

Third Graders Donate To GRRL

Third grade students at Fieldstone Elementary in St. Michael have made a group donation to the library.

Approximately 175 students in seven classrooms raised more than \$700. The funds have been used to purchase hardcover and paperback books, and an additional \$395 was added to a St. Michael gift fund for future use at that location.

The books include selections from the popular “Pete The Cat” and “Who Would Win” series, as well as other titles.

Teacher Micki Riedel organized the project. Students took home a donation/pledge form which asked family members to pledge an amount for a two hour, two day read-a-thon. Families knew the goal was to raise funds for the community library.

“Students read alone for one session and with partners the other time,” Riedel said. “They were very proud to bring in over \$700. They are excited to look for the book plate in the books and see it state, ‘Donated by Fieldstone 3rd Grade!’”

Riedel coordinated with purchases with Jami Trenam, GRRL’s Associate Director for Collection Development. After being processed and cataloged in St. Cloud Public Library, they were sent to St. Michael Public Library to begin their lives as circulating materials.

Minnesota Reflections Provides a Visual Record of the State’s History

More than 240,000 photographs, postcards, maps, documents, letters and oral histories from Minnesota have been assembled in a growing collection called Minnesota Reflections, and it’s all available to library users.

It’s an online database which can be explored via computer. Just click on “Databases” at griver.org, the Great River Regional Library website. Scroll down the list to find Minnesota Reflections. More than 170 organizations have submitted content to this wonderful shared resource, and the library has joined the effort.

Technical Services Supervisor Chris Getz recently came across a photograph of a Minnesota State Firemen’s Convention that took place in St. Cloud in 1907. The photograph was taken in front of the Carnegie Library which stood on 5th Avenue in St. Cloud from 1902 to 1981. He scanned the image, along with several other older photographs he found in storage, and submitted it to Minnesota Reflections. Now, instead of being in a box on a shelf, those photos are accessible to the world.

Minnesota Reflections is a fun database to explore. Using search words such as “saloon” or “Ojibwe” provides lists of links to maps, newspapers, and early photographs. Searches using family names might generate ‘hits’ where those names appear in city directories, graduation lists, plat books and other old documents.

Minnesota Reflections is provided by the Minnesota Digital Library, which supports discovery and education through access to unique digital collections. The Minnesota Digital Library also provides education and training opportunities concerning digitizations, and a new digital collection called Minnesota’s Immigrants. It is a service of Minitex, funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and other partners, including the University of Minnesota.



The top photograph was taken in front of the St. Cloud Public Library in 1907. The only woman in the photograph is peering out of a window, so perhaps she was the librarian. Below, a nun climbs aboard one of the library’s bookmobiles parked in Sobieski in the 1960s.

Sentry Bank Employees Purchase Kits



Great River Regional Library now has a total of 74 Grab & Go kits, thanks to an infusion of new kits purchased with a donation of \$1,000 from employees of Sentry Bank, headquartered in St. Cloud.

The kits are named: Money 1, Money 2, Opposites, Math, Feelings, Community Members, Mo Willems, Hats, Construction, and Squirrels. Each kit includes five children's books and an activity sheet, and each kit has its own clear plastic backpack. The idea behind the kits is that busy parents of young children can stop by the library, pick up the backpack and check it out quickly. It's an efficient and also fun way to get children's materials from the library. Parents like the ease, and children love the clear vinyl backpack.

Sentry Bank originated as the First State Bank in St. Joseph in 1904.



Sentry Bank President Darren Heying and Operations Supervisor Rachel Maciejewski met the library's Jami Trenam (center), Associate Director for Collection Development, to view kits purchased with a donation from bank employees.

It now also has branches in St. Cloud and St. Stephen. Bank employees pay for the privilege of wearing blue jeans on Friday by donating to an account named "Jeans for a Cause." The library was chosen for a gift at the suggestion of an employee.

Howard Lake to Get Mini Play Kits

A new set of mini "We Play Here" kits is being created for Howard Lake Public Library modeled on a set of kits created by library staff earlier in the year.

The first kits were created to encourage playful learning at the library, funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education/State Library Services. The new mini kits for Howard Lake are being funded with a donation of \$700 from the Howard Lake Early Childhood Family Education.

The kits will have Howard Lake as their permanent location. However, they will be circulating items so parents can check them out and use them at home. They will appear on the library catalog with the keyword 'kit.'

GRRL Now offers Digital Magazines through the Digital Library Complete & Free of Charge

Magazines are the latest addition to the eAudiobooks and eBooks available at the GRRL Digital Library.

At this time 41 different magazines are available. They include popular titles such as "House Beautiful," "National Geographic," "Seventeen" and "Smithsonian." It's possible that other magazines will be added in future.

One great feature of this digital service is that cardholders' access to all 41 titles is essentially unlimited. eMagazines, eBooks and eAudiobooks are provided under licensing agreements that restrict how many downloads are permitted for each title. The download limit for each magazine varies, but all the limits are sufficiently high at this time that the library has been able to meet demand.

"If the day comes that patrons can't access magazines because there are too many checkouts, we can revisit our license agreement. But I don't foresee that happening any time soon," said Jami Trenam, Associate Director for Collection Development.

