Youth Services Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

LMS: Thank you to everyone who ran the periodicals list. Although, it was a short turnaround, it had to be done. The deadline is the 19th, so if you have not yet gotten with your manager about which magazines should be let go, please do so as soon as possible. For those who are unaware, we have less money this year, and were asked to cut down on periodical subscriptions. I would also like to thank everyone who participated in our weeding workshop (part 1) last week at Carnegie, and thank you, Carnegie, for hosting us. The floating workshop (part 2) is happening next Thursday. If you are already signed up, thank you, and if you would like to sign up, please let us know; we are doing them quarterly. The next workshop will be in November, and you can sign up through the staff training portal. **Part 1 (weeding) must be completed before signing up for part 2 (floating.)** All trainings will require a manager's approval, so please try to obtain that prior to signing up. If you have not already done both workshops, it would be a good idea to do so at some point in time. We appreciate those of you who ran your transfer lists. This is a good way to keep everyone's collections balanced by getting the most out of every book. This month is "grubby refresh" month, so if you need any help running those reports, please call LMS (Sally,) or refer to the training portal.

Learning Link: We have been working with HISD again to share Learning Link information with their staff, because we have quite a few teachers who are still not aware of it. We want to spread awareness of this tool because if the teacher is not aware of it, there is a pretty good chance that the student find out about it either. To promote Learning Link, we have been presenting at new teacher orientations, HISD "Job Alike" days for librarians, ELA teachers, etc. Although we have been promoting nonstop, we also need your help. This is our first full school year with Learning Link, so, to get the word out to every school, and help us build partnerships, we would like for every neighborhood library to go to the schools in their service area, introduce yourself, mention Learning Link, hand them a brochure, and let them know that you are available to come and talk to staff, families, and students about Learning Link. Feel free to mention that our Community Engagement team is available to come out to schools as well. This is a great opportunity for schools to not only learn about Learning Link, but to also get to know the library in their neighborhood. If your schedule/staffing allows, try to make arrangements as far as picking up books and dropping them off to the teachers at the schools, or getting books together for teachers to pick up at your branch for their students. We want to do everything we can to get the books from our collection into the hands of our youth, as well as making them aware of all of our online resources. We are continually evolving the relationship between HISD and HPL, and as a result, the featured resources are also changing. Brainfuse is a resource that was not on the featured list, because we did not have transcripts of the individual sessions between the child and the tutor. As a safety precaution, HISD did not want to feature the resource because they could not guarantee that the interaction between the child and the tutor was safe. We now have a brand-new contract with Brainfuse that includes transcripts, so HISD is in the process of approval for them to be added to our list of promoted resources. NBC Learn is another new resource that we're adding. This consists of NBC News clips, videos, and articles for all ages. Another resource that we're looking to add is Mango Languages. As you may or may not know, HISD has many immersion schools, students that come from other countries, ESL students, etc., that would benefit from a resource that would not only help them understand their surroundings, but also help staff members who may want to learn another language to improve communication with their ESL students. We are also trying to find out what the print costs are, so that you may have print material about Learning Link to pass out to all of the Pre-K, Kindergarten, and first graders when visiting schools. Unfortunately, the cost for printing material for 81,000 students is very expensive, so we are currently working on a solution to see how we can afford it. If there is no solution available, we can always send "electronic blasts" that will contain the PDF to every principal, and have *them* print the material for their students. The reason that Pre-K through 1st grade students were chosen is because, theoretically, they're new to the school, so they haven't heard about learning link, whereas, everyone else *should* have. The goal is to start the students off with Learning Link in the beginning, that way, as they get older, they will continue to use Learning Link, as we continue to introduce incoming younger students to the resource. Please make sure that the HISD contact

sheet on the blog is still up to date for all of the schools in your neighborhood, and also, highlight the schools that you have been able to contact so that it will be easier to keep track of them.

Questions Asked:

-What is the card number and password for the Learning Link?

