



“Things could look very different while remaining the same.”
Rachel Cusk, Transit

In the beginning of 2020, our calendar was full of programs for adults: Brain Games, Ukulele Strumalong, Open Mic Night, Mahjongg classes, Defensive Driving classes, book groups, and author visits. Scheduled children's programs included Early Literacy Classes, Checkmates, Ozobots, Lego Mindstorms, Homework Help, Lego Club and card making classes. Our display case was filled with pieces from the artists who met regularly at the Wappinger Town Hall Senior Center, and we were looking forward to a Meet and Greet Reception.

On March 16, 2020, we closed because of COVID-19 with hopes that we would re-open on April 1. April Fools. When it became clear that “flattening the curve” would take more than two weeks, we sought ways to connect with our patrons while the building remained closed.

We expanded digital options so that patrons could enjoy reading, listening and viewing material via Hoopla, Overdrive, and Kanopy. Patrons who longed to craft were encouraged to use CreativeBug.

Open Mic Night, the Ukulele Strumalong and the Gallery @ Grinnell were offered virtually. Children were encouraged to attend Homework Help via Zoom and to submit photos of their Lego creations to our Virtual Lego Club. We hosted Virtual Storytimes.

We missed our patrons. And judging from the comments submitted to our “What I Miss About Grinnell Library” contest, our patrons missed us. (See Community Snippets)

In June, we started Contactless Holds Pick Up in our vestibule. Following guidelines from the CDC and directives from the Governor's office, we developed workplace safety protocols. Computer usage was available by appointment. Returned items were quarantined for 72 hours and fines and late fees were waived.

When we re-opened on July 1, we modified our in-person programs to ensure the safety of the staff and the public. Book groups were held outdoors with an option

to join via Zoom. Tech Tutor sessions relied upon a laptop and projector in order to maintain social distance. Children were given Outdoor Nature Challenges.

We expanded our Zoom Storytime Programs. We created Take and Make Craft Kits. We offered Virtual Lego challenges. We gave out Circuitry Kits to Go.

Patrons received reference assistance and readers advisory in person, but could also consult with a librarian by phone, virtual chat and use our Personalized Picks service.

Our programs and services may look different, but our commitment to serving our community remains the same.

Community Snippets

Comments submitted to our "What I Miss About Grinnell Library" contest while we were closed



"We miss being "regulars" at our beloved library and having the Circ staff recognize our gigantic pile of books on hold for our daughter."



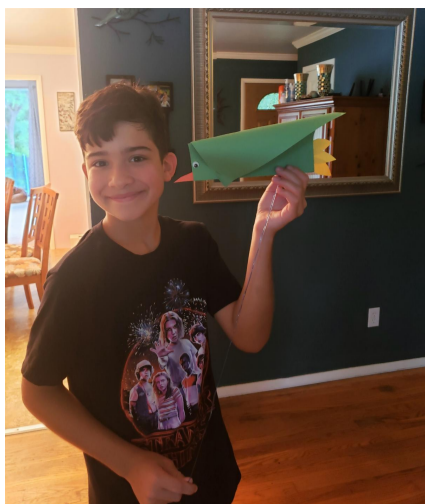
"We miss Story Time but thank you for staying closed and doing your part to keep everyone healthy and safe."

"I miss seeing what new art is in the display case and letting my kids play in the children's room."



"I miss the smiles of the friendly helpful staff."

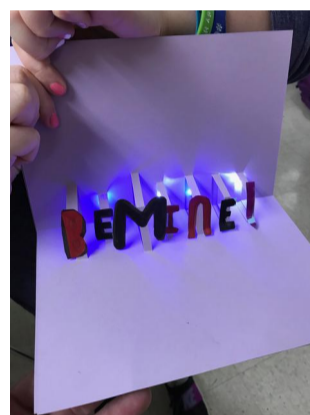
"We miss browsing all the new books that have come in and lugging our huge shopping bags full of books home"



"We miss seeing all the librarians we have come to know so well and all the fun events we participate in at the library."



"I miss the programs, the speakers and the wonderful live education events."



2020 COMMUNITY REPORT

CIRCULATION OF
MATERIALS

24,308



PUBLIC COMPUTER
SESSIONS

4,406

WIRELESS SESSIONS

26,315



REFERENCE QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

1975

WEBSITE VISITS

40,219



MOBILE
HOTSPOTS
AVAILABLE

8

SUCCESSFUL
GRANTS WRITTEN

4



MUSEUM PASSES
AVAILABLE

12

MATERIALS
PROVIDED TO OTHER
LIBRARIES

18,176



OPEN
LIBRARY

VISITORS TO THE
LIBRARY

38,054

USE OF E-MATERIAL

28,514



ONE-ON-ONE
COMPUTER TUTOR
SESSIONS

81

TAKE-AND-MAKE
KITS PICKED UP

493



CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FEEDS TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING - NO SIGN-UP NEEDED!

