



Ipswich Public Library

25 North Main Street, Ipswich, Massachusetts 01938

the Newsletter

WELCOMING TEENS & TWEENS

The Ipswich Public Library has been awarded a grant for \$20,000 to help improve our services to young people in grades 6 through 12 over a two year period. The theme of the grant is "Welcoming Tweens and Teens to Ipswich Public Library." "Tweens" are roughly ages 9 to 12. We recently received \$10,000 covering the first year of the grant, and the second \$10,000 will be issued in the fall of 2009. Young Adult Librarian Paula Grillo wrote and submitted the grant proposal in March 2008.

There are three main ways in which grant funds will be used: redesigning the young adult area with new furnishings and artwork, providing programs and activities with specific appeal to tweens and teens, and purchasing new

materials, such as books, DVDs, music CDs, books on CD and games.

We have recently installed new shelving in the young adult area to pull together in one convenient place all young adult fiction. The growing collection of graphic novels will also be displayed in this area. Funding of new shelving for YA fiction was allocated in the FY09 library budget.

Assistant Children's Librarian Maureen Fay will continue to work with tweens, running her popular monthly book clubs. She will be involved in various other grant-related activities, as well.

An advisory board of students will meet once a month to discuss grant programs, purchases and services (pizza will

be provided). If you or someone you know in grades 6 to 12 would like to be on this board, please contact Paula Grillo at 978-356-6648.

This project is being funded through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funds from LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act), a Federal source of library funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For more information about the federal IMLS/LSTA grants, please visit:

www.ims.gov

or

www.mass.gov/mbic



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Regular Hours

Mon, Tue, Wed & Thu
10 am—8 pm

Friday
9 am—5:30 pm

Saturday
9 am—4 pm

Sunday
1—4 pm

Changes in the Reference Room

To accommodate the new shelving for the Young Adult fiction, the two steel cabinets which hold the *Ipswich Files* were moved into the Reference Room.

Recent issues of Consumer & Investment Guides are now in the carrel facing the public computers. You'll find the latest copies of the Town Report, School Budget, and other municipal

documents on the left side of the free-standing shelf near the computers.

In January 2009, patrons browsing the Internet will once again be able to print using a digital copier/printer. This new equipment will handle both your copying and printing needs. Its menuing program enables patrons to select certain applications: print to printer, preview a

print job, or cancel print. If you select to print, the cost of the print job will be displayed on the monitor. Once you put money in the coin box, your print command will be completed.

The cost will remain 15 cents per page but we regret to inform everyone that the first 5 pages are no longer free.

It's Looking a Lot Like Christmas

Every year, as the month of December unfolds, the library staff looks forward to that day when the ladies from the Ipswich Garden Club come to decorate the library.

This year, Johanna Zabriskie and Janet Craft adorned the railings on the Gallery with ever-green swags and wreaths with red bows.



As always, Ipswich Garden Club member Dorcas Rice created a beautiful display of ornaments on the fireplace mantel in the Rogers Room. It charmed us all.



Thanks to the Ipswich Garden Club for making the Ipswich Public Library a festive place to visit during Christmas season!

Getting to know you...



Maureen Fay is Library Associate in the Children's Room and has worked at the Ipswich Public Library for ten years. She has a variety of responsibilities ranging from placing book orders, cataloging all new children's books, running book clubs for 4th-6th graders, as well as readers advisory and circulation responsibilities. In the absence of Children's Librarian, Marilyn Pauley, Maureen also runs programs and gets involved in craft activities for younger children. And in her capacity as unofficial library photographer, you will often see Maureen taking pictures of library events.

At present 35 children belong to one of three popular book clubs for 4th-6th graders where fun activities and lively discussions are the norm. Under Maureen's guidance, 4th and 5th graders created a Harry Potter game and enjoy playing it to test their knowledge of the books. A much looked forward to special event for 5th graders is a sleep over in the library. Sixth graders operate more independently and are learning how to make the book club their own.

While attending a session of the Public Library Association convention in Boston, Maureen learned

of **tutor.com** and suggested it would be a big help to children who are stumped by homework. The Trustees of the Ipswich Public Library agreed to fund half of the cost of **Live Homework Help**® from **tutor.com** if the School Committee would agree to fund the other half. An agreement was reached early in the summer to make LHH available to all Ipswich students, and adults too. Judging by comments posted outside the Children's Room, it has been enthusiastically received. (See related article below)

Most recently the Library has received a **Teens & Tweens Grant** from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Maureen will assist Young Adults Librarian Paula Grillo and will focus on involving tweens in the Library.