The card number for the student will be the first letter of their last name + their lunch or ID number, and their pin number is their birthday (MM/DD.) The card number for staff will be "F" + their employee number. (Remind them that if they have a "hanging zero" in the front of the number, it must be used.) Their pin is also their birthday (MM/DD.) The login is case-sensitive.

-Can the children check out adult materials?

No. The children can only check out juvenile materials; The teens can check out juvenile, YA, and adult materials. The teachers **cannot** check out physical materials on the learning link, however, they are more than welcome to sign up for a MyLink card so they can gain access to everything.

-How many books can be checked out to the student at one time?

The student is only allowed to check out 10 items at a time.

Teen Writing Contest: The teen writing contest started on July 1st, even though we are still waiting on print collateral. It is not yet clear whether we'll get *physical* print material, but we should at least get a PDF that can be sent out to teachers. If you see any teens that are showing an interest in writing, encourage them to sign up. The digital entry form to enter the contest is on the website. The two categories are poetry and short story. Participants can enter a poem and a short story, but you cannot enter more than one story for each category. The contest will end on September 30th

Questions Asked:

-What are the prizes?

The prizes are $15, $25, or $30 Barnes and Noble or Amazon gift cards for each category.

-What are the age groups?

The two age groups are middle school (6th -8th grade,) and high school (9th–12th grade.)

-Do they need a library card to sign up?

They do not need library cards to enter, however, we do need accurate contact information (phone or email, and mailing address.)

-Is the contest open to staff's kids?

Yes.

-What is the criteria for submissions?

. **Submissions must be typed, and in English to be considered. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.**

Comic Book Contest: Since the Teen Writing Contest is the Summer/Fall teen program, we have been brainstorming for a Winter/Spring teen program. We have decided to do a comic book creation contest as another

form of visual expression for teens. We've reached out to some graphic novelists to conduct a few sessions for teaching different elements of comic book writing. We're still trying to figure out smaller details such as how long the comic book should be, how many pages we will read, etc. Individuals or groups up to four people may enter, so if you have someone who is the author and someone else who is the illustrator, that is acceptable. For prizes, we're hoping to work with Bedrock City Comics to give the opportunity for the winner(s) to have their comic book displayed at the comic book stores, and in addition to that, they will also win a gift card to the comic book shop. We will also keep a copy of the winner's comic book here (at CEN) in the stacks, so it will be "published." This a good way for us to reach out to our teens who are more interested in visual expression, rather than textual expression With that being said, if anyone has any connections to Bedrock (or any other comic book shop,) please let us know.

Upcoming Events:

-Librofest is on September 30th, and will be held at CAR instead of CEN. The juvenile author that is being featured this year is Lydia Gil, who is with "Arte Publico." The student activities that will be featured are: Paper Dolls, Make Your Own Instrument, Beaded Slime Sculptures, Letter Writing, and an Instrument Petting Zoo. We'll also have lots of food, music, and free giveaways, so please spread the word.

-Scream-In 2017 is on Saturday, October 21st from 7-10pm, so volunteers will be needed from 5-10:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please get permission from your manager first. Participants will be **required** to register this year. Registration is projected to open on October 1st. It's for 10-15 year olds, and the maximum capacity is 50 people. This year, we will be conducting a ghost walk in JIB and telling stories about the hauntings. For those of you who don't know, JIB is one of the most haunted buildings in Houston. After that, we will come up to the 4th floor, Program Place, where the room will be transformed into a giant haunted maze. We'll also have lots of other activities in the kid and teen areas. With that being said, we'll need assistance with decorations, so if you are interested in working on art elements, please contact Norola. If you prefer to not scare the kids, there are other areas we will need assistance with such as setting up, checking the kids in and out, conducting science experiments, cleaning up, etc. Please remember that although we are trying to *scare* the kids, we are not trying to *traumatize* them, so please keep that in mind. We will also have something set up to engage the parents as well such as artifacts from different hauntings. Although we do not have all of the information yet for the parents' activities, that's an option for those who do not want to drive back and forth to pick up their children. Yes, staff's kids can attend.

