Here at Minot Public Library, we have a collection of video games in our Teen section that our patrons can check out, use in their own homes for a week and return. But why do we do it? For many good reasons...checking out games help teens learn more about being informed consumers; they love having a place to borrow a game for a week, play it and see what it's really like. MPL also offers video games to assist parents in their choices of gift selections because it's much easier to say "yes" or "no" to a game after you see how it is played and how your children react to it. Our gaming collection also allows parents to explore a game before their teen or child does, so they can preview the game for the suitability of their children. This allows parents the opportunity to discuss their child's gaming interests and responsibilities before making expensive purchases which can also save families money. Having a large video collection for check out also makes for great entertainment for families who can't afford to buy many games.

Playing video games has been part of American youth culture for over 30 years and though technology is changing every day, we believe that teens and video games are here to stay. Our game collection here at MPL serves to help our young people and their families navigate this piece of technology more responsibly and economically. In addition to games you can check out and bring home, MPL also offers many household services, such as household living expenses, and want to allow teens to try out different formats. Teens can do so by joining us for Teens Rock Saturday where we offer a variety of video games and consoles such as the Wii U and PS4. We understand that bonding over a shared activity, whether it be crafts, video games or a movie, brings teens together and gives them an opportunity to make friends with similar interests. Teens Rock Saturday includes movie nights from 5:00-7:00 pm and then video gaming from 6:00-8:00 pm on the second Saturday of the month. Any teen at teen welcome. That's what we do Contorc Englich Inspire!

Even with all the specialty and technology services being offered, the Minot Public Library still provides a wide selection of traditional materials...
In 2017, the Friends of the Library will again sponsor the Story Hour. This is a great community story telling event that focuses on the real stories of people here in Minot. The story hour has been held every Saturday, January 21st at 7:00 pm and this month’s theme will be “Sears.” During this event, folks from the Minot community are invited to share their stories with others who will step up to the microphone or, and in 10 minutes or less, share a real story from their own lives that relates to the theme. Our goal is to provide a relaxed and open atmosphere that helps facilitate discussion between people who might not otherwise talk to one another. Why would you like to join the Minot Story Hour? Well, for one thing, we meet the first Thursday every other month, starting with our January meeting, at 7:00 pm at the Tap Room, located on 23 South Main Street. Below is our complete reading schedule for February. If you want to know when books and/or activities will be available, please contact me at 701-522-1045.

FULL STE(A)M AHEAD!

By Paulette Nelson, Children’s Librarian

The new buzz word in schools and public libraries across the country is STEM (STEAM), Science, Technology, Engineering, (Art) and Mathematics are part of many library programs across the nation. Science and art programs are found in libraries of all sizes and is often learned outside of school so it is important for children to have the opportunity to explore their knowledge of scientific principles. LEGO Robotics, STEM Programs and Makerspaces are a few of the examples of how libraries are striving to enrich the lives of children and young adults.

There has been much research to indicate that when families, schools, and communities work together to provide STEM activities and learning, children can perform better academically and stay in school longer. In order for students to be successful, they must have a positive attitude toward learning and libraries are places where children and adults can come together and have a very positive experience. Libraries often provide hands-on programs and learning opportunities for those who will foster their creativity and allow them to explore the world around them.

The Minot Public Library has several programs available to children, teens and adults that are directly related to STEAM. The youngest child age 3-6 can take part in Make Makers Mondays which provides crafts and activities and is open to the public on Monday afternoons at 3:45 pm. Children interested in building with LEGOs can take part in our monthly Book Club which happens the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Children build various structures with LEGO bricks in the library. A LEGO Robotics kit is also available for checkout from the Minot Public Library.

In the Spring, the Library has added several new programs to support STEAM. The MakerSpace offers a variety of activities to make your own project. We have a variety of tools, materials, and equipment available for children and adults to use in our space. The MakerSpace is open Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 pm and Thursday evenings at 5:00 pm. On Saturday, January 28th, the Library will host a field trip to the Science Museum in Bismarck. Transportation is available for interested children and adults.

OUT THE BOX PROGRAMS

By Pam Carnesell, Teen Librarian

Join us this spring for several non-traditional but oh-so-fun TEEN Programs! To start with, MPL has Mini Golf Afternoons on January 20th which should have everyone shouting "I made it to the hole!". Next, a program to take your knowledge of the technological genie of February 19th. Build your own computer game at our event on March 21st during which we will begin the Book Club at the Tap Room in downtown Minot. The Minot Public Library hopes that by holding meetings outside the library and in the community we have volunteered to share their lives typically are associated with book clubs. After a year of Books ‘n Brews, we believe we have achieved our goal. We get a great mix of generations, which allows for a more diverse discussion due to the different theme. The atmosphere provides a relaxed and open environment that helps facilitate discussion between people who might not otherwise talk to one another.

The MINOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join us this spring for several non-traditional but oh-so-fun TEEN Programs! To start with, MPL has Mini Golf Afternoons on January 20th which should have everyone shouting "I made it to the hole!". Next, a program to take your knowledge of the technological genie of February 19th. Build your own computer game at our event on March 21st during which we will begin the Book Club at the Tap Room in downtown Minot. The Minot Public Library hopes that by holding meetings outside the library and in the community we have volunteered to share their lives typically are associated with book clubs. After a year of Books ‘n Brews, we believe we have achieved our goal. We get a great mix of generations, which allows for a more diverse discussion due to the different theme. The atmosphere provides a relaxed and open environment that helps facilitate discussion between people who might not otherwise talk to one another.

Let’s Play, Baby!

By Randi Monell

Children’s Librarian Associate

What is “Sensory Play” Sensory play simply means that your child’s play activity is engaging in their five senses. It is a fact that young children learn with all of their senses, yet we as adults don’t provide opportunities for children to use their senses to explore their world through play. It is very important for children of all ages to be able to explore as children learn to understand the world and how it works. Sensory play strengthens pathways to the brain, develops and strengthens motor skills, develops small and large muscle skills and sorting skills. Sensory bins are an inexpensive way to engage children for long periods of time. Sensory bins are a great tool for parents to use in helping their preschool child learn. They can be a great way for children to learn how to clean up the mess. The Minot Public Library provides an opportunity for children to take part in sensory play at Baby Play which is held at various times throughout the year for young children. The twenty minute story time is paired with sensory play which is enjoyed by both babies and children. Parents, grandparents and other caregivers are invited to join us for Baby Play Fridays at 10:00 am starting February 3rd. If you stop by the Children’s Library and ask we can even give you an easy recipe for making your own play-dough!

BOOKS ‘N BREWS BOOK CLUB

By Jan Cholla, Adult Services Librarian

Book clubs are often perceived as being for older readers, but why does it need to be that way? That was a question I asked myself when I started thinking of how to start my first book club. Being a fan of craft beer and wanting to involve my passion for it in some way at my job thought a book club that met at a local bar would be a great combination. I discovered the new buzz word in schools and this month’s theme has not yet been decided, so feel free to share suggestions and mark your calendars for both events!

THE PEDDLER

By Brendan Cholla, Adult Services Librarian

In April and May of 2017, the Minot Public Library will be hosting a variety of educational programming on the subjects of finance and job hunting. As part of “Money Smart Week” speakers from various local banks and financial institutions will appear between April 3rd and April 9th. Topics will range from basics of investing and budgeting to financial planning. From May 8th- May 11th MPL will host a Job Hunting Series at 7:00 pm. Topics range from how to use the ND Job Services website, what employers look for in interviews and searching for your first job and technology tips that will make your job search easier.

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING (ART) MATHEMATICS
FULL STE(A)M AHEAD!

The buzz word in schools and public libraries across the country is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art) and Mathematics are part of many library programs across the nation. Science activities for children and adults can be found in libraries everywhere. Science is one of the major topics that coordinates MSH events. “We will have a diverse cast of storytellers all sharing their stories from their real lives. There will be live music and good food and warm drinks. There will be a safe place for us to listen to each other and grow together as a community. And I guarantee you will laugh out loud at least once!” Gerjets said.

The Minot Story Hour is still looking for talented and brave storytellers to share their stories about scars; anyone interested can contact the group by e-mail at theminotstoryhour@gmail.com or find them on Facebook by searching “The Minot Story Hour.”

The Minot Story Hour
The second Story Hour of 2017 will take place on April 22nd and the theme has not yet been decided, so feel free to share suggestions and mark your calendars for both events!

LETS PLAY, BABY

BY RANDI MONLEY, CHILDREN’S LIBRARY ASSOCIATE

What is “Sensory Play?” Sensory play simply means that your child’s play activity is being influenced by their senses. For example, a fact that young children learn with all of their senses, yet we as adults don’t provide opportunities for children to use their senses to explore the world through play. It is very important for children of all ages to have the opportunity to explore and develop a greater understanding of the world and how it works. Sensory play strengthens pathways to the brain, develops, and strengthens motor skills, develops and strengthens small and large muscle skills and sorting skills.

