



EARLY LITERACY THROUGH PLAY: HOW THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY HELPS FAMILIES ENCOURAGE LITERACY

ALSO INSIDE: CHUGIAK-EAGLE
RIVER LIBRARY CONNECTS
WITH ITS COMMUNITY, AND
AN INTERVIEW WITH THE
2023 LIBRARY CHAMPION
ARTIST.

LIBRARY IMPACT REPORT
WINTER 2022-23

Samantha Blanquart, Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, has been with the Anchorage Public Library since 2016, and she has an interesting and unique position within the Library. Her position used to fall under the Alaska State Library shared among many Alaska communities but housed at APL. However, the passage of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Alcoholic Beverages Retail Sales Tax in 2020 allowed the position to become solely for Anchorage residents, expanding its local impact.

Samantha works with different communities in the MOA through online and in-person classes teaching parents and caregivers the best ways to encourage children to read; along with trainings to professionals for continuing education credits. She also placed early literacy stations in various locations around Anchorage. These stations are usually located in areas where children may not have as much access to early literacy materials. Samantha has worked with local businesses, pediatricians, and government offices to ensure that kids have the best materials available at no cost to their parents or caregivers.

Fun Fact: There are six components for early literacy – Oral language, vocabulary, phonological awareness, background knowledge, letter knowledge, and print awareness.

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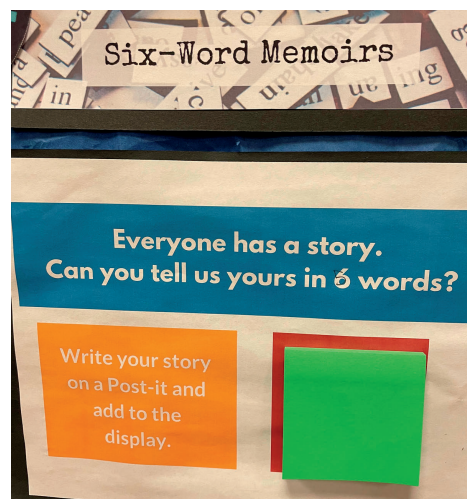
Early Literacy Cont.

Samantha has taught parents and caregivers the best way to use the early literacy components children need to be successful in kindergarten. Part of her efforts include visiting classrooms in preschools and daycares to encourage early literacy practices. She has relationships with different groups so she is able to help people who are in a position to start literacy practices at home. These practices can be as simple as reading a grocery list together as you make it, or building things out of toilet paper tubes and discussing how they work. Visit bit.ly/APLServicesForKids to connect with programs and activities for all kids at APL.

Chugiak-Eagle River Library connects with patrons

The Chugiak-Eagle River branch of Anchorage Public Library opened its doors in 2009, and has provided dedicated and diverse programming to the community ever since! In September, the library hosted the Great Alaskan Book Signing with 19 local authors of both adult and children's books. Nancy Clark, the branch manager, started the "Between the Covers" romance book club, which meets virtually and has members from Alaska and the Lower 48. The group has a theme for the month and then chooses their individual book based on the theme. Eagle River also hosts asynchronous programs for young children and teens in the area. These programs allow teens to engage with the community in fun and creative ways, on their own schedule.

If you or someone you know would be interested in these programs, please contact Nancy Clark at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library (907) 343-1530 or nancy.clark@anchorageak.gov.



Detach and mail to: Anchorage Library Foundation/Friends of the Library: PO Box 244714, Anchorage, AK 99524

YES! I want to help the Anchorage Public Library build community.

Name: _____ City: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____



I'd like to support the Library's immediate needs for materials and programs with a gift in the amount of \$_____.

Make check payable to: **Friends of the Library**



I'd like to support the long-term growth of the Library and new library initiatives with a gift in the amount of \$_____.

Make check payable to: **Anchorage Library Foundation**

☐ I do NOT want a 2023 Library Champion Card

☐ Please keep my name anonymous in recognition materials.