-Candy Cane Cinema- Every year we have the Aurora Picture Show, which is a compilation of short films and is done in the JIB, but this year, we are turning it into a full holiday celebration. We are going to start the event off with the Aurora Picture Show, which is centered around our Seasons Readings theme of "holiday sweets." There will be a potential ballet performance, cookie decorating for the kids, Santa, major decorations, an interactive gingerbread house, and music, courtesy of DJ Allen Westrick. The event will take place on Sunday, December 3rd from 2-4 pm in the JIB auditorium.

-The Winter Reading Program will take place from December 18th to January 8th, during the winter break. Instead of having to log minutes or books, we are asking the students to read for 10 minutes a day for 10 days. They will only have to log days. It is a matter of completion, there are no levels. All they have to do is register, read 10 minutes a day for 10 days, and collect their prize. **Prizes will be awarded from January 3rd through January 16th only**. The prize will be a free book and a giant swirly lollipop. There is not a different set of prizes for each age group. The everyone from ages 0-18 can participate. The days will be logged into Beanstack, and since their profiles are already created, all they have to do is log in with the same username and password that they used during SRP. **If you have not sent your books back from SRP, keep them!** They will be used as prizes for WRP. Please do an inventory of the books that you have so that Michelle Johnson can send you what you need when she contacts your location. When the WRP is finished, *then* you can send your books back. Please keep in mind that all prizes are distributed while supplies last.

Kits: New & Coming Soon

-My Doll & Me: Josefina- This kit will come with paper tea cups that kids can decorate with stickers and markers so everyone can have a tea party with their dolls/stuffed animals. They will also have a chance to meet Josefina, and learn about her story. This is a good way for the children to learn about diversity, and learn about the background of others who are different than them. (More dolls are coming soon.)

-Squishy Circuits- Each kit will include a battery pack, LED's, an insulating dough, and a dough that conducts electricity. This kit will show kids how electricity and circuits work in a fun way. In this kit, we will try to keep the kits stocked with dough, because the conducting dough has to have a heating element to be made, and will have to be made at home the day before. The insulating dough will also be included in the kit and has to be mixed, but, does not require heat. There will also be motors, switches, and a buzzer included that the kids can experiment with.

-Gears Galore! – There will be two different age groups for this kit. (3+ and 5+) These are interlocking gears that can build almost anything that the imagination will allow. There will be one battery gear that can turn on and off, and power the rest of the gears. There will be several hundred gears included in each kit.

-Code & Go Robot Mouse- The object of this kit is to build a maze, and program your mouse follow the maze to find the cheese. This will be a fun way to teach coding to small children. There will be 20 per kit. More details are coming soon.

-Legos- We will have several of these circulating. If you've noticed, the Cubelet kits have yellow adaptor bricks that can be attached to the Legos to make more complex robots. You can request both Legos and Cubelets at the same time.

-Code-A-Pillar- We have two sets of 20 of these circulating. Each code-a-pillar will have 1 motorized head, and 8 easy-to-connect segments that will make different combinations of movement. This is also a fun way to teach tactile coding to kids.

-Ozobot Bit- These will teach coding through colors. The kits will include colored markers, which can be used to draw anything you want. Each color will provoke a different action from the robot. You can also use a computer-cased app to program the robot.

-Bloxels- **This will be a week-long program**. In this kit, you can place square beads on a special tray, and take a picture of it with the app. Each picture will act as a freeze frame, and each freeze frame will be combined into your own video game. Training is **mandatory** before this kit can be requested. The next training will be help in late September/October.

-Escape Room- We will use this kit during Scream-In to create an escape room. Right now, we have 12 different locks, and we got the starter kit from Breakout EDU. If you want to explore escape rooms, go to www.breakoutedu.com and register. They will send you a password, and from there, you will be able to see the different stories and games that they have to offer.

