The library’s Winter 2018 newsletter is here and boasts a new name! The Portage Lake District Library’s PRISM is your quarterly update on library happenings, events, resources and more. Classical musician Yo Yo Ma spoke of exceptional music as “...a prism, which you can see from each facet a single totality”. We’ve adopted the new title with the same metaphor in mind: our newsletter endeavors to highlight the many programs, resources and opportunities for community engagement that stem from our mission.

With the start of a new year, PLDL marks the beginning of our recently approved 7-year millage renewal. On Tuesday, November 6th, voters in the library district approved our millage with a staggering 89% of the vote—a rate of approval the library has not seen in a millage election in at least two decades. With the historic win behind us, we’re thrilled to continue serving area residents for the next 7 years and beyond.

To make sure we understand the needs of our community, we’re launching a strategic planning process that will result in long term plans and goals for the library. What does the community want? What does the community believe? You can help us answer these questions and more by participating in surveys and focus groups to be scheduled in the near future.

The end of 2017 also marked the end of our first annual fund campaign in over a decade. In total, the campaign raised nearly 80% of our $40,000 year end goal, and saw an increase in annual donations of over 90% from the year prior. These funds will help ensure that the library maintains the same level of excellent service and hours throughout the 2018 year. And for that, we have you to thank. The incredible level of community support we see from our patrons and community members make the library what it is today. I look forward to seeing what we can do for you in the new year.

-Dillon Geshel, Library Director
Please call the library at 482-4570 for additional event information, or visit the library’s event calendar at www.pldl.org

**Storytime Classes**
*Every Wednesday and Thursday, 10:15 am*
Storytime classes for all ages and their caregivers. Join us for stories, crafts and a great time.

**BASIC: Building Adult Skills in Computing**
*Every Saturday, 9:00 am*
Free computer and digital device assistance with Michigan Tech experts. Bring your own digital device, or feel free to use the library’s public computers.

**AmeriCorps Book Club for Kids**
*First Saturday of Every Month, 1:00 pm*
Children of all ages are invited to drop in for stories, crafts and games hosted by Superior AmeriCorps.

**Adult Book Group**
*First Wednesday of Every Month, 5:30 pm*
This month, join the adult book group to discuss *Astrid and Veronika* by Linda Olsson. New members are always welcome.

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

**Essential Oils 101**
*February 1, 5:30 pm, February 24, 12:00 pm*
Learn about plant based medicines from the Superior Essentials team.

**Mango Language Tutorials**
*February 9th, 1:00 pm, February 20th, 6:00 pm*
Learn how to use the library’s online language learning resource, Mango Languages.

**Genealogy Group**
*February 13th, 6:00 pm*
The Houghton-Keweenaw County Genealogical Society will be sorting, collating and filing a recently donated genealogy collection. All are welcome.
WINTER READS

Find these books and more in the library’s online catalog at
www.pldl.org
Your library card is the key to materials and resources at PLDL. In addition to the 52,000+ physical items available in the library, our digital collections offer over 10,000 eBooks, audiobooks, streaming videos, and digital magazines. Patrons can also access genealogy resources from our website, or find potential grant makers for area nonprofits.

**Mango Languages**

Mango Languages, an online language learning tool that teaches practical conversation skills for real communication, boasts 72 different languages to choose from. Each language includes lessons that combine real life situations and audio from native speakers with clear, simple instructions. The courses are presented with an appreciation for cultural nuance and real-world application that integrates components of vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar and culture.

Most recently, Mango has added a film-based language-learning tool that delivers culture-packed films to curious learners and foreign-film buffs alike. Online language learning has never been so much fun! You can get started using Mango by visiting www.pldl.org today.

**Novelist**

The library’s latest eResource is a reader recommendation database called Novelist. Search for titles or authors you enjoyed, and find recommended read-alikes that just might be your next favorite read! Browse genres and books by age group, or visit the databases collection of book discussion guides to kick-start your next book club meeting. The resource also includes recommended reading lists based on genres—a great tool for area teachers building a lesson plan.

For every book you stumble across in Novelist, you’ll also find a link to the library’s catalog, allowing you to seamlessly jump to the same item in our library if it’s available. Visit www.pldl.org today to find your next favorite read!
A new year means another Food for Fines program at our library. The library is offering its Food for Fines program from January 15 through March 31. During that time, patrons can pay up to $10 in overdue fines by bringing non-perishable food items to the library. The food will be donated to local food pantries.

