



Celebrating 20 years of School Corps

This year, Multnomah County Library is celebrating 20 years of School Corps! Led by a team of three dedicated librarians, School Corps partners with schools and educators to increase information literacy among K-12 students by providing information resources, presentations, and buckets of books! Since 1997, School Corps has created 4,000 book collections, reached 83,000 students with 131,000 books and saved educators 8,700 hours of time!

“Having started my tenure with Multnomah County Library as a School Corps librarian, I’m especially passionate and proud of the work our library does to support local schools. The School Corps program is a key part of fulfilling our mission to the community” said Vailey Oehlke, director of libraries.

Educators also praise School Corps’ efforts to help champion reading and literacy, noting its impact on helping students delve into difficult topics:

"I really can't say enough how much this service has positively impacted my teaching. I wouldn't be able to focus on social justice topics without it. My class has achieved critical thinking, text connections and created a community where we can talk openly about race and racism." — Aimee Haves of Vernon

The School Corps librarian team of Kate Houston, Jackie Partch and Cathy Camper also recently created the new program, "Take Control of Your Digital Footprint," which was featured in [School Library Journal](#). The program helps students navigate online spaces and develop their digital awareness by teaching a range of topics, including the importance of encryption; devising secure passwords; online privacy best practices; cyberbullying; and understanding the relationship between an individual's rights and license agreements.

Congratulations School Corps!

The library honors Native American Heritage Month

During November, Multnomah County Library is honoring [Native American Heritage Month](#). Community members are invited to celebrate our nation's original inhabitants with a rich array of programs, reading recommendation and information resources about Native American folklore, songs, storytelling, jewelry, artifacts, history and traditions:

[Exploring Ancient Native American Technology](#) - Try out your own engineering skills while discovering technologies designed by Oregon's first engineers.

[Native American Indian Storytelling and Drumming](#) - Listen to traditional stories and songs of the Kalapuya people of the Willamette Valley.

[A Lens on Contemporary Indigenous Art & Culture](#) - Meet contemporary Klamath Modoc artist Ka'ila Farrell-Smith as they share their art practice and philosophy. They will also give an overview of intersectional Indigenous, people of color (POC) artists and collectives.

[Columbia River Native Women](#) - Learn more about the lives of Columbia River Native Women and their roles in both traditional and modern Native American Indian society.

[Edible Native American Food Plants](#) - Learn about which berries are edible when you are out hiking, and how Native Americans used food plants like huckleberry, cedar, sweetgrass and other plants for basketry and medicine.

Discover more Native American Heritage Month programs at multcolib.org.

A book is a bridge

Multnomah County Library has a new education program for parents at Inverness Jail called A Book is a Bridge. The class, led by library outreach staff Carol Cook and Joanne McNamara, helps incarcerated parents develop awareness and understanding about the importance of reading, brain development and childhood literacy.

Collaborating with an existing parenting class run by the Center for Family Success, Carol and Joanne alternate meeting monthly with a group of men and a group of women. The parents, whose children range from infants to teens, share stories about their own childhood reading experiences and those of their children. Carol and Joanne share information about the free resources and programs at the library, discuss research about the rapid rate of brain and language development among children in their first few years of life, and then read and discuss various children's books. At the end of the group, each parent picks out a children's book that they're able to keep for their family.

Carol, who has spent 17 years running education programs for incarcerated individuals, is excited about the new program:

"For some of the parents, their experiences with the library or reading to their own children has been limited. This class is an opportunity to develop their awareness about their children's learning and get them excited and confident in engaging with that process."

Library rules

The library updated its [rules](#) for library use and conduct on November 1, 2017. The rules hadn't been significantly updated in nearly 20 years. The rules include updates to the food and drink policy, threatening behavior, personal belongings and lounging on the floor.

The rules went through a two-week public comment period, during which feedback came in through the library's website, comment cards, conversations with patrons, dialogue with community stakeholders and service providers, and from library staff. Feedback gathered during this period is reflected in the final version of the rules.