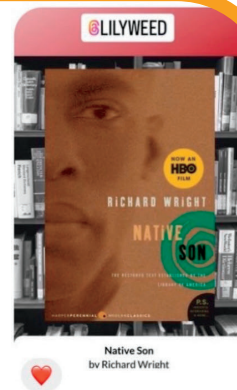
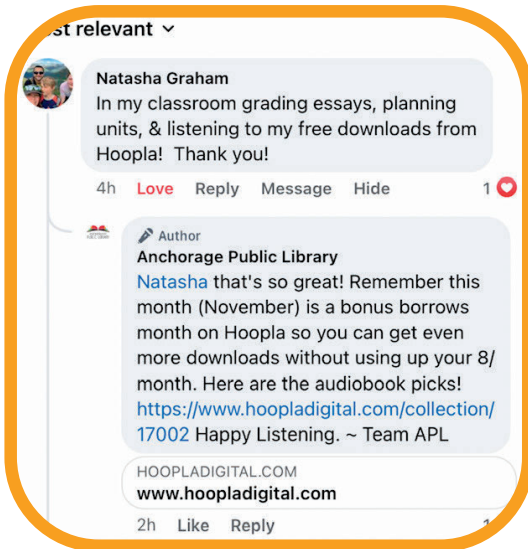
☐ Please send me information on The Next Chapter Society.

Secure online credit card donations can be made at: www.LibraryChampion.com/Donate

Your Investment at Work

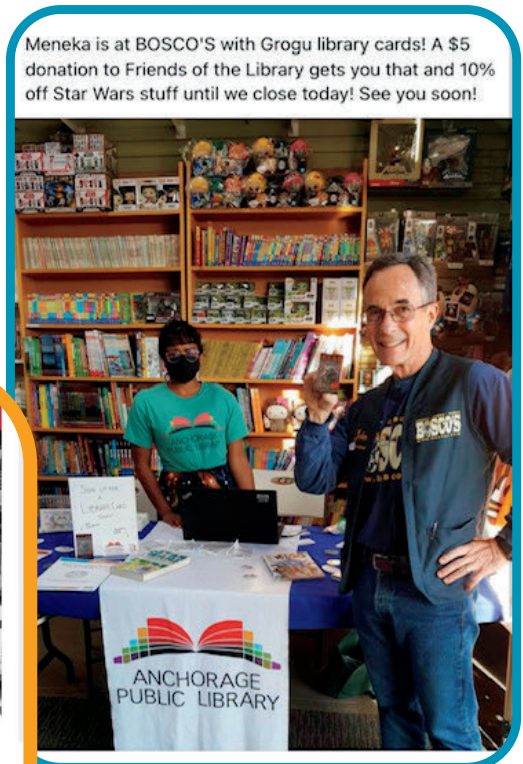
Library Highlights – You made this possible!

Our reasons for giving are all different – for some, it is to build community, and for others, it is to support local families and seniors. No matter your reason, your donations have an impact on your Library and make our community a better place. Library staff love to put your donations to work and that makes for some very happy patrons! Here are some of the ways your support has benefited our community:



2:47 PM

Hoopla has changed my life! Thanks for all you do 💜💜





ANCHORAGE
LIBRARY
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Interview with Library Champion Artist - Chelsea Ambrose

Chelsea Ambrose began her start as an artist as a child, when she would draw, shape clay, and design fairy houses. During college she continued to work on her artistic abilities.

As an elementary school art teacher, Chelsea often seeks inspiration from books. She believes that all of her students can be artists and hopes to teach them to be kind and brave. Her favorite childhood books were Shel Silverstein's poems and *Where the Wild Things Are*. She credits her public school education and public libraries with instilling a great love of reading.

Chelsea draws most of her artistic inspiration from nature, specifically the ocean. Her Library Champion card design comes from that love of nature. If you look closely at the bottom left corner of the design, you can see an open book in the waves!

"Libraries have always been important to me - I love to read and I've spent countless hours working at one library or another throughout my schooling. I still get a rush when I check out a stack of new books from the public library! Thank you Library Champions for supporting such an important public resource for our community!"



2023 Library Champion card design by Chelsea Ambrose

Calling all

**LIBRARY
CHAMPIONS!**

Donate \$100 or more to the Anchorage Library Foundation or Friends of the Library by December 31 and get a special Library Champion library card!



www.LibraryChampion.com/Donate