

Executive Director's Report

June and July 2013

ADMINISTRATION

By Holly Carroll

Library Park Landscape/ Streetscape Project

Phase 1 of the landscape project is officially completed. The Library District made a final payment of the retain age funds to Hoff in July. Korbby landscape worked with the City of Fort Collins, parks and recreation crew and finally resolved the irrigation issues concerning several of the locations in the park and the drainage for the planters. The City planted flowers in the all the planters the week of July 22.

The chess board is a big hit with all ages. It is in constant use and people seem thrilled with this addition to the park.

Construction documents for phase 2 (diagonal and performance stage) were posted on the City of Fort Collins' website on July 22. A pre-bid hearing was held August 1st with five construction companies attending. The bid opening is scheduled for August 13, the day after the August board meeting. I am working with Kim Seter to draft a resolution to allow the Board president to approve the contract if the low and responsible bid is at or below cost



estimates. The most recent construction estimate is roughly \$385,000. In October, the board gave such approval to President Liggett for the Streetscape/ entry way contract. Kim Seter is also including as part of this resolution approval to appropriate the needed funds for the project.

Grants and Grantwriting Services

The Library District has contracted with Maggie Dennis of Story Forge for a six month period to research grant making organizations that align with our mission, write grant proposals and manage the grant process. She begins this month and will spend the first few weeks acquiring knowledge and understanding of the district by spending time with staff. Programs and services for which the District is seeking outside funding include cultural programming, literacy initiatives, some capital projects/improvements and programs for underserved populations.

Fort Fund notified the Library in July that \$4,500 was awarded to the Library for the CUSE author series and Fort Collins Reads.

Community Funded, a local crowdsourcing fundraising organization, is highlighting a project for the Library. We would like Community Funded to help us raise \$5,000 to purchase a bicycle, cart to hold books and PR materials, a small notebook laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot to take the library on the road at community events. Paula will be sending out details to the board and staff this week. To be eligible for funding, the "Book Pedal-er" must receive 50 endorsements from the public.

American Library Association (ALA) and Urban Library Council (ULC) conference, Chicago, June 27 – July 1, 2013

Ken Draves and I attended the ULC annual forum which was held the Thursday and Friday before the ALA conference. The theme of the forum was the role of the library as a learning institution that provides high-quality programs that lead to intentional learning outcomes. Speakers represented the MacArthur Foundation, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, National Summer Learning Association and the George Lucas Educational Foundation. Some of the reoccurring themes were using technology as a catalyst for learning, the maker revolution, learning labs, strategic partnerships with other learning institutions, and designing space around learning priorities such as job search/resume labs, and digital media labs for students. At the forum, Poudre River Public Library District received one of the coveted 2013 *Top Innovator* awards for our response to the 2012 High Park Fire.

Ken and I joined Jean Bosch, Sylvia Garcia and Alice Jorgensen at the ALA Annual Conference. We all attended different programs on a variety of topics including community engagement, eBooks and digital rights management, RDA cataloging, outreach services, programming and marketing.

Other Activities

Several staff members attended the ClimateWise Envirovation event where the Library District received for the third year gold partner status for reducing our carbon footprint. Johanna Ulloa and I attended the United Way State of the Community luncheon on June 6th. I attended the monthly Metro Library Directors meeting on July 9th, Front Range Public Library directors meeting on July 19th and monthly board meetings of Beet Street Friends of the Library, and Library Trust.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

By Tova Aragon

We are changing our online newspaper vendor to ProQuest National Newspapers from America's Newspapers and Obits. America's Newspapers ended on June 30th. Links are on the A-Z list, Homework and Magazine, Journal categories on the eResources page.

The ProQuest National Newspaper database provides online access to national and regional newspapers from across the U.S. including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor* and *Denver Post*. With the switch, access to the full text of the *New York Times* is now be available.

Access to the America's Obits will no longer be available. For obituary research, Ancestry.com is offered in the libraries. There are also free online services such as, Findagrave.com and Tributes.com. More links to help with Genealogy research are at: <http://read.poudrelibraries.org/adult/genealogy/> Proquest does have an obituary search as well.

We are partnering with the Poudre School District to provide ProQuest National Newspapers to library patrons as well as students of the school district. The switch allowed us to free up some funds to purchase the *Brainfuse* services that will launch August 1st.

