

**Skagway Public Library**  
Librarian's Report  
Monday, December 4, 2023

Staff:

Grace Robbins, seasonal part-time Library Clerk  
Katherine Moseley, permanent part-time Library Clerk  
Anna Nelson, permanent part-time Library Assistant  
Crystal Harris, permanent full-time Library Assistant  
Rachel Dewan, Library Director

Programming

October's programming went really well, with successful Halloween events such as Trick-or-Treating at the library and a "Create a Creature" craft which took place at Late Night Library and during the Skagway Fall Festival. The craft was a partnership with the Friends of the Klondike Corridor and was really successful for all parties involved. It was a fantastic craft for the Late Night Library, and drew in quite a few participants throughout the weekend. We look forward to continuing this partnership with the Friends of the Klondike Corridor in the future.

Book Club continues to go well with consistently great turnouts. Participants are meeting every month to discuss a book of their choosing, and this month's meeting will take place on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Anyone is invited to participate!

In October, we held another successful Skype a Scientist event where participants were able to videochat with a paleontologist, and it was a great success! Skagway School has also shown an interest in partnering with the library for future Skype a Scientist events, in addition to other literacy initiatives, so we are going to be in contact about correlating these sessions with the subjects being covered in school curricula.

The library is hosting a number of holiday events and programs in the next few weeks, including a daily Christmas Countdown which features holiday and winter books from our collection, and Reading Magic Photos available to the public whenever the library is open. On Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, we are hosting drop-in holiday craft sessions for all ages, and at 10:30 am on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ms. Anna will be hosting her annual Holiday Story Time. Kids and families of all ages are welcome to join her around the Christmas tree for festive songs and stories.

Maintenance

I have been in contact with Public Works about plans for the installation of an automatic door, a project funded by the ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities accessibility grant. The original hope was to install the door in November or December 2023, but due to delays with materials

and some of Public Works' partners, we are now planning for early spring 2024. The funds must be used by June 2024.

Finally, the library staff would like to thank the Board for providing the Special Project funds for our new fishtank! It was successfully transported from Whitehorse to the library, and the fish have now been transferred to their new home.

### Budget and Finances

The same grant program that is funding the installation of the automatic door is running a second round of funding and has encouraged all past grant recipients to apply again with a related accessibility project. Since we are already thinking about ADA compliance because of the door installation and an ADA assessment conducted for municipal buildings last spring, this seems like a good opportunity to apply for additional funds and make an ADA-compliant sidewalk and library entryway. I will be submitting the grant application in the next week.

Two weeks ago, I received notice that our application for an Alaskan Book Hook grant was successful, and that we will be receiving \$1000 from the Juneau Community Fund to spend on the collection. The check should arrive in the next few weeks, but I have already spoken with the Borough Treasurer about adding this to our 2024 budget.

Speaking of which, the library's FY24 budget has been reviewed with the Borough Manager and is set to be approved by the Assembly this month along with the other municipal departments' budgets.

Rachel Dewan  
12/1/2023