

South Dakota News for April

The 13,450 votes cast by student readers in the 2010 South Dakota Prairie Bud and Prairie Pasque Book Award Contest topped the 2009 total by nearly 2000 votes. Eighty-four voting surveys were submitted this year, also an increase over 2009. 8962 Prairie Bud votes were cast by students in grades K-2; 4488 students in grades 3-5 voted for their favorite Prairie Pasque title.

Sponsored by the South Dakota Library Association, the contest features two lists of 15 nominated titles: the Prairie Bud list is intended for students in grades K-2; Prairie Pasque is for students in 3-5 grades. To qualify to vote, students are to read at least five books from the list of 15 nominees for their grade level and then vote for their favorite. The book receiving the most votes on each list receives the award.

This year The Fabulous Bouncing Chowder, written and illustrated by Peter Brown is the winner of the 2010 Prairie Bud Award. How to Steal a Dog, by Barbara O'Connor received the most votes to win the Prairie Pasque Award for 2010. The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick was a close second for the Prairie Pasque Award, just four votes behind the winner.

The South Dakota Teen Choice Book Awards is sponsored the South Dakota Library Association, the contest features two lists of fifteen nominated titles for middle school and high school grades To qualify to vote, students read books from the list and give it a star rating of 1 to 4, 4 being best. The book receiving the most stars on each list receives the award. This year's winner in the middle school category is Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems by John Grandits and in the high school category is Thirteen Reason Why by Jay Asher.

The Hot Springs Public Library is offering French lessons. They have native speaker who recently retired to the community who offered to teach the class. They have a strong class going with little effort on the staff's part.

SD State Library Staff are wrapping up their most recent "challenge." Though librarians know that subscription electronic resources provide valuable information to library patrons and staff, they often lack confidence in using and promoting them with their patrons. Shrinking training and travel budgets and limited staff time make electronic resources training difficult to accomplish. The South Dakota State Library Challenge: Electronic Resources Edition allowed librarians throughout the state to participate in training when it was convenient for them without requiring travel or registration fees. Based on the 23 Things model and created on a shoestring, this challenge utilized vendor training materials as well as materials already created by the South Dakota State Library staff. The Challenge introduced library staff to one subscription electronic resource each week, increasing their knowledge, inviting their exploration, and improving their confidence. Originally launched on February 1, 2010, the 10 week challenge will be offered to SD librarians and educators again this summer.

The Rapid City Public Library began to initiate Drop-In Programs at their Downtown location. For their Drop-In Programs they invite outside organizations to man a small booth in their lobby to talk to patrons about the organization's specific missions/goals and objectives. It has provided a fun and interactive way of encouraging community partners to engage and converse with their patrons. They have had several programs to date including author Dr. Kevin Weiland to discuss his new book "The Dakota Diet" and bring in some samples, Black Hills Parrot Welfare Center, the Museum of Geology and a weaving demonstration by local weaver Rita Nauman.

Rapid City Public Library also uses the opportunity to increase their customer service by having one of their "Mobile Reference Roamers" set up a small station daily in the lobby to help promote the library services that they feel strongly about. Overall, the reaction has been extremely positive and the library has been able to bring many of their online resources onto the front stage.

Don't tell JoAnn Gemar, the Director of the Scotland Community Library that your library is too small to offer story time on a regular basis. She serves a community of 900 and has a story time for pre-school children every Friday morning. She invites a guest reader from the community each week and has found the program to be a great success with from 18-24 children and 4-5 adults attending each week.

The Grant County Library moved to the Auto-Graphics Agent Verso platform. Grant County Library was established in 1979 and since 1989 has used the Winnebago Spectrum system. The library serves the community of Milbank and the surrounding Grant County.

The Watertown Regional Library is gearing up for a busy summer. Planning for summer reading is back in full swing now that their children's librarian is back to work after triple bypass surgery. New programs are being planned for the adults in the county. A lot of planning is going into the programs that will be associated with the hosting of the John Adams Unbound Exhibit that will arrive in late August. John Adams Unbound has been organized by the Boston Public Library and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. It has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life. The Watertown Regional Library staff are proud that they were one of twenty libraries in the country to be chosen to host the exhibit.