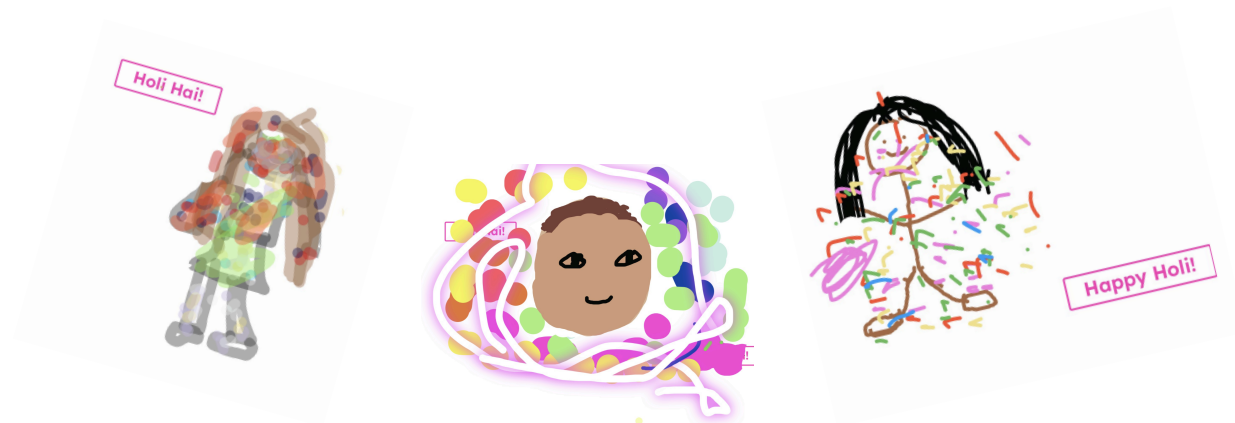


Springtime Greetings from the Lilja Library

Hello families,

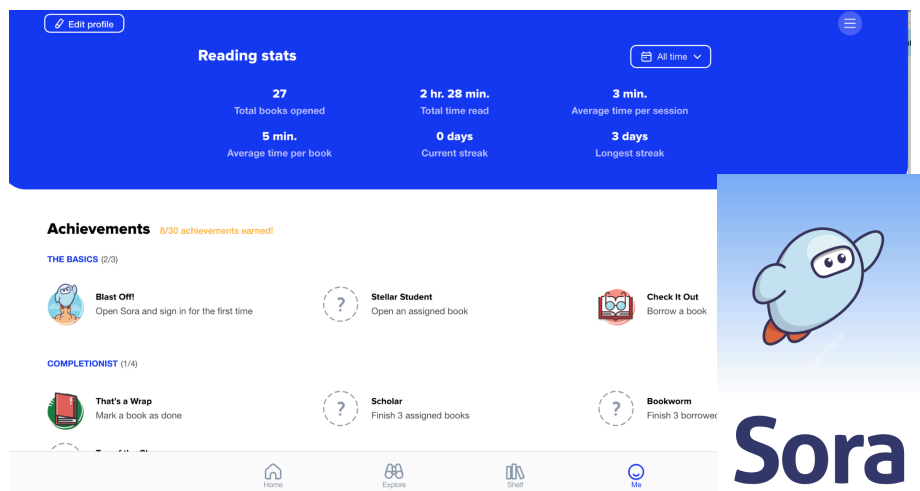
I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful weather and the signs of spring everywhere! This week was our first truly hot day and it was a welcome change.

We've been busy in the library since my last newsletter. In March we celebrated Holi with stories, on paper, and using the **Seesaw** tools we've been practicing. Here are a few examples of our Lilja Lions' work from **Kindergarten through 2nd grade**.



3rd and 4th graders were introduced to **Sora**, “an award-winning digital reading app that empowers K-12 students to discover age-appropriate ebooks, audiobooks and more from their school library.”

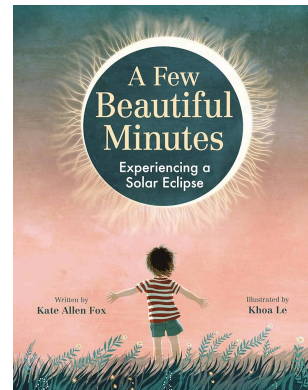
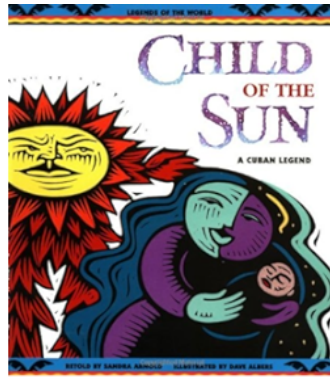
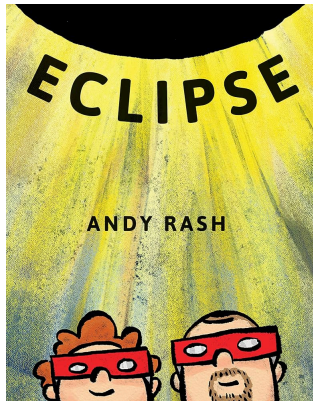
([Overdrive](#))



Sora

We explored a variety of reading formats (e-books, audiobooks and magazines) and learned how to personalize our profile, examine our reading stats, and earn and track badges. I hope your children have shared how easy it is to log on to Sora, on any device, through the NPS Website. By now they are all very good at signing in to [Classlink](#) with Google, using their Natick Public School credentials. Once they are in they can navigate to Sora and with a click they are in and off reading. They can even download books (with your permission) and read on the go! You may be familiar with Libby, the public library version.

