

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
March 20, 2009

I am beginning to shift into high gear as I start preparing for summer programs. The state theme this year is "Summertime and the Reading is Easy" which I am not too fond of, but will go with in order to be eligible for programming grants.

Next week is busy for me, beginning with the Children's Librarians of NH conference in Manchester on Tuesday. I am looking forward to getting new ideas for summer programming from colleagues there. I am pleased to have been invited to the Freedom Elementary School by Terri Drew, the reading specialist, on Thursday afternoon to read picture books to grades 1-3 and read excerpts and/or do book talks on chapter books for grades 4-6. This coincides with the children receiving their free RIF (Reading is Fundamental) books. The book talk will take a good bit of preparation to do well.

Also on Thursday is the author visit and program "Success in Troubled Times" with Ivan Burnell. I have submitted a press release and sent information for the newspaper calendars and Freedom column and hope we will have a few people attend. I am also working on the annual report for the state which is due at the end of April.

I found a good deal on new computers for the library and bought two to replace the Gates Foundation computers we received approximately 6 years ago. The computers cost a little over \$600 each and include 20" digital flat screen monitors. I would like to sell two of the small monitors these will replace, perhaps offering them in an e-newsletter. I'd like to discuss price with the trustees today. I will be arranging with Joel Clement to install the new computers and get them on the network.

We received \$300 from Freedom resident Oram via the Friends of the Library to purchase DVD's. His idea was for us to buy PBS series that are more expensive that we might not ordinarily buy. I gave him a list of DVD's I was interested in for the library and he chose from those and added a suggestion of his own. We now have the following new DVD's: the Planet Earth Series, two seasons of The Tudors, the HBO series John Adams, Liberty!, The House of Cards trilogy, Cranford, and The Forsyte Saga. What a wonderful gift!

I am thinking of things I might ask the Friends of the Library to fund at the spring meeting coming up. The Remick Museum now offers a family pass for libraries at a mere \$50/year which includes admission to the museum and to special events except those requiring reservations. Another possibility is The Canterbury Skaker Village which offers 100 discounted tickets for \$100 which would save \$9

for adults and \$4 for youth off regular admission prices. I am also considering asking for a Netflix membership for the library. The plan that allows two DVD's out at a time would cost \$168/year. Patrons would sign up to get on the queue. This would expand our DVD collection and ease the stress of trying to borrow such items as TV series from other libraries. Tamworth offers this service and the librarian says it has been extremely popular.

Nancy Griffin's computer class has been a big hit. Each of her three students has raved about her and say they are learning a lot. She is very patient and jolly and enjoys teaching the classes. She has gone above and beyond to help her students, going well over time each class and going to their homes to help them on their own computers. She has gotten a 2-2.5 month job with the census and will be busy with that in April and May, but when she comes back I suggested that maybe she could offer drop-in computer tutoring hours during her regular shifts.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director