BRANTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Create ~ Inspire ~ Connect

Going OUT, to bring them IN!

Grade Specific Outreach

Why we went:

Each **Fall**, we focus on visiting a specific grade at both school boards in the City of Brantford. Our goals are to promote our services, collections, and programs; and most importantly, to **ENGAGE** and **EXCITE** kids and teachers to come in and visit the Library on a regular basis.

How we did it:

- In mid-September an e-mail was sent to all of the teachers in the chosen grade of focus.
- In 2014 we focused on **Grade Two's**, and in 2015 we focused on **Kindergarten**.
- We let the teachers know that we are here to help them and support the great work they do in the classroom.
- Offered easy accessibility to our **Library Memberships**, and our popular **Curriculum Kits**.
- Asked that all classes be grouped together for the visit.
- Visits ran 30-40 minutes.
- We offered two dates for schools to choose from.
- Notified them of any additional set-up we needed. Most schools have Smart Boards, so we simply plugged in our USB drive and showed our presentation.
- Two staff members arranged and delivered these visits.

What we did:

- **Introduction. (5 minutes)** – Staff member introduced herself, and outlined what was to come. Two questions were asked: "Who here has a BPL card?" and "Who knows where the Library is?"
- **Story & Prop. (5 minutes)** – A fun, interactive story was shared with the group, along with a rhyme or song with a puppet.
- **Multi-Media Presentation. (15-20 minutes)** – This presentation showcased our various collections, and programs with embedded video on exciting technology like our 3D Printer and Digital Lab. Showed examples of items to borrow and 3D printed items.
- **Questions and BPL VIP Cards. (5 minutes)** – Students were sent home with a Library bookmark that highlights Library programs and activities. A VIP section at the bottom is then returned to BPL, and the child received a small prize. We used leftover prizes from SRC treasure chest.

Obstacles & Challenges!

- Correspondence with teachers is a lengthy process. They are interested in booking an outreach visit, but a reply from an individual teacher may take weeks or months.
- Some schools require multiple e-mails and phone calls to secure a date and time to visit.
- Kids were already familiar with Library material to borrow. In future focus more on **"play"** or **"maker"** items when presenting to classes.

Grade Two, (Sept. 2014 - March 2015)
30 Schools • 45 Classes • 1,355 Students

Kindergarten, (Sept. 2015 - Current)
18 Schools • 37 Classes • 774 Students

Summer Reading Blitz

Why we went:

To encourage primary students to enroll in the SRC, share all the wonderful programs we have in the summer, and remind students that the Library is a great place to meet and hang out.

How we did it:

- We produced a **SRC Trailer** in our Digital Media Lab using iMovie to show during our blitz in schools. We gathered pictures and filmed additional footage, created a storyboard, chose music, made edits and shared it on our social media platforms. We then revised, and produced it in multiple formats. The trailer took approximately 12 hours to produce.
- In early May we e-mailed the same **30 schools** that we visited in the **fall** to arrange a **SRC outreach visit**.
- We mapped out both school boards, so that we could visit multiple schools in one area on the same day.
- We visited all the K-4 students at each school.
- We encouraged schools to group these grades together where possible.
- With larger schools, we visited twice in order to reach all of the students.
- Visits were made from **June 1st-June 18th**.

What we did:

- Staff wore **BPL shirts** and dressed in fun attire to coincide with the **Play Theme** of 2015.
- We had a large yellow beach ball with us, and took turns presenting by throwing the ball back and forth in comical ways. We encouraged participation from the students about which way we threw the ball, etc.
- We each had a purple **BPL knapsack** with samples of library materials, 3D printer samples and SRC prizes to get the kids excited about the program.
- Each session lasted **20-30 minutes**, and was divided into four parts:

1. **Set up and technical troubleshooting 5-10 minutes**
2. **Intro/show trailer – 5 minutes.**
3. **Staff "Play" – 5-10 minutes.**
4. **Questions, closing – 5 minutes.**

Obstacles & Challenges!

- Some schools didn't have a laptop/computer ready; we have decided to bring our own laptop next year.
- Not having enough newsletters for every student; plan to produce a flyer with children's summer programs only.
- Bring additional prop items to show classes, especially when it is a very large group.
- Tossing the ball back and forth worked well, next year we plan to have the presentation be even more interactive to keep the kids engaged and laughing.
- Make sure to schedule minimum of an hour between schools to allow for delays.

SRC Blitz Grand Total
30 schools • 177 K-3 classes • 3,836 students

Maker Class Visits

Why they came to us:

- When we were at the **school**, we told the **teachers** and **students** about our other fun filled technologies that we have waiting for them at the Library.
- As a follow up to our **outreach visits**, we sent an e-mail to the teacher thanking them for hosting us and inviting them to come into the Library for a **Maker Visit**.

How we did it:

- We gave the teachers samples of other maker visits that we have conducted in the past.
- The teachers were very interested and quite a few of them have since booked maker visits.
- We customized each maker class visit to the appropriate grade level and size of the group as well as the length of time available.
- We incorporated the **nutrition break** into the visit, often playing a short literature based movie while the students were eating.

Sample Outlines:

Class Visit Grade K-2
57 students

9:15-9:30 Coats off, INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME (10 minutes)
9:30-9:45 STORYTIME (15 minutes)
9:45-10:35 STUDENTS ROTATING THROUGH 4 ACTIVITY CENTRES: 3D PRINTER, CIRCUT BOARDS, MAGFORMERS, LEGO (MAZES) (10 minutes per station plus transition time)

Split group into 4
10:35-11:00 NUTRITION BREAK (Film to be shown during this time) 25 minutes
11:00-11:20 LEGO CHALLENGE 20 minutes **Same 4 groups**
11:20-11:35 TOUR (15 minutes) **Split group into 2**
11:35-12:00 FREE TIME – For students to look at materials

Group 1	Group 2
3D PRINTER	CIRCUIT BOARDS
LEGO	3D PRINTER
MAGFORMERS	LEGO
CIRCUIT BOARDS	MAGFORMERS
Group 3	**Group 4**
MAGFORMERS	LEGO
CIRCUIT BOARDS	MAGFORMERS
3D PRINTER	CIRCUIT BOARDS
LEGO	3D PRINTER

Notre Dame Makerspace Visit
Grade JK/SK
Date TBA – 12:00-2:45 pm
60 students

12:00-12:15 Coats off, INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME (15 minutes)
12:15-12:35 STORYTIME (20 minutes)
12:35-1:00 FILM and Bathroom/Nutrition Break (25 minutes)
1:00-2:30 STUDENTS ROTATING THROUGH 6 ACTIVITY CENTRES: 3D PRINTER, MAGFORMERS, LEGO, TOUR, COLOURING TABLE and EXPLORE BOOKS (15 minutes per station - 90 minutes)
2:30-2:40 WRAP UP Coats on (10 minutes)
2:45 Leave Library

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
3D PRINTER	MAGFORMERS	LEGO	TOUR	BOOKS	COLOURING
COLOURING	3D PRINTER	MAGFORMERS	LEGO	TOUR	BOOKS
BOOKS	COLOURING	3D PRINTER	MAGFORMERS	LEGO	TOUR
TOUR	BOOKS	COLOURING	3D PRINTER	MAGFORMERS	LEGO
LEGO	TOUR	BOOKS	COLOURING	3D PRINTER	MAGFORMERS