The *Brainfuse* Adult Learning Center provides online, one-on-one coaching to help improve jobs skills, tools for job searching and live help with resume writing. It provides practice tests like the GED and U.S. Citizenship tests. *Brainfuse HelpNow* provides online homework help through live, one-to-one tutoring for students in grades K-12 and college. Brainfuse provides help with subjects like math and

science, an interactive writing lab and ACT and SAT test preparation. Live help is available 7 days a week from 3 p.m. until 12 midnight. Access is also available in Spanish.

Marian Sawyer presented “*Collection Development Issues for Children’s Librarians/Media Specialists in the Era of E-Books and the New Common Core Learning Standards*” to Poudre School District Media Specialists. She spoke of the ongoing changes and current considerations in the art and science of selecting the best nonfiction books for children’s school and public library collections and talked briefly about the evolution of types of children’s nonfiction, formats, and educational standards. She book-talked some materials and explained that PRPLD children’s collection is top-quality, plentiful, and readily available to complement the resources available and needed for PSD students and teachers as they implement the Common Core Standards, as well as offering amazing pleasure reading options.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

By Paula Watson-Lakamp

- Completed monthly/weekly goals of Communication Plan.
- Organizing, managing and supervising all graphic design work for the District.
- Co-facilitator of the Programming Team
- Working with SA to roll out new services
- Working with OrangeBoy on cluster updates and new dashboard system and strategic plan integration
- Working on new social media promotions and platforms, “The River’s Mouth” updating
- Working with CSU Morgan Library on new library card promotions for new school year
- Facilitated writing of \$5,000 Fort Fund grant for CSU Authors Alive partnership – received \$4,500!
- Working on promotion for Foundation Center at Harmony Library
- Promotion and coordination of new Brainfuse Homework Help online feature
- Promotion of SRP programs and final photo contest – winners to be announced at a special reception on Sept 6
- Facilitated Scott Nash – author in residence stay
- Worked with local media on various stories
- Worked with Friends group for promotion of July sale as well as Nov. sale
- Hired replacement part-time graphic artist – Laura Carter
- Worked with Holly and Anne Macdonald to hire a contractual grant writer
- Working with BeetStreet to coordinate community non-profit Holiday Party in December
- Working with Community Funded to raise \$5,000 for the “Book Pedal-er” project, go to CommunityFunded.com to check it out
- Working with Library Trust on Donor Wall and registration with ColoradoGives.org for December giving campaign
- Attended webinars - *How to Communicate Like Your Favorite Nonprofit: Real and Relevant Messaging That Works Today*, and *Digital Badges*

OUTREACH SERVICES

Submitted By Johanna Ulloa

Outreach Staff Update

Unfortunately Jessica Bermejo, the recently hired computer Library Assistant, resigned from her position. She graduated from CSU in June and started a full time position close to her home in Loveland. She wishes to stay in touch with the library and plans to volunteer with the Library District in the future. Her last day of work is August 17, 2010. Kristen Drapper and Johanna will interview possible candidates later in the month.

The Library District's Ricón de Cuentos traveled to Mexico! Our own Ludy Rueda presented Ricón de Cuentos to schools and educators while she visited family and friends in June. They were fascinated with the program and will incorporate some of our style into their services!

Imaginantes

Lights! Camera! Action!

Imaginantes was an amazing journey for 18 youth and 15 presenters. The kids learned how to craft questions for documentaries with Theresa Funke, how to create a documentary with Film Director Adam Taub, and how to work with Sketch Pro with mini Ipads with Scott Nash. The students received a behind the scenes tour of Denver Museum of Nature and Science during which many professionals described their jobs, careers, and the life of the museum. The kids enjoyed the Museum and ended the visit watching a movie at the IMAX. They also visited the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, and the Global Village Museum.

The final products of the week-long session, four documentary films of local residents were presented during our gala on Friday, June 14th to 100 appreciative participants. It is hard to fully know the impact that the program had in the lives of the youth but it is important to note that some of them had never before handle an IPAD, professional camera, and some had never left Fort Collins, so the trip to Denver was an amazing experience. Imaginantes is a perfect example of what outreach is all about.

