

**Newtown Public Library
Library Director's Report
December 19, 2019**

Statistics:

Circulation

November circulation (7,079 items) dips by 11% when compared to the month before (7,979 items) but this is on trend for this time of year. Circulation in November 2019 is better than November 2018 by 10%. This is the best November circulation on record. In fact, November circulation has not exceeded 7,000 items since 2010. We continue to have circulation totals over 7,000 items each month which has not been achieved since 2012. Total circulation in 2019 continues to be better than 2018 by more than 9%. In fact, total circulation in both 2017 and 2018 is less than our total circulation in 2019 even without December's numbers.

New Library Cards

New library cards issued in November (35 cards) were down by four cards when compared to October (39 cards). This is on trend for November but still is higher than other Novembers in recent years. Our total new library cards for 2019 thus far (537 cards) is 20% higher than last year at this same time (459 cards). Our 2019 total thus far exceeds the 2018 total for the year.

Wi-Fi Sessions

Our Wi-Fi continues to be popular in our community. November Wi-Fi sessions (8,072 sessions) is 5% less than October's total Wi-Fi sessions (8,521 sessions) but this slight decrease is not unusual. This continues the trend from April (7,477 sessions) of being in excess of 7,000 sessions. It is also a 62% increase when compared to November 2018.

Library Visits

Library visits in November (5,202 visits), while 17% less than October (6,277 visits), still marked the best November since the library began using the current people counter in 2016. Visits in November 2019 were better than last year at this time by 9%. Overall, visits in 2019 (68,171 visits) are up by 7% when compared to the same period in 2018 (63,545 visits).

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian:

"November flew by! We had a Glow Party for kids ages 10-14. It was held in the Community Room on Friday, 11/8, from 6 to 7 PM, and was a great success! Parents asked when we were doing other activities for this age group. They appreciated knowing their kids were having fun in a safe space.

We celebrated "Dinovember" with a fun Dinosaur Party, featuring a visit from a T-Rex (Ava dressed in costume). Local author Patrick O'Donnell joined us for a reading of his book, Did Dinosaurs Have Dentists?

We've made some changes to the children's area. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our FOL, we have two new early literacy computers and desks, plus two star-shaped children's tables. We've also added an activity table that converts for use with Legos and trains.

Total attendance for November is **621**.

Upcoming Events :

It's a slow time of year for events due to the holidays. Our regular toddler and baby storytimes are currently on break through January 7. These programs are scheduled in the coming weeks:

- Silly Side Show Circus, December 27 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, January 9 @ 6 p.m.
- Calling All Handcrafters, First and Third Mondays @ 1 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Arlene attended the Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the Pennsylvania Library Association's Annual Meeting and Workshop in early December. The workshop, centered on compassionate library leadership, was presented by Richard Kong, Director of the Skokie Public Library in Illinois. He made a case for the next generation of library leaders to focus on building a culture and value system founded on compassion, inclusion and open-mindedness.

Arlene met with Leonard Altieri, Newtown Township Supervisor-elect in December. Arlene shared with Leonard that during this year alone, the Newtown Public Library has had 68,171 visitors, enough for every resident of Newtown Township to visit 5 times this year! So far, total visits in 2019 is already more than the total amount of visitors for 2018 and for 2017. In 2019, the library expects to see more than 70,000 total visits. She also told him about the library's amazing circulation numbers this year. Our patrons have checked out 86,937 items so far this year, which is better than the total circulation for the library for six of the last ten years.

The library hosted Garrett Williamson's Board Meeting in December. This enabled their board to view the work of art on display at the library that were painted during their Plein Air event in September. Many of the pieces of art were donated so sales will benefit both Garrett Williamson and the library. Garrett Williamson is just down the street from the library so it is hoped that hosting this meeting will lead to even more collaboration between the two institutions.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso

Director, Newtown Public Library