

What happened around FVRL in April? Lots! *Here are a few examples.*

District statistics snapshot for April 2008

New library cards issued: 2,154

Items checked out: 202,386

Renewals: 64,674

A snapshot of April 2008 library programs and activities

Multiple-branch programs

- Vancouver and Vancouver Mall hosted successful “Kindergarten Here We Come” programs that featured, simultaneously, a presentation for adults by a Vancouver School District representative and a preschool story time.
- Eighteen teens participated in the 5th annual Poetry Slam at Wy’east Middle School. The audience was very supportive of the performers and booed judges who scored the performers with anything lower than a nine. Ryan Ellis (Cascade Park) was master of ceremonies, Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) was score keeper, and Sean McGill (Washougal) was a judge. The winners are listed below.

16-19 age group

- First Place: Colleen Kimsey, Art School
- Second Place: Sarah Thorn, Washougal High School
- Third Place: Julie Tkachenko, Camas High School

12-15 age group

- First Place: Deborah Landers, Pacific Middle School
 - Second Place: Cheryl Lee Jouwsme, Woodland Middle School
 - Third Place: Amber Clark, Frontier Middle School
- The year-long One Community/One Read program concluded in April with book groups discussing Copper Sun. The culmination was a public event that featured Sharon Draper, Copper Sun’s author. People from Portland, Vancouver, and Brush Prairie attended the event.

Battle Ground

- Battle Ground’s Poetry Night attracted poetry enthusiasts who shared poems and stories. One couple shared how they decided to write poetry after hearing a poetry reading on KBOO Community Radio. Another attendee was a young man who saw the Poetry Night flyer at a Burgerville. He had never been to a public library before, but he brought two friends and shared a book of poems written by a close friend and mentor whose son is dying of Lou Gehrig’s disease. This young man, a former non-library user, now comes to the library almost every day with his laptop to use the wireless connection and has begun checking out books and placing holds. One attendee read poems from “Paw Prints”, a booklet of Battle Ground High School student writings published in the 1960’s. One of the poems in it is by Sandra Dunning Barnes Hall – Deputy Mayor until a few months ago – musing about why she would not want to be rain.

- Jackie Spurlock discussed the new Battle Ground library with teens at their YAAB meeting. She showed the drawings, paint choices, and barn wood that will be in the Teen Room. The teens were very interested in and asked many questions about the teen space. Members also discussed the art the YAAB will create as their donation to the new building.

Cascade Park

- Pamper Your Pet program drew 193 people with their stuffed animals to the Cascade Park library. Ann Younger, Heather Troupe (Cascade Park), and ten teen volunteers helped children make pet blankets, houses, and collars after the children heard a story about pets. One young man said during the program, "I never knew libraries could be so fun!"

Goldendale

- Goldendale's Week of the Young Child parade party drew 150 – 200 children and their families who marched from Main Street to Columbus Avenue and then to the library. There the children were delighted to find two miniature horses they could pet and parents dressed up as bunnies, elephants, or other animals. The Foundation provided animal mugs that library volunteer Carol Thatcher distributed.
- Dr. James Ogden presented a special slide show at Goldendale about Harry Truman. The slide show featured pictures of Truman's Missouri home and Ogden's quest to find and play the same piano Harry Truman played in the famous photo with Lauren Bacall.
- Goldendale began its four month teen anime movie discussion series in April. Teens will meet once a month to watch and critique a different anime movie. The YAAB group enthusiastically supports this series.

La Center

- A member of La Center's knitting group brought her spinning wheel to a group meeting. As a result spinning has now become a regular part of the program and someone is always spinning. People of all ages are discovering this art.
- Jen Swingruber (La Center) coordinated a wonderful Young Adult program. Attendees made glass magnets, constructed duct tape wallets, and decorated Altoid tins.
- Cyndy Volk represented the library at La Center High School's annual open house attended by about 500 people. The open house provides an opportunity for students to meet their teachers for the following year. Cyndy met many people who have not used the library before and since the event several of them have come to the library to get cards.

Ridgefield

- Ridgefield's stitchery group continues working on costumes that two centennial committee members will wear in the July 4th parade. Ridgefield staff helped research appropriate costume designs and materials.
- Jenine WhiteCastle enchanted children during Ridgefield's annual Fairies Program. Attendees listened to stories, tried on a variety of wings from Jenine's collection (including a pair of dragon wings), made fairy finders, and decorated and ate fairy cakes. Many attendees came to the event wearing their own wings.

Stevenson

- Stevenson's first Teen Art Show and Poetry Slam were huge successes. The activities were held as part of National Poetry Month and National Library Week. Cynthia Dominik coordinated the month long art show that featured thirty-one art pieces. Twenty-four teens participated in the poetry event.
- Stevenson Library's next door neighbor and first time author Linda Jo Hunter presented a lively and fascinating talk at a reception and book signing in her honor. Linda is a wilderness guide, tracker, and bear expert whose book Lonesome for Bears chronicles encounters with the large mammals in Skamania County and Alaska. The Friends provided a dessert table and Linda donated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her books to the Friends.
- Adults enjoyed two social issues movies at Stevenson during April. One was an award-winning film on global warming and the other a wrenching portrayal of life in Darfur. A book discussion on The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini was held April 28.
- Stevenson's Drop Everything and Read Day program drew twenty-five parents and children who came to the library to read and win prizes. The library and Stevenson Elementary School principal Karen Douglass coordinated the event. The school and library have planned more collaborative programs for 2009 as the school converts to a K-3 arrangement.
- Cynthia Dominik and Jeanean Burgon (Stevenson) continue their van visits to Rock Cove Assisted Living facility. Attendance is growing and they report issuing new cards at each visit.