Partners in the Community

Outreach is working closely with Atzlan Center to beta test library services on-site to their visitors. Kristen Draper and Johanna Ulloa introduced the "green screen" to the Hollywood youth group at Atzlan Center. Students were able to video and take photos of themselves in front of different backgrounds. It was a fun and interactive educational experience!

Outreach staff was present at the CSU fair Apartment Life where library services were explained to 70 students. BrainFuse, the new homework and job skills database was introduced as a new resource and many students expressed being eager to use it.

The Library District was invited to be participated in the Immigration Round Table where community representatives discussed recent immigration reform with Congressman Polis. Johanna represented the Library Johanna also participated in the Larimer County Disparities Action Committee. Relevant themes discussed included provision of services for minorities groups in the County.

Eleven staff, trustees, volunteers and family members participated in the City of Fort Collins' Fourth of July parade. It was great fun despite the heat.

Participation In Educational Services

Outreach story times were on full force during summer in many areas. We provided services at Tinmath, Stove Prairie, Livermore, Timber ridge, and Fort Collins.

Volunteer Engagement

Summer has been humming along for Homebound, Books-by-Mail, and Volunteer Services! Barbara Crandall scheduled training session for potential Summer Reading Program volunteers and distributed the background check information and release forms to the library trainers' at all three buildings, as well as the volunteer sign-in sheets for all the training sessions. Volunteers were also recruited for the Imaginantes picnic, the Imaginantes Closing Ceremonies, and the June 30 Tea with Queen Victoria.

In addition several court-ordered community service volunteers were processed and placed. Unfortunately Barbara is now getting word back from all three libraries that the circulation areas are at capacity as far as volunteers are concerned. We hope to add a few more Books-by-Mail homebound customers and volunteers to help with the actual delivery of materials to homes. Our homebound service was featured in the "Causes" column of the *Coloradoan* on July 26.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION

By Carol Gyger

Highlights of current projects:

Discover

The new Discover catalog is almost ready for prime time. Victor Zuniga, Carol Gyger, and Peggy Shaughnessy from Systems have been prepping the system and working with the Discover Team to roll out the new interface. Launch is scheduled for August 12th. To get a sneak peak at the catalog go to <http://discover.poudrelibraries.org>. It's easy on the eyes, easy to navigate, and friendly to most tablets and smartphones.

The screenshot shows the Discover catalog interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'bohemian' entered. The results show 1 - 25 of 47 items. The first three results are:

- Claire DeWitt and the bohemian highway / Sara Gran** (2013). 3 holds on first copy returned of 3 copies. 1 item available. Place hold.
- Bohemian-inspired jewelry : 50 designs using leather, ribbon, and cords / Lorelei Eurto, Erin Siegel** (2012). 1 item available. Place hold.
- The Bohemian girl / Kenneth Cameron** (2010). 3 items available. Place hold.

On the left side, there are filters for Availability, Format, Branches, and Collections.

Windows 7 upgrades

Lingzhen Zhao and Chris Bauman have finished upgrading to Windows 7 on all staff computers. Now on to public PCs, a whole different animal! Several systems have to work in harmony – printing, security, sign-up system, internet browsers – to meet the high expectations of customers. Harmony Library is first on the schedule in mid-August.

Sharing

Victor Zuniga and Carol Gyger from the Systems Team and Nancy Osbahr from Interlibrary Loan met with another library who is considering joining Prospector. Staff took the guests on a tour of the Prospector area at Harmony and answered questions about workflow, impacts to ILL, space and staff requirements, and customer usage. (The bottom line is our customers love Prospector and our staff is especially efficient at processing 12,000 items per month. We love to share our successes with others!)

COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Currie Meyer

Summer Reading Program Volunteer Training, June 3-10 and 22

Millie Kridler provided seven separate SRP volunteer trainings in June. Millie introduced volunteers to the SRP concept and goals, demonstrated how to enter participant information into our database, explained incentive programs for all ages, and encouraged volunteers to demonstrate goodwill and encouragement to all participants.