***Listos para el kinder* highlighted at Oregon conference**

The library's culturally responsive kindergarten readiness program, *Listos para el kínder*, seeks to address educational readiness gaps for Latino children. In five years, the program has helped enhance literacy development among 3- and 5-year-old Spanish-speaking children who have not had early childhood literacy opportunities. It has also empowered parents to support children's growth.

Originally created with funding from a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, the program has proved a success. In post-evaluations, parents stated their kids were more prepared for kindergarten after participating in *Listos*, and all parents reported their family increased their use of the library.

Recently, *Listos* Program Coordinator Delia M. Palomeque Morales, co-presented at the Oregon Program Evaluators Network (OPEN) annual conference with Mary Martinez-Wenzl, one of the *Listos para el kínder* program evaluators from Education Northwest, about the program's successes in developing evaluation components to look at family involvement in the child's education, school readiness, and participation in library programs.

The presentation attracted educators as well as evaluators from the Northwest who represent a wide variety of government agencies, non-profits, university and private consulting firms. Attendees provided positive feedback and compliments about the library's work supporting underserved communities.



Patron comments

"Just wanted to tell you how great you are. There are so many ways you're terrific but the most recent example is this: I suggested four purchases of board books I think my son would love and you got every single one. Then you emailed me to tell me you had and you made it super easy to put them on hold. If the rest of the world was as kind and competent as the Multnomah County Library we'd probably be able to end world hunger, find a cure for cancer, and achieve world peace. Seriously. Thanks for being one of the very best things about Portland." — Library patron, October 18

"I actually think this branch [Northwest Library] is the best library in the city...if not the state...if not our country! The service I receive is beyond my belief. I just told Greg that I have books (3) checked out that are due on the date I return from a big trip east. I don't think I can get them in on time. He so nicely suggested we move the date to a couple of days after I return. Wow! I didn't know that could happen. I get a lot of inter-library materials as I am writing a book myself. ALWAYS, I have received assistance, when I've asked, regarding receiving the books that seem to be difficult to "get." Questions I have are always answered....where to contact an author who works at a university, for example. All in all this group at Northwest is TOP NOTCH. Thank you all! — Monne, October 6

In the news

[Wordstock 2017: 7 things to know about this year's book festival](#) (Oregonlive, November 5)

[Multnomah County Library Updates Rules for Patrons](#) (OPB, October 24)

[Public Comments Show Portland is Divided Over Who Gets to Use the Public Library](#)

(Willamette Week, October 24)

[5 things for Thursday including food cart fires and a library crackdown](#) (Portland Business Journal, October 19)

[The Archive Project - Alice Hoffman](#) (KUOW, October 19)

[Fostering Good Citizens, Online and Off](#) (School Library Journal, October 18)

[New Multnomah County Library Rules Show Struggle to Deal with Homeless Patrons](#)

(Willamette Week, October 18)

[Multnomah Co. Library system changing rules for first time in years](#) (KPTV, October 17)

[Free resume help at the library](#) (The Skanner, October 12)

[Storytime can be social justice time](#) (OLA Quarterly, October 6)

[Bike lane art designed by young Portlanders installed on city streets](#) (KPTV, October 5)

Upcoming events

[The Journey of George the Garden Gnome](#)

Thursday, November 16
Capitol Hill Library

[Festive Floral Arrangement](#)

Friday, November 17
Rockwood Library

[The Great American Songbook](#)

Saturday, November 18
Midland Library

[Native American Jewelry Making](#)

Saturday, November 18
St. Johns Library

[Health Insurance Information and Enrollment Assistance](#)

Monday, November 20
Kenton Library

[Czech Glass Ornaments for Winter Holidays/ Праздничные Украшения из Богемского Стекла](#)

Tuesday, November 21
Hillsdale Library

[Franken-animal](#)

Saturday, November 25
Belmont Library

[Nature's Medicine Cabinet for Your Home: Essential Oils](#)

Tuesday, November 28
Albina Library

[Empathy 101](#)

Tuesday, December 5
Belmont Library

[Mi Piñata/My Pinata](#)

Saturday, December 9
Fairview-Columbia Library