

Library Quarterly Staff Report — June 2025

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General Library Statistics	March	April	May
Library Visitors	399	556	595
Books Checked Out	231	406	361
Movies Checked Out	118	174	132
Interlibrary Loans Checked Out	38	30	38
Digital Materials Checked Out	1954	1971	1976
Other Materials Checked Out	59	57	58
Events Hosted at/by Library	22	24	20

Upcoming, Current/Ongoing, and Past Programming for Spring & Summer 2025

- Story time with Miss Jessie's class
- Story time with Miss Byerlee's class
- Makers Meetings- Ongoing Wednesday Evenings
- The Library Band and Banjo Lessons – Ongoing Thursdays
- Story Walk Trail with New Books Monthly
- High School Art Class and Art Show with Kate (April 2025)
- Kids' Movie Night- ongoing monthly
- Movie Night in collaboration with the GCC- ongoing monthly (maybe pausing for summer)
- Travel Talk- Namibia (March 2025)
- Estate Planning Zoom Program (March 2025)
- Cribbage Tournament (April 2025)
- Free For All- Live Discussion (April 2025)
- Free for All Film- (April 2025)
- Art and Science Afternoon (April 2025)
- Gustavus School Art Exhibition (May 2025)
- Summer Reading Kick-Off (June 2025)
- Estate Planning –visiting speaker Liz Smith (June 2025)
- Summer Kite Days (June 2025)
- Learn Cribbage (June 2025)

- Cribbage Tournament (June 2025)
- Weekly Story Time in partnership with the Glacier Bay Rangers (June- August 2025)
- Mechanical Engineering Summer Camp (July 2025)

1000 Books Before Kindergarten & Summer Literacy Programs

The *1000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge* has been on pause since March, but we hope to relaunch it when school resumes in August. Summer break often leads to a dip in children's literacy, so we're excited to bring back the *Libraries Reading Buddies Program*. In this program, children will be paired with teens or adults who will read with them weekly. Keep an eye on your email for an upcoming call for volunteers—this is a wonderful opportunity to support young readers!

Our *Summer Reading Program* kicked off on June 2nd and will also help children continue developing their reading skills throughout the break.

Active and Upcoming Grants

We still have funding available from the \$10,000 *Community Foundation Grant* received in April 2022. This grant has supported *Library Literacy Camps*, *Books for Babes*, and *1000 Books Before Kindergarten*. Although the grant covers staff hours and materials, most camp participants pay tuition, which has helped stretch the funds. We also offer scholarships for families who need financial assistance.

We welcome community input on this year's camps and programs that would best serve our youth during school breaks. This year's camps are just now in the beginning planning phase so if you have ideas, we'd love to hear from you!

We're also revisiting the *NFPA Education and Technology Foundation Grant* this June to fund a two-week engineering summer camp. The camp is based on a hands-on fluid dynamics course developed by Geneva Mottet, a seasonal local who has taught in various Alaskan communities. We are coordinating with communities including Hoonah and Juneau and hope to offer the program in person and via Zoom.

The course is open to 6th–12th grade students, including homeschoolers and character school students, and connects participants with engineering education opportunities in Alaska. It will also prepare students to compete in the *Arctic Innovation Competition (AIC)*. Geneva will teach the course in person in Gustavus—please contact us if your student is interested!

Additionally, our *Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grant* of \$7,000 for FY25 has nearly been fully utilized. The *OWL (Online With Libraries) Grant* continues to greatly reduce the cost of our internet services.

Staff Training and Professional Development

Melisa is currently completing the American Library Association's eLearning course *Finance and Budgeting for Library Staff*, which fulfills our PLA continuing education requirement. She has also participated in the *Show Up for Our Libraries: How to Protect Federal Library Funding* webinar, the *OWL Virtual Technology Workshop*, and *AI and Libraries: Literacy, Ethics, and Responsible Use*. Nina attended the *Summer Planning Bootcamp* in March 2025.

A Big Thank You to Our Volunteers!

Our volunteers play a vital role in keeping our library thriving. Many assist with special projects during their shifts, and their support is deeply appreciated. As we transition from winter/spring to summer volunteers, we are in need of new helpers. If you or someone you know would enjoy contributing to the library, please consider volunteering!

Thank you to our City Council!

We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of Gustavus.