City's Proposed Southeast Area Recreation and Cultural Center Meeting, June 5

Currie attended a meeting to introduce citizens to the City's proposed SE Area Recreation and Cultural Center on June 5 at Preston Middle School. The City is looking at building a 65,000 facility on the south side of Fossil Creek Park, across Lemay Ave. from the Southridge Greens Golf Course. Attendees were invited to listen to architects, owner's representatives and city officials' ideas for the building. Meeting facilitators displayed posters of optional facility features including a climbing wall, small library, splash pool, alternative floor gym, elevated track, and 500-seat auditorium. Attendees were invited to vote for their five favorite features using dot stickers. The library space was not in the top ten.

City – sponsored Community Disrupter Training with John Nicoletti, June 7

Currie attended a four-hour Community Disrupter Training with Psychologist and crime investigator John Nicoletti at City Hall on June 7. Dr. Nicoletti's training provided "specific information on how to detect and differentiate a difficult citizen/customer/patron/co-worker/contractor from a volatile and dangerous individual. Participants also (were) provided with specific techniques on how to de-escalate situations and develop countermeasures to disrupt the violence progression. The final portion will discuss situations in which action must be taken in order to stay safe." (City Human Resources).

Mid -year review of CT LA, Children's Librarian and Circulation Supervisor performance goals, June 6-July 5

Currie met one-on-one with her eight direct reports to discuss progress on their 2013 performance goals. Upon discussion, some staff changed, added to, or deleted objectives. The meetings revealed that staff is generally on- or ahead-of-track and have made good progress toward their annual goals.

Plunkett Business Source database training for CT classified staff, June 13

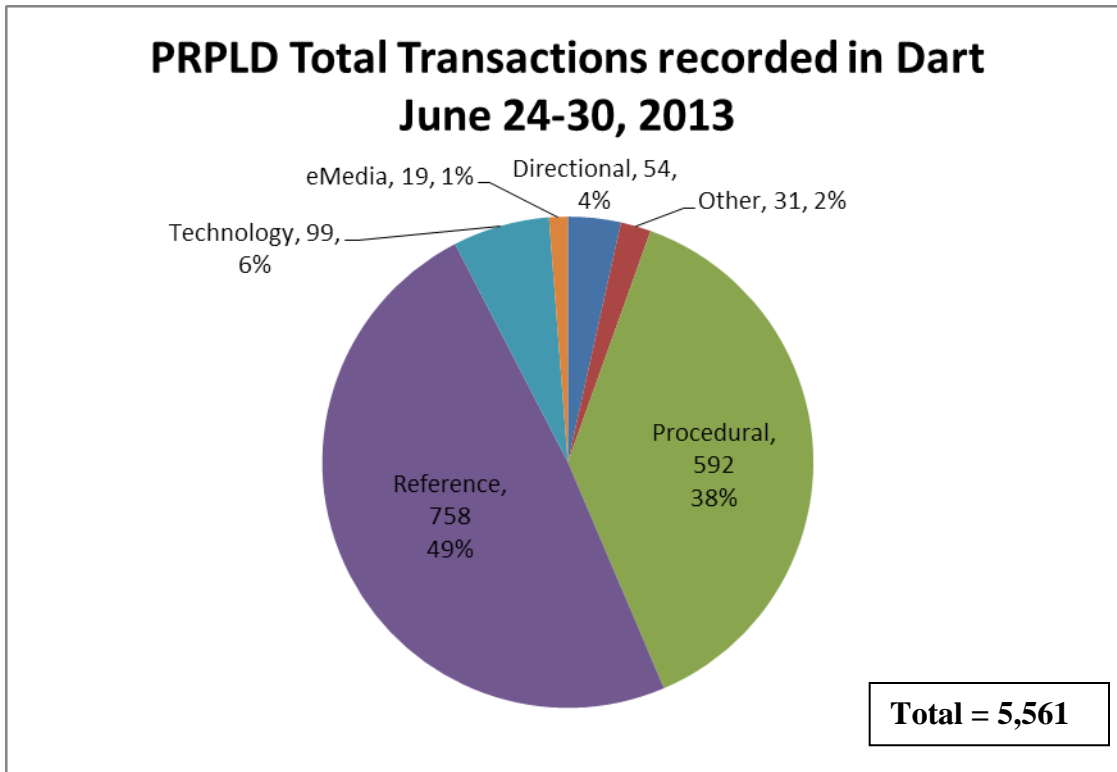
Business Librarian Anne MacDonald provided a 30-minute training on Plunkett for CT staff at our monthly staff meeting on June 13.

