of children and adults each year. Here are a few examples:

**Preparing Kids for School**
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Baby and Me Storytime
- Pre-school Storytime
- Summer Reading Program

**Engaging All Ages**
- Children’s Book Group
- Teen Book Group
- Adult Book Group

You can help support all this and more by making a gift at pldl.org/donate
The Teen Zone is a new section of the library’s newsletter that features recommended reading, events, book reviews, and art for and by teenage PLDL patrons.

In this issue, we're featuring art by Autumn Eles. Autumn is 14 years old, and has been a frequent user of PLDL since she was 10 years old. She was inspired to create this drawing after seeing a display at the library of caterpillars growing into monarch butterflies.
PLDL
Where minds take flight.

Autum Eles, 14
Student Day @ The Market
Tuesday, September 11 @ 4PM
The first 100 MTU students at the market will receive a shopping voucher from MTU Health & Wellness, and a Jim’s Foodmart shopping bag.

Friends of the Library Book Giveaway
Saturday, September 15 @ 12pm
Join the Friends of the Portage Lake District Library for a book giveaway for those who lost books in the Father’s Day Flood.

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Friday, October 5 @ 5PM
Saturday, October 6 @ 10AM
Stop by for a used book sale hosted by the Friends of the Portage Lake District Library.

NERF Battle @ Your Library
Friday, October 12 @ 5PM
For ages 8—12. Join us for an epic NERF battle after-hours. Pre-registration is required. Pizza and refreshments will be served. We’ll supply the darts, you bring the blaster.

Annual Halloween Party @ Your Library
Friday, October 20 @ 6PM
Kids and adults are invited to dress in costumes and enjoy Halloween games, food, treats, a movie, Storytime, and a Haunted House.