

**Librarian's Report to the
Friends of the Freedom Public Library
October 17, 2008**

Many thanks to the Friends of the Library for providing the manpower and funds to help me pull off a very ambitious schedule of summer programs. This summer I kept most of the events we've had in the past and added some new things including more planned activities for Fun Fridays, a teen book group, craft activities for teens during Teen Night, a video-making workshop, a series of preschool story hours, a summer reading program for teens and a summer reading program finale for participants of all ages featuring a live band. We couldn't have done all this without the support of the Friends and a \$500 grant from the Rotary Club.

I had several new volunteers helping me with the summer program including Cam Spence who read stories with the help of puppets at one Fun Friday, Barbara Donlon who helped with crafts during story hour, Elizabeth Marx who helped me lead the teen book group discussion, Hannah Marudzinski who helped teach kids and adults how to use the Wii and, along with her mother Lisa MacLeod and Joel Rhymer, organized the Library Store for the children's summer reading program. Lisa also was brave enough to take charge of Pizza & Movie night on opening night of Old Home Week, the busiest movie night of the summer with 40 people in attendance! Bonnie Burroughs again donated her time and beads to lead her ever-popular beading workshop during Old Home Week. Freedom residents Laura Riddle and Larry Johnson along with Bruce Taylor and Robert Smith rocked Freedom at the Summer Reading Program Finale. Their band played in the library parking lot while kids shopped at the library store and everyone ate pizza and snacks. I hope more adults attend next year. Hats off to all volunteers both behind the scenes and in the thick of things for helping us navigate a very busy summer!

The Summer Reading Program kicked off at the school with a performance by a magician couple "The Magic of the Steelgraves". This enjoyable program was sponsored by both the Friends of the Library and the Freedom Elementary School. Not only was the whole school in attendance, but many people from the community also came (more than ever). Andrea Wright returned with her Books Alive! Program during Old Home week, performing to 90 enthusiastic attendees, a new record.

Summer Storytime: 5 sessions with 30 total attendees
All Ages Pizza & Movie nights: 5 movies with 105 total attendees
Fun Fridays: 5 activities with 62 total attendees
Teen Night: 7 events with 60 total attendees
Writing Workshop: 6 meetings with 43 total attendees

Teen Book Group: 3 meetings with 13 total attendees
Video workshop with Rick Davidson: 5 attendees

SRP Participants:

43 children read a total of 1098 hours

23 teens read a total of 101 books

84 adults read a total of 436 books

That's a total of 150 summer reading program participants!

The Portland Museum of Art pass has been used 13 times so far this year. The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center pass was used 12 times, similar to past years. This is the last weekend the center will be open, so if you are interested in going, check out the pass!

Preschool storytime has started up again with 7 or 8 children attending every week. Judy continues to plan interesting craft projects for them. I have scheduled a monthly Pizza & Movie night. Last night we showed "The Spiderwick Chronicles" to a big crowd of 26 children and 12 adults. The movie licenses that the Friends purchase has been money well spent. I am in the process of choosing movies for our Winter Film Series which will begin in January and will take place on Sunday afternoons. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

The Friends and Rotary Club purchased a Canon camcorder, camera case and tripod for use during summer programs. This equipment is available to be borrowed by patrons. I plan to let people know this in an upcoming e-newsletter. I had initially thought that the projector that the Friends purchased might be available for lending, but because it is installed in the ceiling this is not possible. Several times a year people ask if we have a projector to lend, however, so I wonder if we might want to consider purchasing a second projector for that purpose.

I want to thank you all again for all you do to support me and to support the mission of the library. Together, we have created a very special place for people of all ages to gather.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director