
Director's Report

April 9, 2018

Personnel

Three snow days and two more staff resignations are the unfortunate headlines for March, 2018. Both Catherine Horvath and Andrew Constantinou tendered their resignations this month. Catherine took a full-time job elsewhere and Andrew needs to finish his studies so he can pursue his career. This is extremely unfortunate, especially since Elizabeth's job remains unfilled. As you will see by Anne's report we have gotten some good candidates from the second posting for that position and have begun telephone interviews. We are going to try and speed up the process for all three positions as much as possible.

The library was closed on March 2, March 7 and March 21 because of snow. We had a delayed opening until 11:00 on March 13 and cancelled staff training on April 2 because of snow but opened to the public at our regular Monday time of 11:00 am.

Buildings and Grounds

We have not yet received the completed plans for the Circulation Office and I have not been able to secure all the quotes I wanted for self-checks. One of the air-conditioning units needs replacing and Andrew is working to get quotes for that work.

Meetings and Programs

The list of programs in March is attached. The highlight was the concert by Cocomama, with an SRO crowd. We also had an interesting lecture on preparing for Spring with Chinese Medicine by Lauren Dulberg, a Doctor of Chinese Medicine.

I have been asked to serve on the Strategic Planning Team for Nyack Basics, which is a literacy initiative that is being rolled out with the Nyack School District spearheading the effort. There is also a larger group, which is being called a Coalition which draws community members from all areas, including business, community groups, religious leaders, political leaders and the legal and law enforcement community. The idea is to build a community-wide effort to help all parents use 5 tools to promote learning during the critical first three years of a child's life with the ultimate goal that children can read on grade level by the third grade.

To quote from the Boston Basics website, "The Basics are five evidence-based parenting and caregiving principles that encompass much of what experts find is important for children from birth to age three. Every child from every background can benefit from routinely experiencing the Basics learning experiences. Therefore, the Boston Basics Campaign is working through a broad range of institutions to ensure that every parent and caregiver is fully supported by family and friends to use the Basics practices in everyday life."

Libraries have been doing a lot of this kind of work for years, as have early childhood specialists in schools but a surprising number of people and parents outside those spheres know very little about the importance of early learning.

Planning and training for this initiative will continue throughout the year with a planned rollout for the fall.