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Summer 2012



The Coylewrights @ the Library

The Coylewrights are frequent library users, who enjoy the collections, services and programs of the Children's Division.



From the Director's Desk

Strategic Planning: This won't be a strategic plan that becomes dusty on a shelf!



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"I love to come to the library", "I read books all the time", and "I'm a real bookworm".

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The Coylewrights @ the Library



The Coylewrights: Izaia, Indigo, Angel and Willa using the self-check machine.



Jeremy reading to Angel and Willa.

The Coylewrights are a library family. Jeremy and his four kids, Willa, 3, Angel, 5, Indigo, 9, and Izaia, 12, stopped by the Children's Division recently to talk with John Hunziker about the changes that are coming to the library and to share some of their ideas. The Coylewrights are frequent library users, who enjoy the collections, services and programs of the Children's Division.

John asked the kids to tell their favorite thing about the library: BOOKS was the resounding answer. The kids all love to read and always take home as many books as they can carry. The family enjoys a wide variety of materials including picture books, chapter books, graphic novels and magazines.

One of the newest activities available in the Children's Division is Letterboxing. Letterboxing is a treasure hunting activity that is practiced by people all over the world. There are seventeen letterboxes hidden in the Children's Division at RPL and Izaia has found each and every one. Letterboxes contain a unique rubber stamp and a journal. Izaia collected the images from each box in her journal and stamped her personal stamp in each letterbox journal. Letterboxers are welcome anytime the library is open and the Children's Division has already seen several out-of-town letterboxers. If you've never letterboxed, but would like to give it a try, ask for more information at the Children's desk.

Jeremy talked about his dreams for the Children's Division. He would like the area to have a more child-friendly appearance and provide more hands-on activities. He recommended areas for kids to explore art and music, the more interactive, the better. He also

The Coylewrights, continued...



Izaia and Indigo finding Letterboxes.

suggested an area for families to relax and learn together. Since there are no limits to dreams, Jeremy shared his wish for an indoor park like Edinborough Park in Edina and a drop in childcare to give adults some alone time to look for library materials.

The great news for the Coylewrights and the rest of the Rochester community is that some of these changes have already begun. Heather Acerro, Head of Children's Services and her staff are working to bring many improvements to the division in 2012. The first of these changes was the introduction of an Information Desk and a new bank of self check-out machines just outside of the department. All circulation functions moved to the main public services desk on June 1st, which will free up staff in the Children's Division to provide targeted services and activities to children and their families.

The entrance to the division will be updated with a fun bridge and a new aquarium featuring fish native to Minnesota. Don't worry, Big Orange Fish will still have a home on the tropical side of the aquarium! A Discovery Cart will be rolled in which will provide families with an opportunity to explore science activities together and an Art Room will encourage families to get creative. Kids who start school ready to learn to read will be more successful readers and learners and will be much more likely to graduate from high school. Five simple early literacy practices are the answer to a lifetime of success and they are: playing, reading, writing, singing and talking. The picture book area will be transformed into a place for preschoolers and their grown-ups to play, read, sing, write and talk together.

While under construction, the Children's Division will still provide a full range of programs and services, including the Summer Reading Program and a new baby storytime, both of which started in June.

Strategic Planning



Audrey Betcher

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the words "Strategic Planning"? A dusty binder on a bookshelf? Something you do every few years and then forget about? The Library Board is embarking on a process to set direction and rewrite its strategic plan. Honestly, I'm very excited about it.

We are using the book *Strategic Planning for Results* by Sandra Nelson and published by the Public Library Association to guide us in the process. We are convening members of our community (Community Planning Committee) to define a vision for the community and tell us how the library best fits into that vision.

We are doing this for several reasons:

- Excellence is defined locally. It results when library services match community needs, interest, and priorities.
- Excellence is possible for libraries of all sizes. It rests more on commitment than on unlimited resources.
- Excellence is a moving target. What got us here, won't get us into the future. Excellence must be continually maintained.

The Library Foundation and Friends of the Library are participating in the planning process by having representatives on both the Ad Hoc Planning Committee and the Community Planning Committee. The Library Board expects to have the plan complete by the end of the year.

This won't be a strategic plan that becomes dusty on a shelf; I can guarantee that!

Audrey S Betcher

Girl Scouts Donate to the Foundation



Girl Scouts from Troop #43101: Ava, Alicia and Julia

In late May, John Hunziker received an email asking him to contact Trica Katzenberger about a donation that her Girl Scout Troop #43101 wanted to make to the library. Her girls had raised a significant amount of money through cookie sales and wanted to donate \$175.00 to the library.

John met Trica, along with Julia, Ava, and Alicia, at the library. The fourth member of the troop, Mykailia,

was not able to make it due to family responsibilities. As they walked and talked, John heard their story. Julia had sold 696 boxes, Ava 160, Alicia 240 and Mykailia 130, over 1200 between them. They receive, as a troop, 56 cents for each box sold. The girls put together a list of places that they think that they might donate to and then very democratically, vote. This year they chose the library and Quarry Hill Nature Center.

The library will use the donation for Mini Storytime Kits. These will be a smaller, easier to handle version of the blue and yellow

tubs that weigh up to 35 pounds. The kits contain hand puppets, books, games, puzzles and other items that pertain to a them.