Sensory activities are an easy create simple sensory activities for their preschool child. Some examples include filling, pouring and storing a wide range of materials such as rice, beans and birdseed. A sink full of water with dish detergent provides endless fun for a young child. Playing with vinegar, baking soda and food coloring is certainly exciting for any child, and it also provides a scientific learning opportunity. Many children love manipulating play dough, and playing with colored ice and mixing colors is a great learning opportunity. As a teacher, as letting children paint with water, glue and shaving cream which allows them to experiment with different substances.

Sensory bins are an inexpensive way to keep children engaged while learning. Fillers such as rice, popcorn, oatmeal and lentils are things you might already have in your kitchen cupboards. Surprise, surprise, families dotted spout and measuring cups are things that you will readily find in your kitchen cupboards as well. Fillers like rice provide hours of play, but sensory play is messy, but a convertible cloth or tarp can be used to minimize the mess. Since the majority of fillers are dry, they are easy to vacuum and swept up. This could be a great sensory experience for you as well because they can learn how to clean up the mess.

The Minot Public Library provides an opportunity for children to take part in sensory play at Baby Play which is held at various times throughout the year for young children. The twenty minute story time is paired with sensory play, which is enjoyed by both children and adults. Parents, grandparents and other caregivers are invited to join us for Baby Play Fridays at 10:00 am starting February 3rd. If you stop by the Children’s Library and ask we can even give you an easy recipe for making your own play-dough!

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AT THE MINOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

BY JOBY PIBKA, MPL TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

It is not hard to realize that technology has become abundant in our world. Technology cannot just make our lives easier if we are comfortable with it. If you are one of the 20 million Americans that does not use the Internet, you may be missing out on what is offered. Our lives increasingly relies on technology may be intimidating to you. This gap between the haves and the have-nots is true in the technological world as well. This is known as the “digital divide.” The Minot Public Library is working with various partners to help bridge this gap. MPL seeks to help bridge this gap in our community in ways that are not uncommon in libraries, such as access to many public computers. However, access is only part of the problem. People do not just need access to a technology; they need the knowledge to be able to use the technology. This is where MPL technology education courses can be very useful.

Any MPL patron has free access to the “Tech Tutor” emails. These are one-on-one technology classes that each patron’s base computer skills and are available by appointment. We also offer what we call Tech Talk sessions which are classroom-style lectures that focus on a technology topic. These sessions are usually scheduled once a month, sometimes more often. We also have upcoming events such as a computer and smartphone class or a technology class on brand new technology such as security, mobile devices, etc.

Join us this spring for several non-traditional but oh-so-fun TEEN Programs! To start with, MPL has Mini Golf After-hours on January 20th which should have everyone feeling good and ready to have fun. Next, test your knowledge of the technologies on February 20th. Build your own board game in March at our Prove your Game events. Celebrate your favorite franchise on April 17th and join us as we create Summer Reading Videos on May 1st.

EDUCATION SERIES

BY BRENDAN CHELLA, ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN

In April and May of 2017, the Minot Public Library will be hosting a variety of educational programming on the subjects of finance and job hunting.

As a part of “Money Smart Week” speakers from various local banks and financial institutions will stop by the library through May. The “Financial Literacy Series” Topics will range from basics of investing and budgeting to financial planning. As of May 8th - May 11th MPL will host a Job Hunting Series at 7:00 pm. Topical themes will include how to use the ND Job Services website, what employers look for in a resume and how to prepare your job search easier.

OUT THE BOX PROGRAMS

BY RAMI CARWELL, TEAM LIBRARIAN

In 2017, the Friends of the Library will again sponsor the Story Hour. The Story Hour is a community storytelling event that focuses on the real stories of people here in Minot. The Minot Story Hour will continue their first storytelling event on Saturday, January 21st at 7:00 pm and this month’s theme will be “Scars.” During this event, folks from the Minot community and other librarians who have volunteered to share their stories typically are associated with book clubs. After a year of Books ‘n Brews, we believe we have achieved our goal. We got a great mix of generations, which allows for a more diverse discussion due to our 20’s-65+ theme. As in past events, this month’s theme provides a very relaxed and open atmosphere that helps facilitate discussion between people who might not otherwise talk to one another.

We would like to join the friends of the Library as we meet the first Thursday of every other month, starting with our January meeting, at 7:00 pm at the Tap Room, located on 23 South Main Street. Below is our complete reading schedule for 2017. If you want to know when books are available for pickup or hang any other questions, please contact me at 701-522-1045.