The magazines download in their entirety and can be read at leisure. Unlike eBooks and eAudiobooks, they are not programmed to disappear once the loan period ends. The Digital Library is available on your home computer. You will need to enter your library card number and PIN to download materials.



Ready, Set, Read!

Join the Winter Reading Program



It's time to get your winter reading habit going.

The library's Winter Reading Program begins Saturday, January 2 with the theme "MinneSNOWta, Read Away the Winter." The program is open to adults and teens in grade 6 and up. Participation makes readers eligible for random prize drawings for collectible Winter Reading Program mugs, as well as a \$25 gift card at each branch. Read what you like, and get your drawing slip when you register.

On Saturday, January 9 the library will provide an online "MinneSNOWta Knows" trivia contest through griver.org, the library website.

Questions will be posted online, and participants can answer online or using the trivia answer sheet available at the library. All trivia answers will be available through the griver.org resources. The library branch with the highest patron participation will receive a traveling trivia trophy!

The Winter Reading Program ends Monday, February 29. Regional prizes are provided by the St. Cloud Friends of the Library.



Love Your Library

Two Great River library locations will benefit from prizes awarded in a contest that gave patrons the opportunity to praise their local library.

The Love Your Library contest was promoted by Sirsi-Dynix, the company that provides cataloging software for GRRL and more than 23,000 other libraries. Patrons submitted letters explaining why they love their library. Two GRRL patrons received \$25 gifts for themselves and \$250 for their library. Liz Asphodel nominated St. Cloud Public Library, and Jennifer Anfinson nominated Paynesville Public Library.

Paynesville's gift will be used to help purchase shelving in a project to convert an inefficient TV lounge into a multi-use lounging/laptop area. Paynesville Library Services Coordinator Gretchen Vork has invited artist Anfinson to provide input into the area redesign.

St. Cloud Public Library staff are using their gift to purchase signholders that can be used to inform people about upcoming programs, and lightweight folding easels that will be used to display books.

Great River Regional Library's will devote special attention to refreshing the collection in 2016. Your support and tax-deductible donation will help us improve our offerings. Visit griver.org/support-library to make an online donation.

Support 2016 Collection With Donation To GRRL

Name : _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

My/our donation, payable to GRRL: \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Please include name in donor recognition as above. This gift is anonymous.

This gift is: In Memory of : _____

In Honor of _____

Send an acknowledgement letter of this tribute gift to:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Office use only:
Pstm. _____
Amt. _____
Ck # _____
Init. _____

Get Ready for Winter Winds With Fleece, Scarves, Hats and More From Our Store

Show your support for library services by wearing clothing from the library store this winter.

All the the clothing and other items in the library store are high quality and priced so as to be competitive with items at the mall. Check out the store by visiting store.rambow.com/grrl/

Logo options on most clothing items include the full color logo in burgundy and caramel, white, or tone on tone. Most items are available in a range of attractive colors.

Children's items include polos, hoodies, bigs, and one-piece infant outfits in soft cotton.

We have scarves, hats, headbands and other items that make suitable gifts for use all year long.

If you're still uncertain, remember the Great River Store \$10 gift certificates.

Let people know you're a library supporter. Buy at the library store!

Men's R-Tek Pro Fleece Full-Zip Jacket

Soft, brushed fleece with added stretch side and sleeve panels for easy movement and a trim look. Resists piling. Zippered chest pocket and front pockets. Elastic binding at hem. Available in several colors. \$43 (XS) to \$49 (4X)



Beanie Cap

Who doesn't need a hat during a Minnesota winter! This beanie is available in a variety of solid colors or with a contrasting trim. 100% acrylic. \$14.00



Ladies R-Tek Pro Fleece Full-Zip Vest

Made for warmth and layering without bulk. Gently contoured silhouette. Elastic binding at armholes and hem. Stretch side panels. Available in several color combinations. \$41 (XS) to \$47 (4X)



griver.org/GRRRL store

Congratulations To Staples Friends

Congratulations to the Staples Friends of the Library! In October, the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation named them the 2015 organization of the year.

"The Staples Friends are a fantastic group to work with and are very helpful in meeting all the needs of the library," said Cathy Perish, library services coordinator. "They are proud of the facility and feel that it is a real asset to the community and it shows in everything they do."

The Friends were instrumental in helping to get the library out of the old city morgue and into their current building. They helped write the grant to get funding to build the new Staples Public Library in collaboration with the Staples Government Center. They traveled around the state visiting libraries to research ideas to recommend to the architect, and many of the features included in the library are a result of those library visits. They also raised \$30,000 through a fundraising campaign.

The group has purchased equipment, furniture, and essential items to make the library more efficient and user friendly. They also received 3M grants to help fund science lyceums in the schools and fund summer science library programs.

Save a Tree: Get Your Currents By Email

This Currents newsletter is available to library supporters requesting it via email. To reduce costs, save trees and, of course, protect our environment, we encourage as many supporters as possible to consider taking full advantage of this by switching to the electronic .pdf version. Please contact Julie Henne at currents@grrl.lib.mn.us if you would like to receive the newsletter by email or have any questions or comments. As always, the newsletter is produced just for our library supporters. We thank you warmly for your support, and if you have any suggestions we would love to hear from you.



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