

News from the Auburn Public Library

Reflections from Summer 2023

Auburn Public Library *Keeping Literacy Alive!*



Super Sister Readers

The Summer of the Child | The Summer of Literacy Building a community of learners, dreamers, and doers!

Summer 2023 was an extraordinarily busy, rewarding season for the Auburn Public Library. Throughout the nine weeks of summer 2023 we welcomed a large number of patrons from all demographics: **11,941** patron visits to the Library, in addition to assisting many thousands more via telephone calls, emails, and other technologies!

ALL children's programs were consistently filled to capacity; nearly all also had wait lists. In situations with wait lists, we were sometimes able to offer a second, or third session, to accommodate as many as possible.

PROGRAMS

Summer Reading Program

This summer we focused considerable efforts on our Summer Reading Program (SRP). The theme '*Get On Your Feet*' inspired children and families to incorporate reading into every day, individually and as a family, while encouraging physical and mental health by being active and engaged.

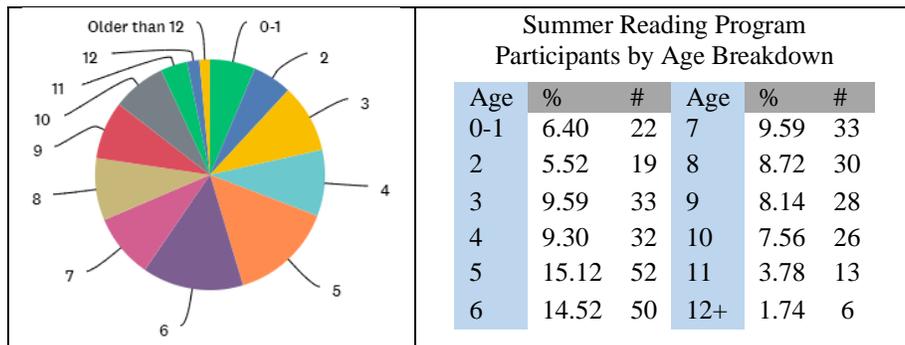
Thank you to the parents and guardians who sent in photos of their happy super summer readers!



Bookworms on Display!



Breakdown by age of children registered in the Summer Reading Program





Partnering with the Auburn Public Schools

This summer we partnered with the Auburn Public Schools to provide books and resources. We extensively weeded children's biographies and then added nearly eighty new biographies to support the SWIS summer reading program that focused on biographies.

Read Around the Town

We participated in the partnership between the Auburn Public Schools' Read Around the Town initiative, spearheaded by Auburn's Pakachoag Reading Specialist Julie Benoit. Thirty-seven children visited the Library to hear stories read by the Director, and then stayed to make a bookmark. The Read Around the Town initiative also included department head readers from the Auburn Police Department, Auburn Fire Department, School Principals, the Superintendent Dr. Chamberland, and Mr. Keller as readers at Pakachoag School, Bryn Mawr School, and the Auburn Public Schools' Central Offices.



SUMMER STATS!

64

Programs this summer
56 – children | 5 – adults | 3 – teens



344

Number of children registered for the SRP – our largest number ever!

996

Number of visits children made to the Library to turn in their reading minutes



15

Number of towns represented by children's registrations for the SRP. Eighty percent were Auburn residents

158,821

Number of minutes read by children registered for 2023 SRP

2,647

Translation to hours read



11,941

Number of walk-in patrons to the Library this summer.

Summer 2023 Initiatives

Toddler Program Break Out Sessions

This summer we extended the toddler program to include **break-out sessions** for siblings ages 3 and older. In-person comments from adults and a survey of our Toddler program, including feedback on the break-out sessions, indicates we are on the right track with this expanded program option. Moving forward, break-out sessions will be offered during school vacations and over the summer. Toddler programs are offered twice each week and are always filled to capacity, with wait lists.

Library Summer Camp

Our first ever **Library Summer Camp** for ages 8-12 was held over the course of two weeks for two, two-hour sessions each week. Every session was filled, and we found room to add those on the wait list so everyone could enjoy camp. Children made new friends, learned library skills, listened to stories, and discussed topics such as climate concerns, plants and animals, and libraries and children in other countries. Children also received a Library Summer Camp t-shirt. All children were enthusiastic about returning next summer!





Teen Book Club



This summer we offered a teen book club, with collaboration from Mary Beth Philbin from the Auburn High School, and teens who were interested in reading, discussing, and working on projects over the summer. They read “*The Tattooist of Auschwitz*” Our plans are to continue the ‘summer teen book club’ into the fall, developing a new format whereby they meet at the Library once per month for discussions, programs, and possible trips, as a complement to their in-school book club. It was most enjoyable to connect with this group of Auburn teens!



Collection Development



We recently weeded hundreds of books from our Children’s Room. That process opened up space for hundreds of new books in all categories! An end-of-summer survey, in addition to our daily in-person interactions with our patrons reported a 96% satisfaction rate with children’s reading options and robust collections offered to our patrons.