BOOKS ‘N BREWS BOOK CLUB

BY RANDI MONLEY, CHILDREN’S LIBRARY ASSOCIATE

Science Technology Engineering (ART) MATHEMATICS

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FULL STE(A)M AHEAD!

BY PAULETTE NELSON, CHILDREN’S LIBRARIAN

The buzz word in schools and public libraries throughout the country is STEAM (STEAM, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics). STEAM is part of many library programs across the nation. Science and art activities for children are frequently offered in our public libraries. The need for children to be successful in school is well known. In many cases, children who do not do well in school are children who have had very little opportunity to expand their knowledge, which should have everyone feeling heart-warming, heartbreaking and, at times, laugh-out-loud funny.

“Three stories will be complicated and risky and touching and challenging,” says Travis Gerjets, who along with Emily Nelsdal, make up the team that coordinates MSH events. “We will have a diverse cast of storytellers all sharing their stories from their real lives. There will be live music and good food and warm drinks. There will be a safe place for us to listen to each other and grow together as a community. And I guarantee you will laugh out loud at least once!” Gerjets said.

The Minot Story Hour is still looking for talented and brave storytellers to share stories about their life experiences. If you are interested in contacting the group by e-mail at theminotstoryhour@gmail.com or find them on Facebook by searching “The Minot Story Hour”. The second Story Hour of 2017 will take place on April 22nd and the theme has not yet been decided, so feel free to share suggestions and mark your calendars for both events!

OUT THE BOX PROGRAMS

BY RAMI CARNEL, TEAM LIBRARIAN

Join us this spring for several non-traditional but oh-so-fun TEEN Programs! To start with, MPL has Mini Golf Afterhours on January 20th which should have everything from tee up to next. Test your knowledge of TEEN genres on February 20th. Build your own board game in March at our Prove Your Game event. Celebrate your favorite franchise on Fantasy Island on April 7th and join us as we create Summer Reading Videos on May 11th.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AT THE MINOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

BY JOSH PIBKA, MPL TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

It is not hard to realize that technology has become abundant in our world. Technology cannot just make our lives easier if we are comfortable with it. Technology can make our lives much more difficult if we are not comfortable with it. You are one of the 20 million Americans that do not use the Internet, but the thought of being more increasing relies on technology may be intimidating to you. This gap between the haves and the have nots is referred to as the “digital divide.” The Minot Public Library is always looking for ways to bridge this gap in our community in ways that are not uncommon in libraries, such as access to many public computers. However, access is only part of the problem. People do not just need access to technology, they need the knowledge to be able to use the technology. This is were MPL’s computer education courses can be very useful.

Any MPL patron has free access to call tech tutors by phone. These tutors can introduce one-on-one technology classes that each patron chooses computer skills and answer questions on the availability. We also offer what we call Tech Talk sessions which are classroom-style lectures that focus on a topic of technological interest (such as security, social media, etc.) The first Tech Talk of 2017 will cover on technology that is seen on phone apps, flipflops, etc., that Your Turn Tech Talk will be held on January 23rd at 6:00 pm and be streamed live on Facebook. Healthy snacks will be served to help attendees in the quest for good health! Future Tech Talk dates will be posted in January.

The first Tuesday of the month, the Library hosts an event which aims to introduce young people and families to new types of technology such as robotics and mobile tech. The “Get Tech” is a program that comes to the Minot Public Library for a monthly Tech Talk session. The Library hopes that many libraries across the country, including ones in North Dakota, had started doing this. As a part of “Money Smart Week” speakers from various local banks and financial institutions will be speaking April 25th through April 27th at 7:00 pm at our Financial Literacy Week event. Books ‘n Brew Book Club

BY JANET ANDERSON, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

In 2017, the Friends of the Library will again sponsor their annual Story Hour. The second Story Hour of 2017 will take place on Monday, January 9th and continuing on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Minot Public Library. The new buzz word in schools and public libraries is STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics). Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics are part of many library programs across the nation. Science and art activities for children are frequently offered in our public libraries. The need for children to be successful in school is well known. In many cases, children who do not do well in school are children who have had very little opportunity to expand their knowledge, which should have everyone feeling heart-warming, heartbreaking and, at times, laugh-out-loud funny.