Maureen has been married to Jamie for 30 years and they have two daughters (Kathleen and Megan) and three sons (Sean, Christopher and Brendan). Kathleen, who is studying to be a lawyer, and Megan who is finishing her master's degree in nursing are both getting married in 2009. Christopher recently joined the Peace Corps and has just begun his service in Nicaragua. Sean is a software engineer in San Francisco and Brendan is a senior at MIT. Maureen's life is very full but with the little spare time available, she enjoys reading, gardening, running and cardio kickboxing.

Live Homework Help® Now Available

In the spring 2008 issue of *The Newsletter* we announced a partnership between the Ipswich Public Library and the Ipswich School District to make available to Ipswich students online tutoring through **tutor.com**. The service began during the summer and really took off in the fall. During the month of September 93 students connected to this service. Over the past three months an average of 72 students have connected with tutors for homework help. Students in the 11th grade were among the biggest users. The free service was also used by a significant number of 6th and 7th graders. Math, science and social studies were the most popular subjects. Over 90% of the students answered 'Yes' to the question "Are you glad your organization

offers this service?" Anyone with an Ipswich library card, including adults, can access Live Homework Help® through the library's website at **www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library**. Positive comments from Ipswich students include the following:

"I think this is really cool. Thanks. Bye."
— Ipswich 4th grader

"I really like the whiteboard. It's helpful for math problems and stuff."
— Ipswich 7th grader

"I LOVE TUTOR.COM!!!
It got me an A on my research paper!!!"
— Ipswich 11th grader

Reference Databases in the Ipswich Public Library

The Ipswich Public Library makes available to our patrons over 30 databases. Information found on these specialized databases is not accessible on a Google or Yahoo search. Many of these databases are available through the generosity of EBSCO Publishing, which is located in Ipswich. Other databases are through the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MBLC), the Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System (NMRLS) and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). It is unusual for a library the size of Ipswich Pub-

lic Library to have available to its patrons this range and depth of electronic resources.

All of the databases listed on the side bar of this page are available on the library's website at www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library. From the homepage, choose **Reference** and then **Online Databases**. To login you will need to enter your Ipswich Library card number.

Call us at 978.356.6648, if you have questions concerning the use of these resources.

Overdrive Now Available in MP3 Format for iPods

Audio books from Overdrive have been available for download to PCs or MP3 players through the Ipswich Public Library catalog since 2006. Audio books have now become available to our patrons in the MP3 format for iPods. All titles available for download to MP3 players, PCs or iPods are listed in the catalog on our website at www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library. Audio books for download are designated as such with the phrase [electronic resource] after the title. By clicking on the URL link near the bottom of the



screen you will be directed to the Overdrive website where you can 'borrow' the title for seven days or place a hold if the book is already checked out. Not all titles are available in iPods format, but the Overdrive site has build-in visual cues designating format, platform/device compatibility and CD burning capability. The library's website has a link from the **Collection** section to the Overdrive website, as well. Each month 40-50 titles are added to the collection of audio books available for downloading. At this time there are 200 titles available in the MP3 format for iPods, including 50 foreign language instruction titles.

Learn a New Language!

Patrons of Ipswich Public Library have a new way to learn a language online -- a program called Mango Languages®. The library has subscribed to this database as a replacement for Rosetta Stone, which no longer provides online language products to public libraries.

With Mango Languages, you can learn French, German, Italian or Spanish on any computer with Internet access either in the convenience of your home or at the library. First go to the Ipswich Public Library website at www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library and on the homepage, select **Reference** then **Online Databases**. Click on the link you'll see on this

page for "Mango Languages." When asked for your patron number, key in all 14 digits of the barcode on the back of your Ipswich Public Library card (no spaces), and follow instructions on the screen on how to begin.

If you're new in town and would like to have a library card, come to the library with any picture ID that has your Ipswich address. The staff at the main desk will be glad to issue you a card.

Please call Reference Librarian Paula Grillo at 978-356-6648 with any questions.



