

Key Monthly Library Activities – 2013

Month	January
Location	Central Library
Families & Caregivers	
1	The Library's Robotics continues to be extremely popular among school-aged children, attracting an average of 100 children per drop-in program. The program was showcased at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference this year at the Child and Youth Expo as an example of an exciting and innovative program focusing on science and technology. The Library's partnership with Rick Hansen Secondary School was promoted as an excellent public library/school partnership. Display boards and high school mentors from the program explained to conference attendees how the program serves to ignite an interest in engineering by having participants explore basic concepts of engineering, electricity, mechanical building, programming and communication skills. Representatives from several library systems were very keen to learn about the program and staff have already been contacted for further direction, requesting copies of the curriculum and best practices to help them with implementation of the program in their respective communities.
Youth	
1	The Central Library welcomed large numbers of students during high school exam period from January 24 to February 1, 2013. In addition to the existing study areas on the 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th floor, monitored group as well as quiet, individual study were also accommodated in the 2 nd floor classrooms. From January 21 to 25, youth were accommodated for group projects in the Readers' Den program room. This strategy was very successful and fostered a good relationship between staff, students and adult customers.
2	The Shakespeare collection in the Arts and History Department provided the backdrop for the wedding announcement and invitation of a recently engaged young couple who told staff that they fell in love at the library, always met here, and spent many happy hours on the third floor. They were both holding copies of Romeo and Juliet in their photo.
3	
Older Adults	
1	Sixteen Books to Go groups received 157 books for their local book clubs. A new group at the Erin Mills AMICA retirement residence was added to the service and club participants will receive books and resources to help facilitate their book club.
2	In partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Peel, the Sciences and Business Department hosted a "Taking Charge of Your Brain Health" program that drew an audience of 22 people. April Begg Goodis from the Alzheimer Society presented and the response was excellent. The event was covered by SNAP Mississauga, and April graciously agreed to be interviewed by 2 journalism students from Seneca@York to promote brain health and Alzheimer Society services.
3	The Arts and History Department is currently displaying the drawings of older adult Arthur Reginald Corteling who at 93 years of age now draws with the use of only one eye. Media coverage included an online interview and photos in the Mississauga News, and interest from both Rogers TV and City TV.
New Canadians	
1	In partnership with the Newcomer Information Centre for Education and Training, Sciences and Business staff hosted a newcomers program 'Working in Canada', which explored job

	search strategies, highlighted the importance of understanding Canadian work culture, and identified barriers to a successful employment.
Completing Our Neighbourhoods	
1	Staff from the Arts and History Department represented the City of Mississauga and the Mississauga Library System at the Grand Opening of Xin Tian Di Cultural Centre's Chinese library on January 13. Over a period of 2 years, and upon request, staff shared professional expertise during some of the key phases of the library's development. The association and its dream of a Chinese library is the brainchild of Mississauga's Older Adult of the Year, Mr. Baofeng Feng.
Cultivating Creative & Innovative Businesses	
1	Two students from the University of Toronto's iSchool will complete a practicum project at the Central Library. The students will consider the Readers' Den department and 2 branch libraries and provide an inventory of readers' advisory opportunities which the Mississauga Library System may take advantage of in the future. They will complete a literature search and create a document which speaks to facility design, merchandizing and library services.
Other (Special Initiatives)	
1	Additional study tables were added just in time for January Exam Week. These tables were attached to existing public computer pods to create dedicated laptop work spaces, thereby making greater use of existing power outlets and reducing the number of cords dangling across aisles (a health and safety hazard). The new seating design addresses the specific needs of the growing number of laptop users and WiFi customers visiting Central Library.
2	The Manager of the Central Library Children's Department presented a lecture at the University of Toronto's iSchool on the role of the Library in early literacy development. The Every Child Ready to Read program, a research-based parent education initiative, was presented. Students learned how the program, which is the foundation of the Library's programming for children birth to six and their parents and caregivers, has had impact on parent behaviour in nurturing early literacy skills. As well, it has reinforced the public perception of libraries as an early literacy resource in the education continuum and has provided a chance to strengthen and forge new partnerships with community organizations that support early literacy and learning.