



Hello all—

It's been an interesting couple of weeks, but here is a short report—I never thought I'd be so glad to see my desk, so soon.

- The Harry Potter events came off very well. Bernadette had to move the HP Trivial Pursuit session back to the library due to another summer storm, but that didn't dampen spirits. (Groan, groan...) She had at least 80 participants for that. The HP Costume Contest and the HP movie on the beach were both able to go off without a hitch at the beach, partnering with the town. At least 30 children/teens participated in the costume contest, with over 150 attending. The film was enjoyed by a similar number of viewers. It was a huge undertaking and Bernadette and Megan, with some staff volunteering their time, did a great job. Pat them on the back the next time you see them in the library.
- Library system news of the week is that automatic renewals start in September. I sent out an FAQ sheet to FOSCL so you'd have advance notice. One thing that is NOT on that sheet is that you may receive 2 emails per renewal attempt. One email will tell you what was renewed and the new due dates. If applicable, you will get a second email telling you what could NOT be renewed. It's an automated system and it can't combine both attempts into one email, so be sure to check BOTH emails if you get two. I think this is going to be a big help to a lot of patrons, once they get used to it.
- Plans for participating in the DE Deaf Festival are perking along, and we keep adding to what we want to do. Barbara White says participation by other organizations has gone so much higher than expected, so we may be moving to a small classroom at the center to have room for children to do their crafts/events and we will also be able to issue library cards, courtesy of our wifis.
- Taking a brief look at stats, comparing FY22 to FY23 (we run July 1 to June 30), nearly every statistic rose between the two years. Library visits jumped over 21%, programs rose by 36% while the number of attendees rose by more than 86% and so on. I'll have a complete annual report ready for the FOSCL Annual meeting in September, as always.
- Finally, Darin is going to interview James Patterson and Mike Lupica in September! Darin, you just got a lot of serious "library points" from us. Good luck!

Sue Keefe, 8/18/23

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