PRISM
PORTAGE LAKE DISTRICT
LIBRARY

WINTER 2020

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With the New Year ahead, it’s a good time to reflect on another productive, fun and busy year at the Library. In addition to many of our recurring programs, we launched a number of new initiatives for patrons of all ages.

While area schools were on spring break, we hosted a slime making event that was a smash hit; over 100 children and families attended! In the past, we’ve cut back on children’s programming during spring break. Looking ahead, we’ll be planning special events over spring break every year.

In June, we kicked-off our Summer Reading Program alongside weekly yoga sessions for children and adults. Also over the summer, Through our partnership with the Downtown Houghton Farmer’s Market, the Library introduced a new monthly cooking class called Biblio Bistro. Library staff made use of fresh produce from the weekly market to cook a different dish at each event.

Our very first Rabbit Island School took place in July, in which 5 area students spent one-week on a remote, forested island in Lake Superior. in October, students returned to the library to present their art and experience to the greater community.

Our first year of work at the Hancock Library is now behind us, with many success stories to share. Overall circulation of library materials has doubled, library card sign-ups have more than tripled, and we recorded thousands of additional visits to the library when compared to the year prior.

We can’t wait to continue bringing you opportunities to discover, imagine and connect in the new year!

Dillon Geshel, Library Director
Recurring Library Programs

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

**Knitting Nights**  
Every Third Monday, 6:30pm  
All are invited to knit, crochet, spin, or bring a hand craft and enjoy good company and conversations. All levels of skill are welcome. Meet at the back table unless otherwise noted.

**Adult Book Group**  
Wednesday, December 4, 5:30pm  
In December, join the library’s adult book group to discuss *Mr. Dickens and His Carol* by Samantha Silva.

**Storytime for Pre-Schoolers**  
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:15am  
Storytime for 2-5 year olds. Join us for stories, crafts and a really good time! Older siblings are always welcome.

**Tween Book Group**  
Third Thursdays of the month, 6:30pm  
For Tweens who love to read! Stop by to discuss your current read and recent reads among other book-loving pre-teens.

**Coffee and Conversation**  
First Fridays of the month, 11am  
Join us for a community social hour. We’ll have coffee and cinnamon rolls. Feel free to bring cards, an activity, or just come for the conversation.
The Michigan Room

The Portage Lake District Library's Michigan Room is home to hundreds of non-fiction titles written by Michigan authors or about Michigan history. Located at the east end of the library, this room is also used to house all of the library's print reference materials.

In partnership with the Copper Country Reading Council, the library has made books and other materials available in a Teacher Resource Collection, also located in our Michigan Room. These items have been carefully selected by both library staff and local teachers, and new items are added every month. Materials include professional texts on pedagogy, classroom activities, mentorship and more.

Another resource unique to our Michigan Room is a public computer set aside for research. This computer has access to Ancestry.com for genealogical research, digital subscriptions to local and national newspapers, and the largest digital collection of grant makers and grants in the US, The Foundation Directory Online.

Unlike our other public computers, the Michigan Room computer does not limit use by the hour. Patrons are free to spend as much time as they need on their research or other work related projects in the Michigan Room.

Check our our Michigan Room for all your research and history needs!

The Library’s Michigan Room also has seating available for quiet study, and a larger table for groups to meet at. When the Community Room is already in use, groups often use the Michigan Room for meetings or social events. If you’d like to schedule use of the Michigan Room, stop by the library or contact Michael Stanitis, the library’s Program Coordinator at mstanitis@pldl.org.
WINTER
READS

Find these children's books and more in the library's online catalog at www.pldl.org
MEET MICHAEL

Michael Stanitis is the Program Coordinator at the Library. He joined our team in February, 2019. Michael kindly agreed to answer some questions about himself and his new role as Program Coordinator.

**Where were you born and raised?**
In a beautiful valley in the rolling farmland of northeast Pennsylvania.

**When did you first get interested in working in libraries?**
I was the kid who preferred being dropped off at the library instead of the arcade with my brothers, so from an early age I realized the prestige and power that embodies the librarian profession. As a librarian, you are surrounded by information on endless subjects, so to a curious kid, it’s like having a super power.

**What has been your favorite part of working at PLDL?**
I feel like I’m fighting the good fight with really good people and...
helping to provide a safe space and opportunities to explore for our community.

**What do you like to do for fun outside of the library?**
I really enjoy spending time outside with my husband and dogs and any activity that revolves around a good picnic.

**What's the last book you couldn't put down?**
*Thunderstruck* by Eric Larson.

**What new program or project has been the most exciting for you to be involved with?**
I'm particularly proud of Biblio Bistro, a series of introductory cooking classes that used fresh produce from our weekly Farmer's Market here at the library. It was great to work alongside Meghan Jaszczak, a Registered Dietician with UP-Health System Portage, to prepare dishes and provide recipes and samples to patrons. I hope it will lead to more partnerships for programming, which is a win/win for all, especially our community. It was very rewarding to find a different way to help connect the community to area farmers and increase the visibility of our diverse and sustainable food system. Personally, it was very gratifying to have patrons return for another Biblio Bistro event to see what we were cooking, to share their attempts at using one of our recipes, and to share with me what they bought at the market and what they were planning on cooking.
Checkout a Chromebook

Our Library has long been a destination for patrons who use library computers to work, explore, create and play. The addition of Chromebooks offer one more way for users to get online while visiting the library. Chromebooks are now available for library cardholders to checkout and use while visiting the library.