Patron's are encouraged to bring small, individual sized portions for recipients of Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly programs. Large family sized packages and canned goods will be donated to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul. Donated food must not expire before August, 2018.

Library patrons who prefer to pay in cash or check for their overdue fines can also choose to have that money donated to the Food for Fines program. Those who wish to contribute food yet have no library fines are welcome and encouraged to do so. All donations will be immensely appreciated.

Last year, our Food for Fines program raised $360 for the above mentioned food pantries. Can you help us raise even more this year? Stop by the library to donate today!

With tax season upon us, the library will host volunteers from the AARP foundation to assist you with preparing and filing your tax return. Each year, these volunteers assist over 400 area residents at no cost.

Appointments are being scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from February 6th to April 10th. These appointments fill up quickly, so be sure to call the library as soon as possible to reserve your spot. For more information about what to bring to your appointment, please call the library at 482-4570 or visit our website at www.pldl.org
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
- Storytime Classes
- 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
A dministered by the Library of Michigan in partnership with Michigan libraries, the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) provides all Michigan residents with free access to thousands of full-text articles, books and other valuable research information at any time.

These databases include access to Chilton Repair manuals through the Chilton Library. This collection includes the most authoritative automotive repair information available to car owners and auto mechanics. There are thousands of year, make and model combinations covering the most popular vehicles of the past 30 years, plus additional coverage of specialty models that date back to the 1940s.

You can access the Chilton Library from anywhere with an internet connection. Just point your web browser to www.mel.org/databases and scroll down the page to find the Chilton Library link. Video tutorials on how to use the Chilton Library can also be found online at http://solutions.cengage.com/gale-training/video/chilton-library/

Some of the Chilton Library’s most popular features include:
- Maintenance and specification tables that provide the unique data you need for each specific vehicle.
- Step-by-step service and repair procedures, and a labor estimating tool to help you determine your next move.
- Vacuum diagrams to simplify troubleshooting.
- Wiring diagrams to help explain system operation.
- ASE test prep quizzes for the most popular certification exams.

If the Chilton Library sounds like a helpful tool for you, but you’re unsure of where to start, we can help. Stop by the library or give us a call and we’d be happy to schedule an in-person tutorial.

T he library’s new self-paced and year-round early literacy pro-gram, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten (1KB4K), is aimed at getting children ready to read by the time they enter kindergarten. The premise is simple: Read 1,000 books with your child before they begin kindergarten. We promise to make it fun with prizes along the way. The program is free and open to all. Stop by the library to sign up today!
ACCESS DIGITAL MAGAZINES, NEWS AT PLDL

The library provides access to over one hundred popular magazines and newspapers in print. But did you know the library makes digital subscriptions available for magazines and newspapers as well?

The public computer located in the library’s Michigan Room provides access to the Daily Mining Gazette, the Financial Times, and the Wall Street Journal digital editions. Library users can use this machine to view the current daily edition, or browse through back issues as needed.

The library also subscribes to a digital collection of magazines called RBdigital. This subscription includes over 120 popular magazines, such as The Atlantic, Discover, Bon Appetit, Cosmopolitan, Country Living, and ESPN The Magazine. With your library card, all of these magazines can be downloaded from anywhere with an internet connection. There are no checkout limits or due dates in RBdigital, so once you checkout a magazine, it’s yours to keep. You can even opt in to have current issues delivered to your device the day they’re released. Visit www.pldl.org to get started today!

Did You Know?

In 2017, our library recorded the highest rate of participation in the Summer Reading Program since we began tracking that information in 2012. Over 875 area residents participated, and those who finished were awarded a $5 voucher to the Downtown Houghton Farmer’s Market.
Join us on Tuesday, March 6th at 6:00 pm for a presentation by Nancy Langston, author of *Sustaining Lake Superior: An Extraordinary Lake in a Changing World*. Nancy Langston is an environmental historian who explores the connections between toxics, environmental health, and industrial changes in Lake Superior. Her new book asks the question: What can we learn from the recoveries around Lake Superior over the past century, as we face new interconnected challenges from climate change, synthetic chemicals, and forest change? There will be a book signing and selling following the presentation.