Reference Databases

All of the databases listed here are available on our library's website at: www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library

- Auto Repair Reference Center*
 - Book Collection: Non-Fiction*
 - Business Source Companion*
 - Consumer Health Complete*
 - E-Library*
 - ERIC*
 - First Search*
 - Funk & Wagnall's New World Encyclopedia*
 - Green file*
 - Grolier Online*
 - Home Improvement Reference*
 - Infotrac*
 - Informé*
 - Library Information*
 - Literary Reference Center*
 - Masterfile*
 - Newspaper Source*
 - NetLibrary*
 - Novelist*
 - Proquest*
 - Mango*
 - P4A Antiques Database*
 - Primary Search*
 - Professional Collection*
 - Regional Business News*
 - Small Engine Repair Center*
 - Teacher Resource Center*
- ... and **KIDS DATABASES** too —
- EBSCO Animals*
 - Kids Search*
 - Middle Search Plus*
 - Searchasaurus*

Freshwater Aquarium Attracts Kids



The fish are swimming happily in their new tank in the Children's Room, thanks to the generosity of Umesh Bhuju of Zumi's Espresso and Ice Cream in downtown Ipswich and the Friends of the Ipswich Public Library.

Mr. Bhuju approached the Children's Room staff several months ago, asking simply, "What would you like that you haven't been able to afford?" The aquarium was an easy answer. Children of all ages love live animals and the beautiful new aquarium has been a magnet for youngsters since it arrived in the Children's Room last month.

While Zumi's funded the aquarium and setup, the monthly maintenance costs have been generously underwritten by the Friends of the Ipswich Public Library. The library staff is extremely grateful to the Friends because this cost is perpetual and the aquarium would not be possible without their donation.

"This is wonderful for the children," enthused Children's Librarian Marilyn Pauley. "They all are so excited to see the fish during their visits to the library. We are extremely grateful to both Zumi's and the Friends for such a marvelous gift that will continue to be appreciated for years to come."

READING SCORES



It was when my oldest child was in preschool that I first heard the phrase "thousand book kid." A "thousand book kid," I learned, is a child who, by the time she reaches kindergarten, has been read a thousand books.

This is a good thing. And it means simply that a child to whom books are read every day -- from infancy onward -- will accumulate many of the pre-reading and literacy skills necessary to be successful in kindergarten and throughout the remainder of her education.

A new study, reported recently in the trade publication *School Library Journal*, suggests that not only is reading at home excellent preparation for later scholastic success, but library programs for the very young demonstrably improve a child's chance to become a strong reader. Lap-sit programs, story times, summer reading programs, as well, of course, as borrowing and reading countless books, all contribute to higher reading scores, the study proves. Researchers looked at state-by-state data provided by NCES, the National Center for Education Statistics, to evaluate the impact on

fourth-grade reading scores of both how many books kids were borrowing from libraries and how many children's programs kids attended. They found that in those states with higher circulation of children's books and higher attendance at children's public library programs, NAEP (National Assessment of Reading Progress) scores were significantly higher.

All 50 states were represented in this study. Eighty-two percent of those states that ranked in the top half for reading scores also ranked in the top half for per capita circulation of children's materials. Eighty-three percent of those states that ranked in the bottom half for reading scores were also in the bottom half for circulation. Of the states that ranked in the top 50 percent for reading scores, 70 percent ranked in the top half of per capita attendance at library programs.

Simply being in a public library, among others who value books, is helpful for children, it seems. It is easy to assume that the educational level of adults would dictate how often their children are read to, how many books are available in the home, how often they visit the library and how many library programs they attend. The study, however, controlled for the educational level of adults, and still found a positive correlation between having children borrow books from the library and attend library-sponsored programs and higher reading scores. Conversely, the study found that "... when the impact of children's circulation is removed from the relationship between adult educational attainment and children's reading scores, the strength of that relationship is reduced by almost a third." So, no matter how educated your parents are, if you are a regular library-user as a child, your reading ability may be significantly enhanced. That's pretty powerful stuff!

Regular exposure to the public library through story time and book group programs, science and puppet shows, music programs, and all of the other enrichment activities offered, only helps our children as they head off to school. And while it is both satisfying and important to have these facts quantified, I have this to say: Here at the library, we've known it all along.

— Betsy Johnson
Children's Room Assistant



"At the moment that we persuade a child, any child to cross that threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better. It's an enormous force for good."

—President-elect Barak Obama



The Children's Room monthly calendar of activities is available online at: www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library

From our library homepage, choose **Children's Services**, then click on **Calendar**. Enjoy!