

Quarterly Staff Report — December 2023

Gustavus Public Library : 907.697.2350

LeAnn Weikle ~ Library Services Director ~ leann.weikle@gustavus.lib.ak.us

Melisa Gomb ~ Library Administrative Director ~ melisa.gomb@gustavus.lib.ak.us

1. General Library Statistics September 2023-November 2023

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Library Visitors	269	276	264
Books Checked Out	518	627	544
Movies Checked Out	1152	168	138
Interlibrary Loans Checked Out	35	62	47
Digital Materials Checked Out	1050	1067	1084
Other Materials Checked Out	58	67	67
Events Hosted at/by Library	9	19	13



Past, Current, and Upcoming Programming for Fall/Winter 2023

- Travel at the Library ~ Kicked off with Japan! Thank you to hosts Kim Ney and Wayne Howell
- Lights at the Library – the library will be part of the townwide light celebration on December 16th 4-8 pm. Stop by for a hot drink!
- *Learn Libby with LeAnn* January 12 ~ 6pm or 13 ~ 11am or by appointment
- Plein Aire, Wednesdays 10-12 pm, started in September and continuing throughout the winter
- Pizza, Puzzles & Games, Nov. 1, December 6 and 20 ~ ALL Ages 3:30-6:30 pm



- Halloween, Oct. 31st and Treats and our Photo Booth



- Spooky Read, Oct 27th a partnership with the Gustavus School



- Card making parties in November
- Art Club, Grades K-2, Oct. 12, 19th, 26th, and will pick up in December with the Art Club Show on Dec. 15th. Grades 3-5 Art Club begins in January.



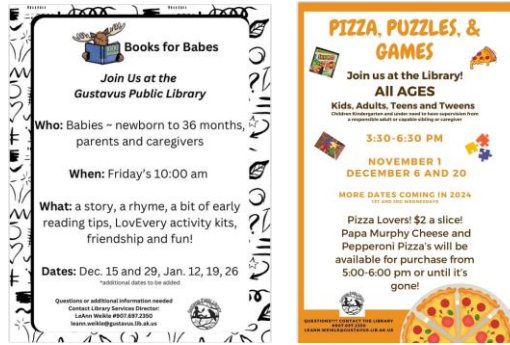
- Harvest Fest a partnership with the Gustavus Community Center
- Virtual Town Hall with Se. Jesse Kiehl and Rep. Andi Story, Nov. 09
- NPS Meeting
- LEGOs with Annie, Fridays, 2:30-4:00 November through January



Legos at the Library with Annie Kindergarten & Up Younger children would need to be accompanied by a parent or caretaker Friday,

November 10 & November 17
2:30-4:00 PM

- TACO (Teen Advisory Council organization) Meetings (on pause)
- Gustavus Adult Book Club (new books chosen monthly) OPEN TO EVERYONE!
- Everybody Welcome Band, Thursdays at 5:15 and Banjo Classes prior
- Story Walk with new books every month
- Gustavus Preschool and Elementary Class Weekly Visits
- Homeschool Story Time, Tuesdays at 10am
- Books for Babes and 1000 Books Before K



- Test Proctoring (driver's license, EMT, AK STAR)
- Curbside Services 5 days/week
- Custom-made book boxes – please let us know if there are any requests.
- Library Friends and Volunteers Meetings every 2 or 3 months

2. Status of Active or Upcoming Grants

In April 2022, our library was awarded a \$10,000 Alaska Community Foundations Grant. This grant has allowed us to host several literacy camps, a Reader's Theater camp, a Book Arts camp, and a Fish and Fishing-themed camp. We will continue to use this money throughout FY24 for *Library Literacy Camps*, the *Books for Babes* program, and *1000 Books before Kindergarten*. The opportunity to reapply for this grant will be in April of 2024.

Each year we apply for the PLA (Public Library Assistance) Grant. We were awarded \$7000 for FY24, which is used for all our materials (books, DVDs, etc.) We purchase approximately 60 books/DVDs per month using funds from this grant. Please let us know if you have a book or DVD request!

We are planning on another attempt at the ILC (Interlibrary Cooperation) Grant which is due April 1. We'd like to submit a new proposal to pay for new patron computers. The current patron computers are over ten years old, and they have constant problems.