A Chromebook is a personal computer that runs Google Chrome as its operating system. Chromebooks don’t have a lot of software installed on them, and are designed to be used for any web-based application where data is stored online. This makes Chromebooks quick to boot up and perfect for many online tasks.

Library cardholders who reserve use of the Community Room can also request up to a dozen Chromebooks for use during their event, meeting, or other special occasion. Contact the library at 906-482-4570 to learn more about our Chromebook lending policy for patrons and the Community Room.
Hancock School Public Library

BOOK CLUB OPEN HOUSE

Join our Book Club! Begins in January!

CHECK OUT OUR BOOK CLUB KITS!

Need new members for your own club?
Looking to join a club?
JOIN US! There will be refreshments!

Dec 9, 2019 • 6:00-7:00 PM • 501 Campus Drive
Hancock School Public Library • 487-5925
Infused: Adventures in Tea by Henriette Lovell
This book, like a good cup (not a mug) of tea has many flavors and exciting nuances - it’s a travel book, a history of tea, a tea cook book, and a memoir of sorts. The “Rare Tea Lady” takes you on a journey to meet tea farmers at small organic tea farms at hard to access places as well as restaurants and chefs around the globe. Learn how tea leaves are picked, rolled and dried and why industrial tea farms lack the quality and flavor the Rare Tea Lady is looking for. Tea has many secrets and, and are not revealed until careful testing related to the temperature of water, or how many infusions of tea are made. After reading this book, you will never want to use teabags again.

Unto Us A Son Is Given: A Commissario Guido Brunetti Mystery by Donna Leon
Donna Leon’s mysteries offer a glimpse of life in Venice, Italy and how gossip, corruption, connections and hierarchy in a police station play a role in solving crimes. Nothing seems to work fast and no one really seems to work hard. The "Commissario" loves his family, reads classics, enjoys his wife Paola’s cooking (although it remains a mystery how a university professor has time to cook such elaborate meals), and is a man of high morale. In this book Brunetti is asked to somehow prevent a rich old man, a family friend, from adopting a much younger man as his son. When the old man dies and a crime occurs, Brunetti must look into the old man's past to find clues.

Home In The Woods by Eliza Wheeler
This children’s story is based on the author’s grandmother’s experiences in northern Wisconsin. It is a sad story with a lot of hope about learning to live off of what nature has to offer, working together in harsh, poor conditions with your siblings and finding joy in that. The beautiful illustrations take you to the woods and surround you with the tastes and sounds of nature. I think people in the UP can truly appreciate this book, and find that this might be a story of many of their ancestors as well. If you are familiar with the Boxcar Children books, you will find many similarities.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by K. M. Richardson
Richardson’s book is a very interesting piece of historical non-fiction about the women who rode mules and horses to deliver books in Kentucky in the 1930’s and 1940’s. The book also covers the mysterious blue people of Kentucky, another fascinating story rooted in history that I had never heard of.
In October, we launched an annual fund campaign to raise funds for the purchase of books and other materials for checkout, as well as the many library programs we host for all ages throughout the year. Annual fundraising campaigns like this one help ensure we are still able to support community needs through free information, public programming and a robust collection of books and other resources.

A generous, tax deductible donation from you or your family can help maintain the excellent level of service you have come to expect from the PLDL. So far, we have raised about 30% of our $30,000 goal. If our campaign is successful, the PLDL will be able to maintain an exceptional suite of programs and resources that meet community needs for another year.

Funds raised for library programs help support our multiple storytime events each week, social events for adults, and youth initiatives such as our Rabbit Island School program.

The library’s donor wall is still available for customized “book titles” that honor donors at three levels: $500, $1,000 and $2,000. These book titles will remain in the library for the life of the building, allowing patrons to recognize those who support the library. Contact the library today to reserve your recognition book title.
DECEMBER & JANUARY
SPECIAL EVENTS

SUPERIOR FAB LAB: CUSTOM SHIRT WORKSHOP
Monday, December 2 at 6pm
Learn how to use a circuit machine to cut out a logo, phrase, or image and place it onto a shirt or mug. This is a great opportunity to make a customized Christmas present! Bring your own shirt, or mug to place the graphic on.

APPLY TO WORK WITH THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Friday, December 6, 13 & 20, 11am-3pm
Kerry L Hill, Recruiting Assistant for the Western Upper Peninsula division of the U.S. Census Bureau will be available to help you apply for employment with the 2020 Census.

TRIVIA NIGHT!
Wednesday, December 11 & January 8 at 6pm
Join us for a fun evening and put all those random facts you've been collection to good use! This will be a general trivia and every topic is fair game. Popcorn included!

GENEALOGY SOCIETY MEETING
Tuesday, January 14 at 6pm
The monthly meeting of the Houghton Keweenaw County Genealogy Society is open to the public. Each meeting features a different topic and presentation.

NERF BATTLE FOR TEENS
Friday, January 31 at 4:30pm
Teens ages 13 through 18! Join us for another epic Nerf Battle! Bring your own Nerf Blaster, we'll supply the darts. Register by signing up at the front desk or call 482-4570. All participants must sign a waiver.