

Upstairs, Downstairs

What's going on behind the scenes at the Cedar Rapids Public Library

3-3-2008

Administration

- Work is proceeding on creating a new, fresh logo for the library. Lori and Tam have met several times with Ian MacDonald, a local graphic artist who comes highly recommended. A staff team has been created to give input so Ian can finalize his design. Team members are Karla, Penny, Amy, Trevor, Lori and Tam. Completed designs will be presented for Board approval at a future meeting.

Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center

- ISAIC is collaborating with Partnership for Drug Free Iowa to promote the March 5th statewide campaign, **Take 5: Take Five Minutes to Talk to Kids About Drugs**. A five-minute conversation now and then can make a huge difference toward keeping kids away from drugs. Governor Culver has signed a proclamation, and the Partnership for Drug Free Iowa is sending printed flyers to all Iowa schools to be sent home to parents of 5th graders by March 5th. Many communities across the state have been running media ads to promote **Take 5**, referring people to contact ISAIC's toll free number or visit the website for additional information. ISAIC is distributing the [How to Be a Better Parent](#) pamphlet that is used in the campaign, and the drugfreeiowa.org website has more information for parents and grandparents on how to help kids make healthy lifestyle choices.

IT

- The Filemaker server crashed on Saturday and had to be repaired.
- The motherboard on the primary B&W printer at the print release station crashed Sunday. This machine has to be replaced.
- Monday, we moved the administrative office computers to the Red Room, so that heat pumps can be replaced.
- Several other printer problems have surfaced this week and repaired.
- Checkpoint server was down for a while. Seems to be working now. 3M is almost up to speed with their takeover of the service of Checkpoint equipment.
- Internet at West was again up and down several times. Down sometimes for a few minutes, but sometimes for several hours. Apparently Qwest is having trouble with their lines. (Weather?)
- Leon installed an iBistro patch Sunday night. It now matches the latest patch on Unicorn.
- Several new computers were installed last week. We had to fine tune some of them this week.

Maintenance

- We have repaired the electronic and mechanical portions of the access control system for the staff locker and lounge areas at a considerable savings over having the work done by a contractor.
- The new heat pumps in Beems and the lobby got a good workout and performed well for the Jazz at the 'Brary event last Friday evening.
- We continued to deal with another week of snow and ice.
- The heat pumps above the Children's story hour area have been installed with the electrical and fire alarm system work to follow next week. Two of the three pumps above the administrative office area have been removed. The ceiling above the upper lobby and the Children's story hour area should be back in place by the end of next week.

Children's/Programming

- Staff continues to work around the heat pump replacement. Story hours and tours have needed to be moved into the lobby or another area of the children's room. The Red Room is again occupied by other displaced staff. We are finding it difficult to store some of our supplies, but hope that this will all be over soon.

✿ Many volunteers this week helped us out with future crafts and with stuffing patron packets.

Circulation

✿ Mary Beth and Jackie will be arranging the spring display on the staircase this week. Many thanks, Ladies!

✿ Penny will be updating and decorating the display board to coordinate with the village square display.

✿ Carroll Endicott should be returning to the shelving team the second week in March.

Adult

✿ The final event for our 2008 Linn Area Reads program will take place here at the library March 18 at 7:00 pm in Beems Auditorium. It will be a Gazette-sponsored forum titled "What Can We Learn from Life Stories." Featured panel members include Mark Hunter, Cedar Rapids historian; Loren Glass, UI English professor; Ann Struthers, Coe writer-in-residence; and Bill Shuttleworth, Cedar Rapids attorney who was acquainted with Paul Engle, the author of *A Lucky American Childhood*. Engle grew up in Cedar Rapids and his book brings to mind many facets of the older, smaller city.

Ask Marian