



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

September 2023

Super Readers

The Handley Youth Services Department hosted its Fall “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” Graduation Ceremony. Families who read and logged at least 1,000 books were invited to celebrate the occasion by walking across the stage, earning a super reader cape with a free book, and enjoying refreshments while family members recorded it all in pictures



History in One Act

Archives sponsored a Readers Theater presentation of the one act play “Rebecca and Thomas: A Civil War Spy Tale”. The play, created by local, retired, educator Sharon W. Dixon, is based on the story of Winchester school teacher, Rebecca Wright and Thomas Laws an enslaved man, who together provided Union General Philip Sheridan with information regarding Confederate General Jubal Early’s troop movements in and around the Winchester area. Their information was crucial to Sheridan’s decision to attack Winchester in 1864



Device Friendly

Bowman offered patrons the opportunity to learn about using their iPhones and iPads as well as Android devices through its free Tech Tuesdays Program. Over four weeks in September, representatives of Tech Team Solutions were on hand to provide demonstrations and answer questions about the phones, their basic and special features. The Tech Tuesday classes are also presented at Handley on a rotating basis.





Handley Hosts PRISMS Students

PRISMS, Problem Solving, Research, and Independent Study for Middle School students is a semester long class, available to 7th and 8th grade students in Frederick County Public Schools. Students choose a topic of personal interest and learn higher-level research strategies resulting in a research paper and project reflecting their knowledge with a public presentation of their findings. After touring the building, students are made aware of research resources available to them through the Handley Library System and are shown how to make the best use of them.

Friends and the Family Fun Walk

The “Family Fun Walk” was launched on September 20th in Jim Barnett Park. This interactive walking loop has 12 signs that encourage curiosity, conversation, and movement for families of all ages. The **Friends of HRLS** generously donated \$4,000 to the Campaign for Grade Level Reading to sponsor the “Read” sign that you can see in the picture on the right. A ribbon cutting was held for this project The Chamber of Commerce. This partnership was made successful with Winchester Parks and Recreation, Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum, and Winchester Pediatrics.



More “Outdoors” with the Friends

The Bowman amphitheater was the site of a new outdoor fitness series sponsore by the **Friends**. Introduction to Ti Chi, was taught by Adrian Van Keuren, and Christina Rash lead a class in outdoor Yoga. The Friends also sponored two bus trips to D.C. offering the opportunity to visit some of its important libraries and its world famous zoo.

And Even More Terrific Signs

Clarke County Branch also took to the Great Outdoors to install its latest Story Walk sign at the Blandy Experimental Farm and Arboredum. The story follows Senorita Mariposa as she follows a Monarch Butterfly on its migration to Mexico. The sign is bilingual, continuing Clarke’s efforts to meet the needs of its Spanish-speaking patrons.





Special Language Programs

Two ESOL classes from the Literacy Volunteers visited the Handley Library branch to take a tour and get library cards. In addition to library cards these students all sign up to use Mango Languages, the language learning app, to help them in their efforts to improve their English. Parents also learned about the Library's children's materials and programs, including Spanish Storytime.

How To Day 2023



The Handley branch held its first "How To" Day in September. Some of the activities included "How to Save Seeds", "How to Geocache", "How to Hike the Appalachian Trail", and "How to Make a Button". It just goes to show how many amazing things you can learn at the library.



Contributors:

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- Adrienne Davis, Handley Branch Manager**
- Lorna Loring, Librarian of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**
- Donna Hughes, Youth Services Division Head**
- Kylie Olohan, Technical Services Manager**
- Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager**
- Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach**
- Todd Strader, Clarke County Branch Manager**
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The Handley Regional Library System www.handleyregional.org