Average Door Count record set, June

An average of 1,089 people visited CTL in June. This is the highest average visitation CTL has had since opening in March, 2009. The last record was 1,049 average visits in February, 2013.

Dart Reference tracker employed week of June 24-June 30

Currie coordinated the second (of three) ‘Dart week’ of the year during the last week of June. More than five thousand transactions between front-line library staff and customers were tracked during the week. Dart Reference Tracker is a free, web-based tool that provides an electronic system for reporting, tracking and analyzing a library’s information transactions. Public desk and circulation staff is asked to track information transactions using Dart for three weeks over the course of a year.



Brainfuse webinar training for public desk staff, June 15, 17 and 26

Currie and Sue-Ellen Jones, Teen Librarian at OTL, facilitated webinar training for staff on our new homework help and skills-building e-resource, Brainfuse. Live August 1, Brainfuse offers free, live expert help for students from kindergarten to college. Brainfuse also features state-based subject area tests, study guides for all ages, test prep for GED, ACT and SAT, writing and assistance in Spanish. Experts provide job seekers resume and interview guidance, as well as general workplace skills building.



Outreach storytime support, June and July

Kathie Young de Hererra stepped in for vacationing Outreach LA Ludy Rueda to deliver five Rincon de Cuentos bilingual storytimes at the Harmony Road Mobile Home Park Clubhouse. Kathie also covered the storytime at The Forks in Belleview on July 11, and Timber Ridge South Mobile Home Park on July 31. Children’s Librarian Millie Kridler provided storytimes at Timnath Presbyterian Church on July 12 and 26.

Summer Reading Programs for Children, June 20 and July 25

Millie planned and presented two special dig- and dirt- themed story-and-craft programs for families: “Dirt Movers” on June 20 and “Dino Dig!” on July 25.

Bike to Work Day, June 26

The Green Team coordinated a Bike to Work Day table at CTL on the morning of June 26. CT Circulation Aide Thuan Nguyen, LA Drew Gaede and Currie joined Collections assistant Louise Mosnik for a fun morning greeting a record-number of bikers – over 100 people.



Tech Heads bring handheld devices to CTL in July

Karla Cribari, CT LA and Tech Heads group member, brought three Samsung Galaxy tablets to CT staff to try. Karla and fellow Tech Heads member CT LA Sara Nesbitt encouraged staff to experiment with the devices and/or take them home. All floor staff (LA's and Librarians) had a chance to bring them home for 1-4 days. Everyone was encouraged to try downloading books, audiobooks, music and magazines from the District's downloadable library.

HARMONY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Ken Draves

Harmony Library

Laurel Castellana is our new Library Assistant at Harmony. She has spent considerable time the past couple of months with Elaine Burritt and other Harmony staff getting trained and gaining comfort and experience working with Harmony's patrons and resources, such as reference collections, databases, adult book stacks, opening and closing procedures, and emergency evacuation procedures.

Diane Tuccillo has recently completed her third and final year serving on the selection committee for the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award. The Walden Award is an annual, national award presented by the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

The award is presented for a young adult title "demonstrating a positive approach to life, widespread teen appeal, and literary merit." This year's winner is *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green.

Continuing Education/Programming

Elaine and other staff attended Foundation Center Grantseeking Basics training program on June 11. Elaine also attended CSL in Session: Why aren't they reading quietly?! Messing around at the library, with Kieran Hixon, Sharon Morris on June 12.

After attending Ebsco webinar on using Novelist Plus, Elaine Burritt prepared extensive handout and demonstrated search strategies at June Harmony Staff Meeting.

Elaine contacted Vicki Nichols Goldstein of Colorado Ocean Coalition as a possible facilitator/discussion leader for Ocean Frontiers film program. I suggested this program idea to our Programming Team, and I was asked to help find a facilitator. I delivered program flyers to local scuba shops to help promote the program. Film showing followed by a panel discussion was held at Council Tree Library on June 22.

