Deputy Director’s Report for March 10, 2020

* On Tuesday, February 25th, I attended a Summer Reading Program workshop, sponsored by CTLS and the Texas Commission on the Arts, at the Round Rock Public Library. About 40 people from different regional libraries attended the workshop, which was facilitated by Kim Lehman. During the first part of the workshop, Lehman led a very active presentation of various SRP activities, crafts, and ideas centered around this year’s theme, “Imagine Your Story.” During the second part of the workshop, Lehman facilitated a discussion among participants wherein we shared ideas about and experiences of conducting SRPs; participants asked great questions and shared a lot of helpful hints. After the workshop, Lehman emailed participants a link to all the support documents from the workshop and shared a list of participant contacts so that we can continue to collaborate and communicate as we plan. Workshop attendee, Lisa Riggs, Library Manager of the Hutto Public Library, emailed me the day after the workshop to share a resource: JD Pennington from the Texas A&M Chemistry Road Show visits public libraries to present hands-on science activities for kids; Lisa shared a list of activity links from when he visited the Hutto Public Library as well as his contact information for requesting a visit to the Blanco Library.
* So far, I have scheduled two Summer Reading Programs activities. Jeff Holmes has committed to bring some critters from Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve to the Library on Thursday, June 11th. Bonzo Crunch has agreed to close out the summer reading program with a performance at the Library on Tuesday, July 28th, at 3:00 p.m. I have also spoken with the Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky about conducting a program.
* On February 6th, I met with Blanco Elementary School Counselor, Mindy Lay, to discuss collaboration between the Blanco Library and Blanco Elementary. We talked about conducting an outreach survey among teachers and support staff, strategies to market the Library’s Summer Reading Program, and other opportunities to increase collaboration between the Library and Blanco ISD schools, including a Fall Festival booth for the Library to offer library card registration. Mindy provided me with some contacts for school librarians and counselors.
* On February 28th, I released my survey, “Blanco Library: Blanco ISD School Outreach Survey,” via Survey Monkey. I emailed Mindy Lay the survey link to share with teachers and support staff at Blanco Elementary. I also reached out to Sallie Lyons and Deeanna McLendon, the middle and high school counselors, to see if they would like to meet with me to discuss collaboration between the Blanco Library and their schools and about conducting the outreach survey. The survey has ten questions, with a mixture of True/False, multiple choice, and open-ended responses, and should take about three minutes to complete.
* As of March 10, 2020, I have received 16 survey responses, with a completion rate of 100%. Respondents are typically spending 3 minutes to complete the survey.