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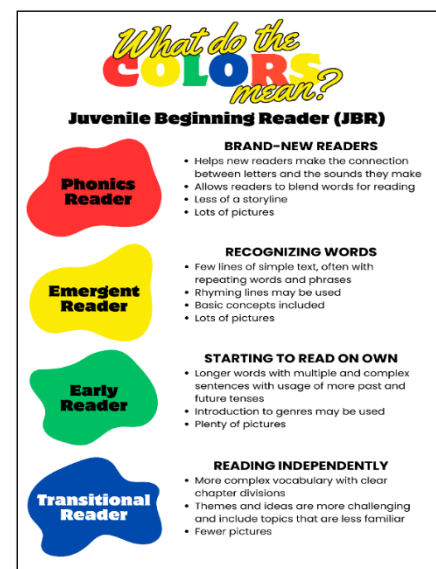
Director's Report and Highlights

January 2025

What Do the Colors Mean?

In an effort to better assist parents with young children beginning the important and sometimes challenging process of learning to read, the Youth Services Division is updating the “Easy Reader” collection to the “Juvenile Beginning Reader” collection. The updated collection will categorize titles appropriate to each stage of the learning process, and identify them with new colored spine labels and stickers. This reorganization will now allow parents and caregivers greater direction and independence in finding titles especially suited to their child’s changing needs.

- Red stickers identify a “**Phonics Reader**” for the brand-new reader who is learning the connection between letters and the sounds they make.
- Yellow stickers identify an “**Emergent Reader**” for someone who is beginning to identify words and simple lines of text.
- Green stickers identify books for someone “**Starting to Read on Own**” who is able to read longer words with multiple and complex sentences.
- Blue stickers identify “**Transitional Reader**” books for someone reading independently with more complex vocabulary and clear chapter divisions.



The process may sound as simple as changing the designation of these books from the former “Easy Reader” to the new “Juvenile Beginning Reader” but the initiative which includes over **5,000 items** has and will continue to involve many hours of work for two departments of the library system:

- for Youth Services as they preview newly ordered titles and review existing titles to assign them to the appropriate category along with introducing the new system to patrons
- for Technical Services as they create new and update previous catalog entries for each title along with preparing the new identifying labels and stickers for both new and existing books

This is the beginning a major effort on the Library’s part to encourage and support early literacy.

Advisors, Leaders and Volunteers

Most recently these very special teens were an integral part of National Puzzle Month at the Bowman Library. They are members of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) at the Bowman Library, a group of volunteer student leaders who meet monthly to plan library events that encourage teens to come to the library. One of their most successful ongoing efforts is the highly attended monthly **Teen Game Night**, which typically brings in

75-80 teens. TAB members help plan the evening's theme, games, activities, and the refreshments that will be provided. They publicize events in their schools, come early to setup, run events throughout the evening, help monitor student behavior, and then stay afterward to clean up. Hats off to TAB.



Project Write



The Handley Library branch established a new partnership in 2025 with **Project Write**, an initiative developed to encourage and support individuals wanting to pursue their interest in writing. This new group at Handley is for adult writers of all genres and backgrounds who want dedicated time for writing and peer feedback. They will meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 11 AM, January through April. The group will be led by Project Write Volunteer Star Friend.

Never Too Young to Listen

The Handley Youth Services Department started its Story Box Outreach Program again this month! Youth Services Associate, Lydia Drown, visits preschool and daycare sites to provide an interactive early literacy program. Lydia also arranges the distribution of student and educator library cards. Within the first month of this program, the department interacted with 98 toddlers and preschoolers and is working on adding those cards now.



Never Too Old To Play



After starting a well-attended monthly Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) role playing game for teens in the early summer of 2024, the Clake County Library staff had several adult patrons and some of the parents of the teen players ask if they planned to add an adult session. So, in January a second session of D&D was added for players 18 and over. The first scheduled game maxed out registration for the 10 available seats. Attendants' ages ranged from early 20s to mid-60s and it was very well received. There are already 6 registrants signed up to come back for the February game.

Library Tours

A second public guided tour of the historic Handley Library has been added to the monthly schedule. In addition to the existing “2nd Saturday” 11 AM tours led by Paulette Jennis, volunteer Beth Layton will now lead a tour on the “4th Thursday” of each month at 2 PM.

Opened in 1913 at a cost of approximately \$150,000, the building was expanded in 1979 and completed renovated in 2001. The Library is listed on the Virginia Register of Historic Places (VRHP) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The tours take visitors behind the scenes to all floors of the building and provide insights into its architecture and history.



A Very Special Memento



Among the various materials that were processed by the Archives this past month was a collection of materials donated some years ago by a former area resident. This personal collection included 26 volumes of the *Trail Blazer*, the student newspaper of John Handley High School from the 1920s, and a scrapbook documenting the early history of the school and of the first Apple Blossom Festival. Most notably, the scrapbook included a pin created for the very first Apple Blossom Festival in 1924.

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The Handley Regional Library ... handleyregional.org