We weeded and upgraded Board Books * Juvenile Picture Books * Early Readers * Graphic Novels * Non-fiction Reading Levels 1, 2, and 3 * Chapter Books * Vox Books * Non-Fiction * Biographies

We also introduced a NEW Format - Wonder Books™!



Wonderbooks™ are audio + print bound together for literacy and fun!

Wonderbooks™ are supported by the American Library Association, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Literacy Foundation, and other literacy organizations. They provide additional context clues and build advanced vocabulary to help young readers develop verbal and visual literacy. These books are located on the wall to the left of the Reading Level books. To date, Wonderbooks™ are circulating very enthusiastically! At this point, due to limited supply, loans are limited to two per card at a time. As we continue to grow this collection, and find space for the books, the limits will be removed. We are also adding Wonderbook™ graphic novels and comics.

PROGRAMS

Sand Castles!

It was a *very* full house for our sand castle program! A full capacity crowd of 32 children registered to listen to a story, and then designed and built their own unique sand castles using kinetic sand. Castles were decorated with princesses, shells, flags, dragons, dinosaurs, knights, and other fun enhancements. Some 'castle designers' are shown below with their creations.





Butterfly Program

The butterfly program, presented by Heather from Hands on Nature™ is always a delight! This summer partnership between the Library and Hands on Nature, funded in part by the Auburn Cultural Council, educated children about butterflies through a fun, hands-on experience. Children had the opportunity to try on glasses that allowed them to see through the lens of butterflies, and to take a turn in the butterfly tent, experiencing butterflies up close!



Wingmasters – Owls and Birds of Prey

A full capacity crowd of 28 children ages 7 and older, in addition to 32 parents/caregivers and younger siblings were thrilled at the **Birds of Prey** program developed specifically by Wingmasters for the children's program at the Auburn Public Library.



Photo courtesy of Telegram.com August 31 2023

New England's Stone Walls

A very appreciative audience enjoyed a fascinating monologue from master stonemason and best selling author, Kevin Gardner. Kevin's presentation involves narrating a fascinating history of New England's stone walls, all the while building an exquisite miniature stone wall on the table in front of the audience!



Professor Bugman



A delighted audience of children ages 5 and older and their parents, younger siblings, and caregivers learned about bugs from Professor Bugman. Following the Professor's presentation, they enjoyed 'netting' insects and exoskeletons discovered from the back yard of the Library on a beautiful summer afternoon.

Bemis Fresh Flower Arrangements

Bemis Farms partnerships with the Auburn Public Library always draw a full capacity crowd that usually 'sells out' in less than one hour. Patrons enjoy socializing and meeting new friends while creating beautiful, long-lasting flower/plant displays. Whenever possible, we offer more than one session to accommodate the extensive wait lists.





Auburn Public Library Board Member Jon Danilowicz

Thank you to Jon Danilowicz for his valuable input and contributions to the Library Board of Trustees. Jon stepped down from the Board in August. We appreciate Jon for his diligence, integrity, and supportive collaboration with the Library.



Auburn Public Library Welcomes Returning Board Member

We extend a sincere welcome to the returning member of the Library Board of Trustees, Erika Briesacher. Erika previously served on the Board, but had to temporarily step away from the responsibilities for a time, and has now returned. Welcome back Erika!



Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees | Collection Development Policy

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for their hard work over several months in developing the Collection Development Policy. The Policy can be viewed from the Library website under the Policies and Forms tab, and from this [link](#).

Coming Soon!



Halloween: Our Annual Halloween Celebration will be held on Saturday October 14th this year, from 10:00am – 1:00pm. Watch our website and Constant Contact for details!



Employment Workshop Series

Watch for our Employment Workshop Series, a 6-session workshop series presented in partnership with well known, highly qualified employment specialist Gary Gekow. The series consists of 90-minute interactive workshops offered via Zoom on the topics of:

Interview Preparation Part One | Virtual Interview Tips | The Importance of LinkedIn
Online Job Search and Resume Submittal | Interview Preparation Part 2 Tell Me about Yourself | Business Letters |



More than twenty classes from Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag will be visiting the Library in early November, during family literacy month. During these visits Library staff read to children, provide a tour of the children's room, distribute their library cards, book bags, and other literacy incentives from the Library. Children also choose a book during their visit. Thank you to the Auburn Cultural Council for awarding the Library grant request to help with the purchase of book bags.



Friends of the Auburn Public Library

We would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Friends of the Auburn Public Library, who generously dedicate many hours of their time to sort through book donations for sale in the foyer and at book sales. The Friends, led by the energetic President Linda Dattis, diligently sort and clean donated books that are in excellent condition, selling them and then providing the proceeds to the Library for programs, decorations and other items to help supplement the Library budget.

The Friends donated funds toward our upcoming annual Halloween celebration, partial support for our very popular Animal Adventures program, in addition to other contributions. We are very appreciative of their positive energies and their efforts!

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 more than 941 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.

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