In early April we read books about the solar eclipse and all students from K-4 made a “Moon-on-a-Stick”, to eclipse our friends and various items in the library. We used videos to learn about the celestial science, and read stories to learn about the experience and mythology of solar eclipses.



After April break, we celebrated **Earth Day** with stories and “planted” a few trees of peace, in honor of *Wanagari’s Trees of Peace* by Jeanette Winter.



April is also **poetry month** and third and 4th graders celebrated with book spine poetry. Maybe you’ll try this at home!



In Ms. Brien's class we are in the middle of our animal unit. We've studied animals in our neighborhoods and what they like to eat and this week we explored where they live and the kind of houses they build.



Meanwhile, we've been very busy behind the scenes at the library. As you probably know, our beloved **Ms. Bridget Hoarty**, library media paraprofessional extraordinaire, left to take a job as a librarian in the Belmont Public Libraries. We miss her very much but she won't be forgotten, as she left her mark in our hearts and on our shelves. With her help our circulation was up 29% from last year. Take a look at how that stacks up through mid April:

Lilja Lions LOVE their Library!

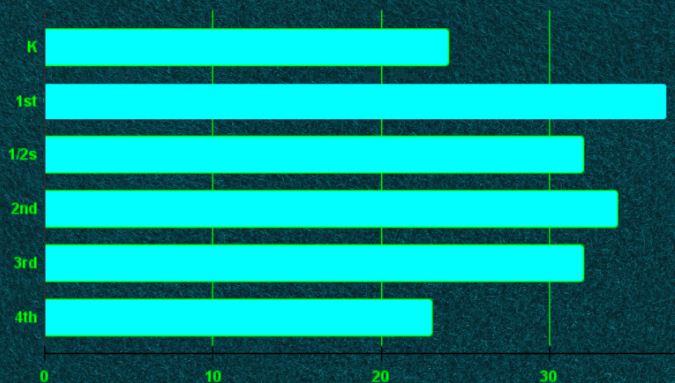


**TOTAL BOOKS
CHECKED OUT '23-24**

14,300 +

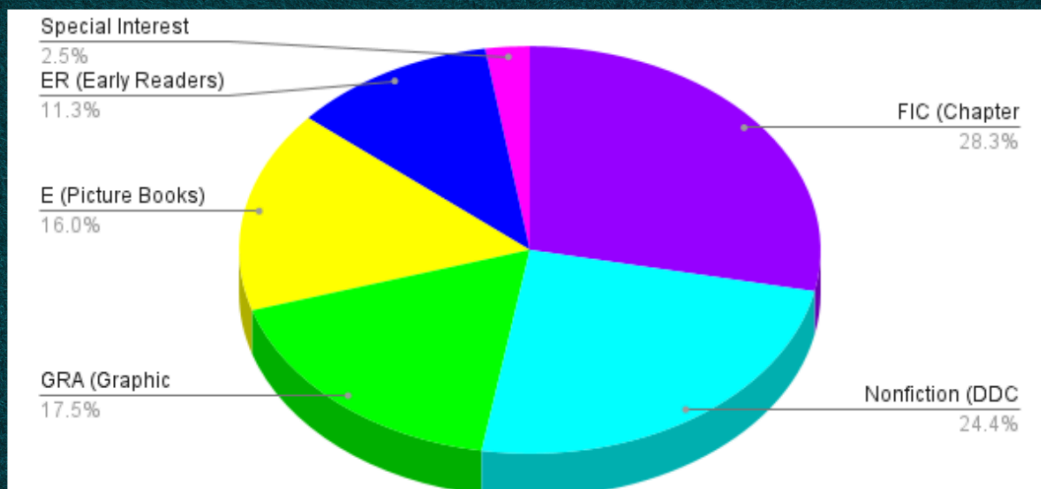
This year students from Kindergarten through 4th grade checked more books than ever before!

Books Checked out per Student by Grade Level 2023-24



That's an
average of
30 books
per
student!

Just what are Lilja Lions reading?



With Ms. Hoarty's help, and the assistance of our veteran community volunteers, Ms. Ellen Fusfeld, and Ms. Liz Henderson, we were able to process a whopping **372 new books** into our library collection. Here are the numbers:*

71 Fiction (Chapter Books)	9 Early Readers	34 Picture Books
16 Nonfiction Books*	15 Graphic Novels	182 Spanish & Portuguese Books!

We are currently unpacking and processing an exciting collection of over 100 brand new nonfiction books, and with the generous support of the Natick Education Foundation, our World Language Collection continues to grow as well!

Circulation of print books closes after Memorial Day, so students will be returning all of their Lilja Library books at that time. We'll continue to explore and learn, and yes, read stories in the library, until the last day of school.

I look forward to hearing about summer vacation plans, and summer reading plans from your children! I've loved spending the year with them in the library!



Heart Image by [Gordon Johnson](#) from [Pixabay](#)