Assistive Technology Training

Elaine met with Marla Roll, director of Assistive Technology Resource Center at CSU and Joelle Lamberton, CSU Fieldwork student in early July and arranged small group training sessions with for our Harmony staff in July and August, including Circulation LSR's, to familiarize all of our desk staff with our new assistive technology equipment. In a 2-hour training, Joelle will introduce staff to the software programs on the AT computer and to how and why they are used. The expectation is that all public desk staff will have a basic familiarity with what we have on the AT stations and can assist any customers in getting started on this computer.

FRCC News---Campus Expansion

Annie Fox, FRCC-Larimer Campus Librarian, asked that I share the following information with you regarding expansion of the Larimer Campus. Below is an e-mail Larimer Campus VP sent to staff in June. Subsequently there have been a number of complications related to deeds, City involvement, and the local neighborhood association which have slowed finalization of land acquisition and the initiation of construction.

Message from Bruce Walthers sent to FRCC staff in June:

Dear Colleagues:

Today at the monthly meeting for the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education, our governing board voted to approve the purchase of 8.22 acres of land immediately south of the Larimer Campus. This acquisition represents a tremendous opportunity for our campus, allows us to address some of our current space and parking issues, and will allow us to have some room to grow in the future.

This purchase is the result of a lot of hard work by a number of people, but I would especially like to recognize the efforts of Derek Brown, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Planning, who worked with the local church who owned the land to come to a mutually agreeable purchase agreement. I hope you will understand that because of the sensitive nature of land negotiations, this process has not been as open as we would normally like it to be, but it was important not to impair our negotiating position.

As this new land will increase our campus size by nearly 20%, we need to revisit some of the details established in our Master Planning process and see what new opportunities this land may represent. The projects in the plan and the order in which they are constructed should not change. As the purchase process has taken some time, we asked our architectural firm to start thinking about some options for how we might best use the land. I will review their recommendations with any affected groups on campus so that we can be in a position to make some planning decisions in short order.

As always, please feel free to call on me if you have any questions or concerns!

Bruce

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OLD TOWN LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Jean Bosch

Pals Program

Our 61 Library Pals put in over 750 volunteer hours this summer, and celebrated with a Pals party on July 26. Chipotle and TCBY very kindly donated the refreshments. A copy of the Pals' thank you card to TCBY is below, because it shows Pals from all three libraries doing their volunteer work.



The entire Pals and Puppet Pals programs are coordinated by Library Assistant Giny McConathy. Our summer aide, Gladys Hill, served very well as an experienced puppeteer and in the mentoring of Library Pals. Her help was really appreciated and freed up staff to do other library work.

Along with Gladys, five talented Puppet Pals gave twelve performances of the library puppet show. We got glowing reviews again this season. Total hours worked by Puppet Pals: 169.



Assistive Technology

The new assistive technologies at the Old Town and Harmony libraries provide people with disabilities public access to resources that previously had only limited availability in Fort Collins. Marla Roll from the Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC), graduate students from the Occupational Therapy Department at CSU and PRPLD's Sylvia Garcia partnered to provide the first wave of staff training and

an afternoon of information and demonstrations of the equipment and the computer applications. Community members, CSU students and faculty, and even Channel 8 news attended the event. Their coverage of the event was broadcast that evening during the Northern Colorado Report.



Programs and Events

Librarian Sarah Scobey presented a book talk for the Newcomers group at the Senior Center on July 17 with 37 in attendance. Their group was impressed with Sarah’s presentation and expertise as the thank you note read, “Once again, THANK YOU so much for your dynamic presentation at the Newcomers “Bookies” meeting on Wednesday. You have certainly given us much to consider for our 2013-14 reading time! And you must know that you have a wonderful knack of inciting interest even in areas of book reading we might not normally consider! Thank you!”

The biggest thrill for Early Literacy Librarian Vicky Hays this summer was being able to play Queen Victoria and hosting two seatings of tea with the Queen. The program transformed the Community Room into an elegant tea room and participants were very pleased to have this opportunity.



Vicky continues to provide outreach storytimes at the Early Childhood Center at CSU and held early literacy programs for kids ages 3-5 as part of our Summer Reading Program. This photo shows a family enjoying planting some seeds to take home which was one of the stations at the early literacy program.



Changes to Storytimes

This summer, Vicky trained District staff new to storytime in Every Child Ready to Read. In addition, we have made some changes to our storytimes that are now based on developmental stages of children instead of ages. Storytime staff is being trained in the changes.