

## Key Monthly Library Activities – 2013

<b>Month</b>	March
<b>Location</b>	Central Library
<b>Families &amp; Caregivers</b>	
1	March Break was extremely successful offering a menu of storytimes, lego fun, live theatre, puppetry, magic, music, mad science, a movie and an art workshop to engage, stimulate and entertain our youngest customers. In total, 1442 children and their parents and caregivers enjoyed the nearly sold out performances and activities. In addition, many families chose the library as their preferred destination and spent many hours reading together, discovering new areas of interest and playing with early literacy games and puzzles.
2	Spring storytimes began with all 5 registered programs fully subscribed. Parents are keen to participate in the developmentally appropriate programs for 5 different stages of childhood ranging from Shake, Rattle and Read for babies to crawlers, We're One-derful for one year old walkers, Terrific Twos, Alphabet Soup and Kinderfun, designed to help get children ready for and excited about kindergarten.
3	For the spring session of programming, the Children's Department has brokered two partnerships. Family Literacy night is co-presented with the Region of Peel while the Ontario Early Years is offering Creative Movement and the Parent/Child Mother Goose in the library for the first time. It is hoped that with both partnerships, the programs will attract new customers and receive an enhanced experience in the library environment with its many and rich resources.
<b>Youth</b>	
1	Thanks to a teen in Mississauga, the Arts and History Department is partnering in a local geocaching challenge as part of this very popular adventure hobby. In order to find the "book" by call number in the collection, geocachers must correctly answer several local history questions. But here's a clue for non-geocachers: check the library catalogue for the title Geocaching : the hunt stops here / by Windrush Warriors.
2	One hundred forty four youth attended 6 youth programs offered at the Central Library during March Break. Popular programs included Operation Sock Monkey, where youth helped to sew sock monkeys which will be shared with children in the Third world and a calligraphy workshop completed in partnership the Mississauga Calligraphic Society.
3	Readers' Den staff are meeting with city partners in the Recreation and Culture Divisions, to assist in the planning of Youth Arts Week. The theme this year is "Rebel" and it will feature a number of events for youth in May.
4	Two librarians visited 3 parenting classes at John Fraser Secondary School with presentations on storytelling techniques and how to choose the best books for toddlers and preschoolers. The students in this program share books and read with children in a nursery school that is run out of their high school.
<b>Older Adults</b>	
1	Six new Homebound clients were registered in March including Amica City Centre. The new clients will be partnered with a volunteer in their area, if necessary, and will begin to receive shipments shortly.
<b>New Canadians</b>	
1	Newcomers continue to value the very popular English Conversation Circle facilitated by staff in the Arts and History Department: "I am waiting for every Tuesday to come to our meetings."

	<p>“I became more confident to use my language with people.”</p> <p>“Thank you very much -- I can be proud of me and it gave me a job.”</p> <p>“We share experiences that are important when you are newcomer.”</p> <p>“I feel comfortable and happy.”</p>
<b>Completing Our Neighbourhoods</b>	
1	A featured display celebrated the 200 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publishing of Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice.” Copies of the book and related materials were included in the display.
2	Staff in the Canadiana Room helped a customer calling from the Ottawa area who wanted to find an article in the Mississauga News which featured a photo of her and another student at Holy Name of Mary School in 1990. Staff was unsuccessful until they thought the photo could be part of school’s twenty-fifth anniversary which was actually in 1989. Bingo! The customer replied by email, “thank you, thank you, thank you!! This is amazing.... I really appreciate your work on this.”
3	Sciences and Business Department, in conjunction with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science (RCI), presented the lecture, “Investigating Dark Matter”. Eighty-eight people attended, which is an all-time high for the RCI sciences lectures. Dr. Laura Parker of McMaster University showed how gravitational lensing can be used to study astronomical dark matter such as “black holes”.
<b>Cultivating Creative &amp; Innovative Businesses</b>	
1	Sciences and Business Department staff organized a special event with Toronto Star columnist, Haroon Siddiqui. Mr. Siddiqui spoke to 90 attendees on “Canada, the Global Village”, and participated in a lively question and answer period afterwards. At the conclusion he presented an autographed copy of his book, “Being Muslim” to the Mississauga Library System to be added to the library collection.
2	Sciences and Business Department staff published the March 2013 issue of <i>The Business Bridge</i> , which included articles on the theme “going global”, investing and small business viewpoints. This edition included a chart comparing investment newsletters by key features. <i>The Business Bridge</i> has a total subscription base of 159 people.
<b>Other (Special Initiatives)</b>	
1	The manager of the Central Children’s Department participated in a panel called Meet our Public Librarians as part of the Foundations in Libraries and Information Studies class at the University of Toronto iSchool. She spoke about trends and issues especially as they pertain to Children’s Services and also shared advice in terms of employment opportunities and skills required to thrive in their future careers.
2	Sciences and Business Department staff hosted a library outreach display at a Friends of the Library sponsored book launch for author Saima Hussain and her new book, “The Arab World Thought of It”. The event was held at Mississauga Valley Community Centre and the guest of honour was Omar Alghabra, former MP for Mississauga-Erindale. Friends of the Library and Annick Press representatives made a short presentation which was followed by a book signing by the author. The event was attended by approximately 40 people who enjoyed an entertaining and informative evening.