3. Existing Projects and Programming

Halloween, Spooky Read and Harvest Fest will be detailed further in our full report. We would like to thank Jim Mackovjak, Brittney Cannamore, and Larry Landry for being our Gustavus Library Readers at the Spooky Read!

Pizza, Puzzles, & Games for all ages started off with a big bang on November 1st! Come to the library to play games with others and do puzzles together while also eating Papa Murphy's Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza! We even have a puzzle in progress under the couches in the YA area that is on a cork board and is available to work on anytime. We also have lots of brand-new puzzles and games being added to the collection that you can check out for 3 weeks at a time. Two more events are scheduled in December, and we hope to continue this very popular program into the new year.

The Brian Waverly fund, named for a longtime summer resident, friend of the library, and artist which brought about our killer whale skeleton project is being used finally, and we want to thank Gustavus Construction for lending the scaffolding to us to get this project started. Since the whale skeleton was installed in the library, we found that many people (even those living in the community for a long time) didn't realize we had the skeleton because she is lost in front of the white wall, so it was decided to create a mural with an ocean scene that included a killer whale to complement the skeleton. Local artist Jess Mulligan is working on the mural now, and it is already incredible! Please come by to check out her progress! We are planning on a reception in early January.

Learn Libby with LeAnn will be happening in January or by appointment. Please bring all of your questions on the Libby app, the app that lets you log in to your

local library to access ebooks, audiobooks and magazines all for free. Come learn how to take full advantage of this wonderful resource.

Melisa Gomb, our new Library Administrative Director, is working on expanding our resource contracts with new and exciting vendors with some new opportunities to best serve the community of Gustavus.

We are also working with volunteers on shelf reading, to find what titles are in the catalog but not on the shelf. This way we can reorder important missing titles or delete the records of the titles we no longer have. We continue to work on recataloging the Alaska section as many of these records still have no notes, subjects, or other helpful information that would return a search in the catalog. We have accomplished full patron account access to RM online which allows patrons to view their circulation history, request titles, and see a list of their items checked out and request renewals—all online. Our number of holds and renewals have picked up noticeably. We are also about to start collecting statistics on in-house use items such as books read in the library, along with tally's on magazines perused and the readers of the Juneau Empire.

We had the Library's septic pumped when Juneau Septic came to town.

We are still considering how to get and keep the carpet in better condition in the entire library. We have discussed replacing sections of the carpet since the carpet in the library is "carpet tiles" but we do not have enough tiles as of now. We will need to get another quote or seek another solution as there are several areas that are quite worn and dirty.

A volunteer has graciously offered to assemble the 2 bike racks that were purchased for the outdoor shelter that will take up less room. We also have plans for a folding picnic table that is light and resistant to the elements.

We have formed a TACO (Teen Advisory Council) with middle school students in collaboration with the Gustavus Community Center. We are working with middle school students to plan programs, provide support and fun at the Library and/or the Gustavus Community Center for the 5th-8th grade age group in Gustavus. This is on pause until further direction from the Council.

We have the best volunteers! Many of them have projects they are working on while they work their shifts at the library. These projects include organizing historical library photos, helping with the Art Club, taking care of all the plants in the library, mentoring young aspiring librarians, taking ownership of a section of the library, and more. Our Seed Library is well used. We love our volunteers and our library benefits so much from them!

We continue to reach out to the school and offer support and programming. Currently the preschool class comes to the library for weekly visits. We are also collaborating with Megan Bishop to support the TACO group.

4. Past, Current, or Upcoming Trainings

Melisa attended a webinar on September 6th called “Introduction to Finding Grants” with Candid Learning, and also a webinar given by the Institute of Museum and Library Services called “Data Can Make the Difference!” On September 14th.

LeAnn attended a Library 2.0 Essential Librarian Series Webinar with Dr. Steve Albrecht about “Awkward Conversations and Difficult Situations” on October 19th.

LeAnn attended, in October, a *Getting Started with Libby* training to learn how to best support our patrons. Libby is the electronic book and materials app supported by our library. She is offering bi-monthly sessions for Gustavus to attend and will support them in using this great resource.

Finally, Melisa attended a Public Library Association webinar that will be shared with LeAnn called “Super Searchers for Library Workers”. I hope we can have a program here at the library on the topic of thinking critically and evaluating material found online for dis/misinformation.

Thank you to our City Council!

We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of Gustavus.