



# Library

## County Librarian's Report August 2014



The **Mobile MakerSpace**, funded via the Johnson County Library Foundation, rounded out its summer tour in August with successful stops including DeSoto Neighborhood Library. The program served 1,232 patrons, mostly children, with science and technology activities that promoted the MakerSpace at Central Resource Library.

## INFORMATION ITEM

Oct. 9, 2014

To: Members of Johnson County Library Board of Directors

From: County Librarian Sean Casserley

Re: County Librarian's Report for August 2014

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**COMMUNITY**

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**Alcohol Tax Fund grantees**, including Johnson County Library with its Changing Lives through Literature program, met for a quarterly networking meeting. Doug Johnson, KC area director for non-profit Mirror, Inc., said his clients love the Library and often spend time at nearby Shawnee Neighborhood Library reading periodicals, using the computers for job hunting and meeting others.

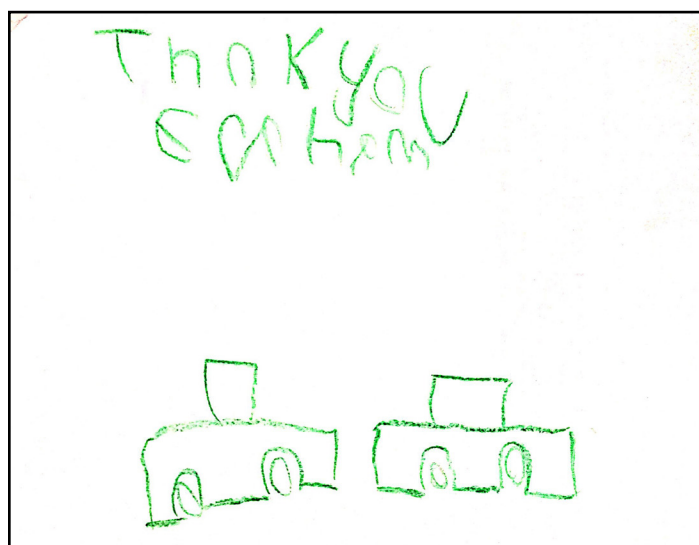


*“What I like about Legos is you can build so many things. Most toys they have already made it for you, but with Legos you get to make it and see how you did. I hope that you like what I built. Enjoy!”*

- Young patron Matthew Abebe on his Lego collection displayed at **Lackman Neighborhood Library** in August



An elderly patron asked **staff at Central Resource Library** to help her fill out an online dental insurance form for widowed veterans' spouses as her paper form got lost in the mail. She had limited computer skills so Veterans Affairs instructed her to go to the Library for help. With dental surgery looming the next day, the Library's Monica Duffield and Becky Carleton sat down to help her start the process. Eventually she hit "Submit" on the form and with tears in her eyes told them, "I can't thank you enough."



A thank you note given to **Lackman Neighborhood Library's** Michelle Krooswyk by Graham, a young patron who Michelle helped find books about cars. While searching for books the two talked about their favorite old cars. The drawing now hangs in Michelle's office.

A 9-year-old patron was turning in her Summer Reading log at **Blue Valley Neighborhood Library** when Branch Manager Ellen Welch asked if she would be interested in rating the experience. "100,000,000 out of 5 stars," wrote the young patron.



The Catlett family, **Gardner Neighborhood Library** winners of a READ poster as part of Summer Reading.



More than 1,000 adults attended the **Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry exhibit and programming** series, coordinated with help from Johnson County Library staff, the Johnson County Museum, the American Library Association Public Programs Office, the Oklahoma State University Library and the Mount Holyoke College Library. Johnson County Library was the first of 25 libraries to display the exhibit.



The Library and Friends of the Library celebrated the contributions of **Shirley Browar, a 25-year Library volunteer** who retired from service in August. Click [here](#) to view a video of Shirley's Library story.

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## CONVENIENCE

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*“My 97-year-old mother LOVES this library because you have so many large-print books and she loves to read. If there's a meeting, tell them the 97-year-old says, 'Thanks.'”*

- Library patron





**Leawood Pioneer Neighborhood Library** began the process of streamlining displays and opening floor space to provide patrons with a more convenient experience. With the help of Facilities staff, Leawood Pioneer staff installed wall-mounted holders for newspaper and community materials. Staff is also reviewing the current placement of holds and signage throughout the building.

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## *EDUCATION*

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The number of families coming to Lackman Neighborhood Library to claim their **Check Up and Check Out** books continued to rise in August. The program, originally reported on earlier in 2014, is a partnership between the Kansas Pediatric Foundation, Kansas State Library and Johnson County Library and provides more early literacy opportunities to families in Kansas.

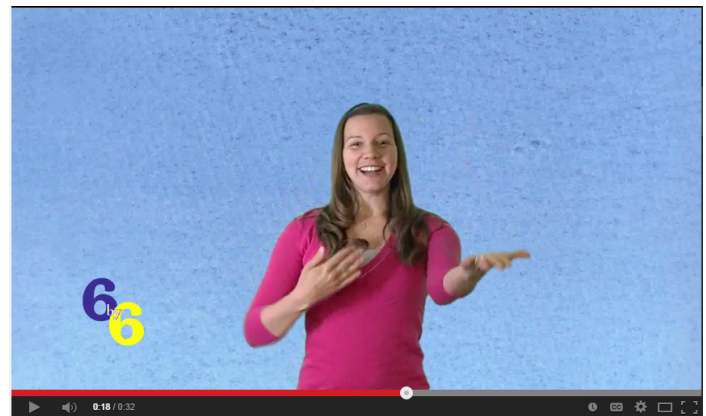
Early Literacy Coordinating Librarian Bradley Debrick hosted a **6 by 6 workshop** for 39 preschool teachers at the Primrose School after establishing contact with them at the Rockin' Rob program at Blue Valley Neighborhood Library. Workshops for 60 Mothers of Preschoolers members and 46 teachers at the Christian Early Childhood Association Conference followed later in the month.



Library staff is beginning to see the impact of the infusion of new technology, including laptops and tablet computers, in the **Shawnee Mission School District**. Students are already getting new Library cards and downloading the Johnson County Library app for school use. Library staff is communicating with the school district to make sure the Library gives their students the help they need to maximize the potential of their new devices.

August saw production of the **new 6 by 6 Fingerplay DVD** come to a close. Thanks to a generous grant from the PNC Foundation via the Johnson County Library Foundation, along with videography assistance from the Kansas Department of Corrections, the Library now has 5,000 copies to share with new parents at Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

A patron requested a copy of the new DVD and commented, "**The whole household watches them**; I've renewed the DVD the maximum times without us learning all the plays we wanted to learn." Click [here](#) to watch the new videos via the Library's YouTube channel.



Oak Park Neighborhood Library provided **English Language Learners (ELL) conversational classes and Colorin' Colorado programs** on Saturday mornings in August. Jo Ho, a high profile children's storyteller in Kansas City, entertained Colorin' Colorado children with a fun program.