

News from the Auburn Public Library

A Busy Fall 2023 for the Library!

Programs | Technology Updates | Collaborations



Continuing to serve the Auburn community through our growth model:
Aligning outreach, communication, technology, enthusiasm,
and appreciation of our patrons!

AWE™ Children's Computers / Literacy Stations

AWE Literacy Stations are the computers in the children's room. Access to interactive components is pre-installed in each station, so the content is not Web-based, eliminating concerns about children accessing inappropriate content via the Internet.

We recently purchased two new AWE literacy stations, in addition to the one older model still available, making for a total of 3 AWE computers in our children's room! The newer versions, Platinum Version 3, each contain 85+ STREAM-aligned (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), award-winning educational software titles. Enhanced interfaces and search functionality, avatars that reflect greater diversity, bilingual options, and toggle selections from 'Early Literacy' platforms to 'After-school Edge' platforms and much more are built into each of the newer versions.

To coincide with our additional units and to provide a more user-friendly space, we contacted DPW, who, of course, met our design needs! Jimmy and Gordon built a customized workstation with sections for all three computers, at child-level, making for a significant improvement over the previous metal shelf that was our only option.



Before



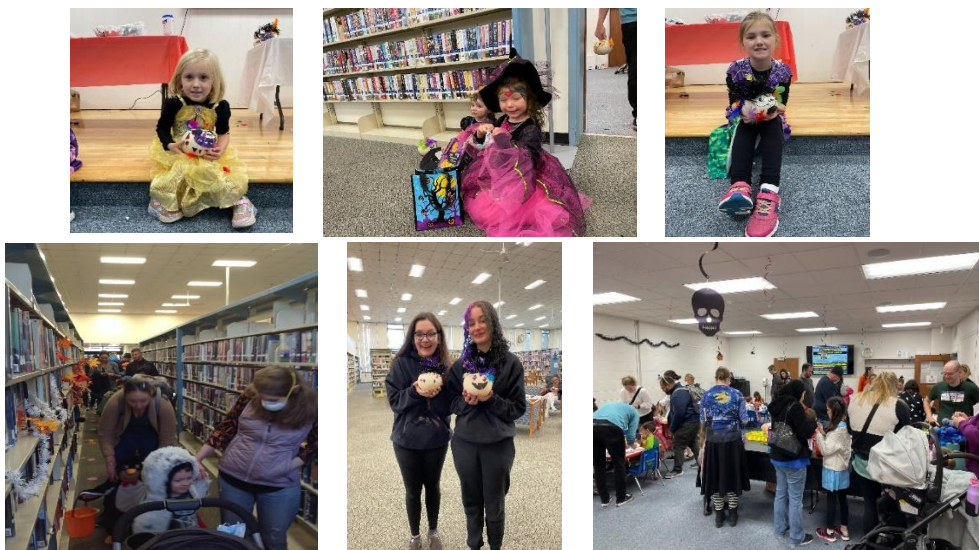
After!

Halloween

Our third annual Halloween program drew 237 enthusiastic participants between 10:00am and 1:00pm on Saturday October 14th, averaging 79 visitors per hour! Most visitors stayed for an average of one and a half hours, enjoying the activities and opportunities to socialize with fellow residents of Auburn and other communities.

Although the weather precluded our holding our parade outside, the book shelves were decorated, including a 'bubble lane', trick-or-treat corners, and stories. Children and many adults dressed in costume for the parade and additional activities.

After the parade, participants spent the next several hours making a combined total of **869** crafts; participating in several age-appropriate scavenger hunts; and socializing with staff and community friends, journeying continuously between the Merriam and Children's Room.



Fall 2023 | Auburn Public Schools | Visits!

In November we welcomed a combined total of 26 *classes* from Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag to the Library! All children, along with teachers and instructional aids, listened to stories read by Library staff, toured the children's room, participated in energy-release activities, and chose a book to borrow.

Each child also received a book bag, with their name on it, a packet containing a welcome letter to the child and to the parent or caregiver, additional information about the Library, and their new library cards, which were mailed to the child's residence. We loved seeing so many children that we know from attending programs as well as welcoming others who may not have had a chance to visit their community library.

School	Number of Classes	Number of Students	Number of New Library Cards Issued	Number of Books Borrowed
Bryn Mawr	13	254	61	251
Pakachoag	13	244	90	242

A special thank you to the Auburn Cultural Council for providing funds for the book bags; for School Reading Specialists, Julie Benoit from Pakachoag School and Dawn Fenuccio from Bryn Mawr for organizing the busses from Pakachoag and the children's walk from Bryn Mawr; and for Police Officer Jon O'Brien for providing escorts to the Library. A true collaboration that benefits our whole community!



Found just the right book!



Exploring Vox™ books



Sharing a book with a friend



Listening to stories during school visits to the Library



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### Children's Room | Housekeeping Corner!

As we continue to redefine our available space to ensure the most effective use for the patrons in our very busy children's room, we moved the staff desk out of the children's room and designed a 'housekeeping' space for children ages 2.5 and older. Our DPW partners were once again so helpful! They built three stand-alone sections to our specifications, allowing for a three-sided defined space for the housekeeping section.