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Here at Minot Public Library, we have a collection of video games in our Teen section that our patrons can check out, use in their own homes for a week and return. But why do we do it? For many good reasons...checking out games help teens learn more about being informed consumers; they love having a place to borrow a game for a week, play it and see what it’s really like. MPL also offers video games to assist parents in their choices of gift selections because it’s much easier to say “yes” or “no” to a game after you see how it is played and how your children react to it. Our gaming collection also allows parents to explore a game before their teen or child does, so they can preview the game for the suitability of their children. This allows parents the opportunity to choose their child’s gaming interests and responsibilities before making expensive purchases which can also save families money. Having a large video collection for check out also makes for great entertainment for families who can’t afford to buy many games.

Playing video games has been part of American youth culture for over 30 years and though technology is changing every day, we believe that teens and video games are here to stay. Our game collection here at MPL serves in helping our young people and their families navigate this pace of technology, more responsibly and economically.

In addition to games you can check out and bring home, MPL also offers gaming. Many households are afforded only one type of gaming system and we want to allow teens to try out different formats. Teens can do so by joining us for Teens Rock Saturday where we offer a variety of video games and consoles such as the Wii U and PS4. We understand that bonding over a shared interest, whether it be crafts, video games or a movie, brings teens together and gives them an opportunity to make friends with similar interests. Teens Rock Saturday includes Manga Club from 1:00-2:00 pm and then video gaming from 2:00-4:00 pm on the second Saturday of the month. Any teen at teen welcome. That’s why we do Connect, Engage, Inspire!

Even with all the specialty and technology services being offered, the Minot Public Library still provides a wide selection of traditional materials... audio books, and large print books in both fiction and non-fiction. Large print books are the exact same version as the originally published book, but the font is larger and bolder which makes them easier to read for patrons who have poor vision or who simply want to give their eyes a “break” from smaller typefaces. If additional assistance is needed, MPL also has a MagniPrint Explorer Closed Circuit Television (CCTV). Located on the second floor across from the circulation desk, this reader allows users to magnify books, newspapers, computer printouts, photographs, maps and more. To get assistance on using the reader, see what titles the library has in stock, make requests for purchases, or find out about other assistance, please call 701-852-1045 or search online at www.minotlibrary.org.

The Minot Public Library is bringing services to the people of Minot in many ways including our Homebound Delivery program. This program allows patrons who are homebound, visually or physically disabled, or those residing in nursing homes or assisted living residents to have items delivered. Every Thursday of the month volunteers or staff visit a particular section of town to deliver bags of materials. Each bag is tailored to the patron once they set up a Homebound Delivery account. Each patron shares their likes, dislikes, specific authors or genres they enjoy, whether they want large print, regular print or audio books and then we use this information as a guide to select materials. Homebound delivery is free of charge and materials are checked out for one month instead of the standard three.

Even with all the specialty and technology services being offered, the Minot Public Library still provides a wide selection of traditional materials such as regular print books, audiobooks, and large print books in both fiction and non-fiction. Large print books are the exact same version as the originally published book, but the font is larger and bolder which makes them easier to read for patrons who have poor vision or who simply want to give their eyes a “break” from smaller typefaces. If additional assistance is needed, MPL also has a MagniPrint Explorer Closed Circuit Television (CCTV). Located on the second floor across from the circulation desk, this reader allows users to magnify books, newspapers, computer printouts, photographs, maps and more. To get assistance on using the reader, see what titles the library has in stock, make requests for purchases, or find out about other assistance, please call 701-852-1045 or search online at www.minotlibrary.org.
Here at Minot Public Library, we have a collection of video games in our Teen section that our patrons can check out, use in their own homes for a week and return. But why do we do it? For many good reasons...checking out games help teens learn more about being informed consumers; they love having a place to borrow a game for a week, play it and see what it’s really like. MPL also offers video games to assist parents in their choices of gift selections because it’s much easier to say “yes” or “no” to a game after you see how it is played and how your children react to it. Our gaming collection also allows parents to explore a game before their teen or child does, so they can preview the game for the suitability of their children. This allows parents the opportunity to discuss their child’s gaming interests and responsibilities before making expensive purchases which can also save families money. Having a large video collection for checkout also makes it great for entertainment for families who can’t afford to buy many games.

Playing video games has been part of American youth culture for over 30 years and though technology is changing every day, we believe that teens and gaming will always stay a part of our culture. This allows us to honor our roots as a home for knowledge, while looking forward to the future and supporting the needs of the Minot community.

Our new logo includes a concise version of our new mission statement and, to me, demonstrates that libraries are open to changes while respecting important lessons from the past...