As we were exchanging the check, I asked them why they chose the library this year. "I love to come to the library", "I read books all the time", and "I'm a real bookworm". Perfect answers.



A mini storytime kit "All about Bugs!"

Cultural Event Series - English Evening



English Evening attendees dressed up for a jolly-good time.

L-R: Dave Marris, C. John Steer, Lois Marris, Chantal O'Driscoll, and Shawn O'Driscoll.

What do you get when you mix Shakespeare, English ales and a traditional English meal? A bloody fun evening in support of the Rochester Public Library Foundation. On Thursday April 26th the Foundation hosted an English Evening at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Rochester. This was the second event in the Foundation's Cultural Event Series which began last year with the Celtic Evening.

Attendees, some in costume, had a ripping good time tasting various ales and a stout paired with a delicious four-course English meal. Our emcee for the evening was Pastor C. John Steer; a local Brit and true English gentleman. We learned a little bit about Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, St. George, and Shakespeare. We also learned how to do a proper English toast.

The evening also included a silent auction and a bucket raffle as well as a presentation of *The Compleat Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)* which closed the evening with hearty laughter.

Proceeds from the event were just over \$5000 and will help support programs in the Children's Division, including Mini Storytime Kits, Book Group in a Bag, and materials.

Look for photos of the event on [Flickr](#).

Changes in the Children's Area



Concept drawings - Above: The carpet design. Below: the new entrance to the Children's area



Book bundles can be found in the Children's Area.

New Desk Area

There are some big changes coming up in the Children's area and a new desk area is just one of them. The new desk hasn't arrived yet, but there is a make-shift set up in the area where the new one will be. The children's librarians will now be focusing on library services such as helping patrons find books they want or need, creating child and family-friendly activities and events, promoting early literacy, etc. From now on, they will no longer be taking care of card registrations, fee payments, or book check outs; those functions have been centralized to the Public Service desk.

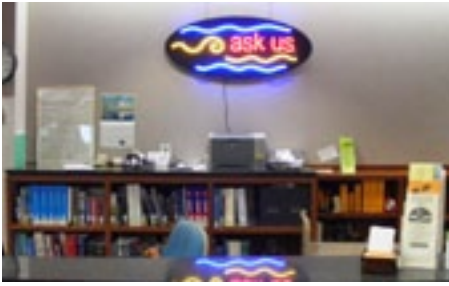
The old desk will be taken away to make room for lots of new fun and exciting activities for the children to do while they're at the library. There will be science experiments, arts and crafts, puzzles and games, oh my! The office space that takes up the first part of the Children's area will be transformed into an art room!

Funds from the Library Foundation and Friends of the Library helped make these improvements possible. Check out these photos and concept drawings of what the children's area will be looking like in the near future!

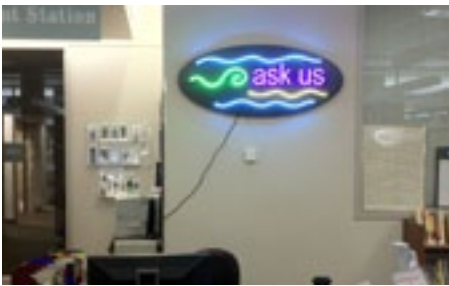
Book Bundles!

Book bundles make it easy to find books on topics such as drawing, ballerinas, ducks, bugs, cowboys and almost everything else you can think of. They are located in the area near the new Children's desk. You can check out the whole bundle or just one or two of the books out of them if you feel you don't want the whole set. Children will have fun checking them out with the new express check-out machines. Or, if you would rather, you can always have the library's friendly staff check them out at the Public Service desk.

What's @ the Library?



The second-floor reference desk



The Fiction, Movies and Music desk on first floor

Ask Us!

These neon signs were purchased by funds from an anonymous donor who thought it would be fun to have bright signage showing our patrons where they could go to ask questions. One more sign will be hung in the Children's area when the new desk arrives. The Children's area will be undergoing some physical changes in the near future!

If you have any questions, just find the "Ask Us" signs and a library staff member will do their best to help you. If you aren't in the building but still have questions, you can ask a librarian by calling: 507.328.2309, texting: 507.722.1581, email: reference@rochester.lib.mn.us, online: http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/apps/contact/ask_us.cfm, or by chat. We're also on Facebook and Twitter (@RochPubLibrary)!



Quick Picks and Quick Flicks!

On June 4th the library got rid of the book rental program and implemented a new Quick Picks and Quick Flicks program. The goals of this program are to improve access to new popular books and DVDs and to take pressure off the waiting lists for these materials.

Quick Picks and Quick Flicks are on a first-come first-served basis. They will not be available to put on hold nor are they renewable. Patrons can check out two Quick Picks (books) for one week and two Quick Flicks (DVDs) for two days. If they are not returned on time, there is \$1.00/day overdue fee. Patrons may still reserve copies of the popular new titles that we have in our regular collection.



Community Bulletin Board

There are a lot of changes being made at the library. As a result of these changes, the community bulletin board was moved to the hallway with the vending machines. This is where you can find community information, events, and services. If you have a poster or flyer you would like to have displayed on this board, bring it to the library and we'll post it after approval. Visit: <http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/info/policies/posters.html> or call 507.328.2310 for more information regarding our poster policy.

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