Three Creeks

- Thanks to their Friends, Three Creeks was able to have a performance by the Oregon Shadow Theatre. Their performance of "Puss in Boots – the Creole Cat" was absolutely stunning. The sound effects, the music, and the colorful puppets kept the children and adults spellbound. After the show the performers allowed the audience to look behind the scenes and see how the puppets are set up.
- Three Creeks had its first Read to the Dogs program. All four slots were filled within the first two hours of registration. Jessie, the 12-year old Golden Retriever, delighted the kids as she patiently lay on the floor listening to them read. After her 25 minutes with Jessie, one little girl burst out in tears and sobbed "I want her to come home with me," even though, according to her mother, they have a dog at home!
- Three Creeks' movie programs continue to be successful. Their teen movie nights attract teens that have not attended other library events.
- Three Creeks' April teen program was an open mic night. Some very brave teens sang karaoke while the others devoured tons of chocolates and snacks, played board games, and hung out. Several new teens attended the event and were excited the library was open on a Friday night.

Vancouver

- Vancouver's Youth Services offered three programs during Spring Break: a "Spring Fever" craft and puzzle program; a "Mad Science" presentation on hot air; and a story time for all ages.
- Vancouver's second annual "Dia de los Ninos" included both a bilingual story time for adults and children and a bilingual music and story telling program. The events were fun, lively,

and successful in attracting a multicultural audience. Ruth Shafer is planning to use the same performer next year and possibly coordinate with a similar event in Woodland.

- Ruth Shafer spoke to the “Parents Again: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren” support group about the importance of reading daily with children, school readiness (almost all of the children were under the age of 5), summer reading, and other library programs and services. Ruth also spoke with about twelve adults who will be working as Reading Buddy volunteers at Fruit Valley Elementary School. She shared information on choosing the right book for the student, what “age appropriate materials” means, and some simple reading strategies such as phonics skills and sight reading.

Vancouver Mall

- AARP volunteers at Vancouver Mall prepared 360 returns and assisted 430 people.
- Erica Rhodes coordinated Vancouver Mall’s Earth Day program. Participants had to complete several stations before they could join the Righteous Recycling Club. Erica demonstrated that the average American generates 4.5 pounds of trash each year.

Washougal

- Information Services taught an “Internet-One-on-One” class at Washougal. The class proved so popular that the June sign up required a waiting list.
- Washougal’s new writers’ group, Write On!, had increased attendance from the last meeting.
- Washougal continued its tradition of sponsoring an April poetry contest. Over 200 entries were submitted with the majority coming from Cape-Horn Skye Elementary. Below is a poem by third grader Colleen Apple.

Poem of Honor

Honor is the work we do
in the fields. Honor is a
family who loves and cares
for one another. Honor is being
true to myself as I wake up
each morning.

- Washougal’s Teen Science Fiction and Fantasy Book group discussed I am Mordred by Nancy Springer. Because the teens who attend these meetings are home schooled they opted to continue meeting through the summer.

White Salmon Valley

- White Salmon Friends’ member Andre Lamoreaux developed and coordinated a four-part music and history series for the White Salmon library. “Jimmie Rodgers: Father of Country Music,” was the second program in the series. A talented group of local musicians entertained a full-house audience with a narration about Rodger’s life and music and a selection of his songs.
- Washington State’s Native Plant Appreciation Week was celebrated in the White Salmon library with a presentation on “Edible Native Plants” by Kristin Currin of Humble Roots Farm and Nursery in Mosier, OR. The presentation included slides, discussion, and samples of native plant snacks.

- White Salmon held its first online gaming night. Students from Henkle Middle School Project Open Door requested the program. The computers were full of very enthusiastic teens excited about being in the library after hours playing online games and eating pizza.
- Read to the Dogs made its first appearance in the White Salmon Library. Sam Huston, an outstanding therapy dog, listened attentively to the stories the children read to him.
- White Salmon's YAAB group hosted a Scrabble Tournament as a Teen Summer Reading fundraiser. The participants enjoyed competing in teams, eating popcorn, and winning prizes. They also had some great suggestions to make next year's tournament even better and suggested starting a regularly scheduled Scrabble Club.

Woodland

- Woodland's Before and After School program was about quilting. Students colored their own quilt square patterns which Woodland staff member Linda Wall "pieced" together and hung in the library's children's area.
- Woodland's toddler story times continues to boom. The library shakes and shudders as attendees shake out their sillies each week.
- Woodland's Writers Circle continues to attract a faithful group that is eager to share their work, get feedback, and be stimulated to new and greater achievements.
- Woodland's anime club, Anime-zing Woodland, enjoyed the mystical, witty adventure story *Tsubasa: Chronicle Reservoir VI*.

There's a lot going on in FVRL libraries! If you have questions or comments about any library programs, please call (360) 695-1566 or 1-888-546-2707 toll-free from area cod 509 only, or send an email to comments@fvrl.org.