-Brain Teaser- There will be two different age groups for this kit. (5+ and 10+.) This kit will include several types of brain teasers including iSpy, twisted nails, slide puzzles, etc., that can be used as a passive program , or a challenge.

Why Surveys Are Important:

Please refer to the PowerPoint on the blog for more details.

Training Opportunities:

-Lego Minsdtorms (September)

-Bloxels (October)

ASZ Framework:

Please refer to the PowerPoint on the blog for details. Amendments will be made, and rough drafts will be given to staff.

New Staff – Welcome to Youth Services!

- Patience Agholor is an LSS-Youth at KEN (now JUN)

-Anthony Howell is a CSC-Youth at DIX/MOO

- Mariana Quintero-Villanueva is a CSC at STA

- Crystal Shiver is a CSC at JUN

-Corey Johnson is a CSC/Admin for Youth Services at CEN (It's finally official!)

Updates & Information-HPL Partnerships

-Levy Park- Loli De Llano is our fabulous "park librarian," who does all of our wonderful programming at Levy Park. She does storytimes on Thursdays at 10 am, and is resuming in September for the fall. Once a month, we also do a "Pawsitive Pups" program, where the kids will have an opportunity to bring their dogs and read to them. This takes place on the second Sunday every month. This is a good opportunity because studies have shown that reading to dogs is not only a great stress reliever, but it is also good for readers who are struggling to practice to a non-judgmental audience.

-Discovery Green- Our youth services managers have been helping us out with "Toddler Tuesdays," We are officially over Toddler Tuesdays, so now, it is the Houston Public Library's Toddler Tuesday at Discovery Green. We now get to pick the books, plan the activities, etc. This will take place every Tuesday at 10 am. There are also two seasons for each year. The fall season will start September 5th and will run through October 31st. The Spring season will start April 3rd, and will run through the end of May.

-Art Out Loud – HPL is partnered with the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and will bring in an art instructor to host a weekly art class with a select group of students at four locations: CAR, ALI, JUN, and YOU. This is an opportunity for them to learn about artists, proper technique, etc. Students are also provided with a portfolio, and at the end of the program, winning pieces are selected to display at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Positive Pops:

"Kelly Patton @ CAR While working at Carnegie Kelly introduced me to mineshafter. It is a minecraft like program that the patrons love playing that is free. She had a few kids walk me through the process and explain to me how it works. I took the program back to Young and we at some point have over 20 kids at a time playing Minecraft together. I have received over 5 parent compliments for introducing their kids to the program."

“I'd like to nominate Jacob Hornbeak for a Positive Pop. He works at Stella Link, but was willing to travel to various locations over the summer to offer his Retro Gaming program. Thanks, Jacob!”

“Central has a tough time drawing storytime crowds because of the location and the paid parking, but Central kids staff, including not only Laura but also Monica Quintanilla and Norola Morgan, stalwartly give 150% every single week, 52 weeks per year, even when only one kid shows up. This week, Laura unexpectedly had 10 families show up. The reason they did so is because a mom who had started coming regularly during the summer raved about Laura's toddler storytime on a local mommy blog. Even though you have to pay for parking," she had said, "it is totally worth it!" Way to go Laura! You are a role model!”

“Nhu Le @ STE - Alief needed someone to cover a toddler storytime! I (Jayla) realized at the last minute that I had rescheduled a meeting to happen at the same time! I put out a last minute call for help and Nhu was able to cover the storytime for me. You are greatly appreciated and I sure the kids loved you.”

“Corey Johnson @ CEN - Corey is doing an amazing job organizing the Create HPL area on the 4th floor so we can find things again. Check it out for yourselves. She also deserves a big positive pop for keeping us informed of prizes with email updates throughout SRP.”

“Michelle Johnson- For creating the cutest emoji bulletin boards in the teen and children's rooms for August. Make sure to take a look.”

-Congratulations to Jacob Hornbeak for winning the raffle!

September’s meeting has been <u>cancelled</u> due to Harvey. Next month’s meeting will be at PAR on Friday, October 13th at 8:30AM.