Each section, which is intended to be movable and placed elsewhere if future needs change, includes shelving for educational and socialization materials such as cash registers; veterinary tool kits; tape measures; vacuum cleaners (which are in *constant* demand!); diversity, sensitivity, and cultural learning

materials such as therapy dogs and wheelchairs, and dolls and clothing of multiple ethnicities; as well as shopping carts, telephones, and much more. The Corner has been in almost constant use from day one!

### Community Outreach

We continue our community outreach in a variety of ways:

- Our continued relationship with the Auburn Mall for our StoryWalk initiative, as well as communications about an upcoming initiative a for Mall walking / Library literacy collaborative
- Upcoming initiatives with Auburn Youth and Family Services for ESL and for summer programs
- Partnership with Clark University administration and faculty from their School of Design and Technology for guidance on a Virtual Reality initiative in our teen area, which will incorporate valuable input from Auburn teens via an inclusive VR Advisory Group
- Continued partnership with the Auburn High School teen book club
- Library staff participated in family literacy night at Swanson Road Intermediate School
- Reading participation by the Library Director at Auburn's elementary schools
- Continuous support to and from our much-appreciated *Friends* group
- Second collaborative Badge program for Auburn's Daisy Troop 65327

### Programs

Our programs continue to fill, quite quickly, to capacity and with wait lists. On many occasions we do our best to offer more than one session, to accommodate as many patrons as possible. Since July 1 of this year, we have offered 122 programs, welcoming 3,472 visitors to those programs.

*Photos from some of our most recent programs:*



Bemis Hydrangea program



Decorating ginger bread houses:  
Two sessions both filled to capacity



Learning about teddy bears, designing teddy bear outfits, and socializing with a teddy bear picnic



Reindeer riding



Chocolate tasting and education program



Celebrating New Year's!



Snowflake design



Beautiful fused glass ornaments designed by our adult patrons, who also learned about types of glass and the fusion process

### Additional Services and Resources

- We also continue to support two book clubs
- Watch for upcoming updates to our website
- Also watch for an updated catalog interface from CWMARS for the entire system.
- We are in the process of redefining additional sections of the children's room for expansion of our Wonder Books™ and the addition of hundreds of other new titles within the newly-defined 12 reading categories now available from our children's collection

- Our annual State and Federal Tax form initiative is in the process of revision for 2023 tax forms. See the website in mid-January for additional details
- We also added new books and other options for teens in the teen section: a variety of 3-D, translucent, and LED puzzles; brain teasers; chess and checkers; and card games. We are also ordered two pedestal tables for single or partner use, as well as an updated table for group work and are in the process of creating a Virtual Reality Gaming area. We encourage all teens interested in participating in a VR Advisory Group to please contact the Library Director. We want to hear from you!

### **Upcoming Programs**

We typically suspend most programming during the month of January due to anticipated weather challenges and to help mitigate the spread of flu, colds, COVID, RSV, stomach bugs, and other contagious diseases. However, we are fully involved in weeding and updating our collection as well as preparing for our spring and summer lineup of programs! Our operating hours remain the same throughout the year.

Some upcoming programs are Lego™ programs for children, expansion of children’s programs to incorporate more options for different age groups; a ‘summer house’ decorating program for children, Pysanky eggs (3 sessions), Bemis Farms, soap making, constellations, sand castles, second annual ‘Library Camp’ for 8-12 year-olds, nature programs from a variety of presenters, children’s program on Morse Code; adult gardening and finance programs, additional resume and employment workshops; adult spring home decorating program; an anticipated program for parents or caregivers and children to create a light saber; and hopefully an astronaut program. Much more to come!

### **Appreciations**



Thank you to the Boy Scouts Auburn Troop 101 for updating and installing the wreaths on the Southbridge street side of the building, just in time for ‘Wreaths Across America’.



### **Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees**

Welcome Lindsay Baker! Lindsay joined the Board in November as a joint appointee from the Select Board and the Board of Trustees to serve the remainder of the position vacated by Jon Danilowicz. Lindsay will hopefully be on the May 2024 ballot for election by the voters to a full term. Thank you, Lindsay, for volunteering your time and expertise to the Board.



### **Friends of the Auburn Public Library**

We always want to ensure our appreciation for the Friends is noted. The Friends not only prepare and sell book donations in support of various Library requests, but they provide community outreach in multiple positive ways that reinforce the services and resources of the Auburn Public Library. We are so pleased to have such a wonderful group of Friends! To follow the Friends you can visit their site on the Library home page from the left tab where you will find meeting times and other resources. The Library Director is also happy to provide additional information on behalf of the Friends.

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## Register for Constant Contact!

Constant Contact™ is your best resource for notification of Library programs and Information.



If you would like to know about our programs and services *as soon as they are open for registration*, join the 976 patrons who have registered their households for our email notification system, [Constant Contact](#), via the link available at the top of our home page at [www.auburnlibrary.org](http://www.auburnlibrary.org).

Program and informational updates will be sent to your electronic mailbox weekly, or as information is updated. You may opt out at any time with the click of a button.

*Respectfully submitted, Dr. Jean E. Collins, Library Director*