From the Desk of the Director, Jared Boudreaux

I hope everyone is enjoying their winter so far! First off, I’d like to thank those of you for helping spread the word on our need for an HVAC upgrade. The support that this community offers us is outstanding and we absolutely cannot thank you enough. The library wouldn’t be able to do half of what we do without all of you. I’d also like to draw your attention to the film screening taking place on February 29th. The film we’ll be showing, *A Right to Read*, is one that is not only important to us, but it tackles an ongoing problem that families everywhere are up against. My colleagues will expand upon it more, but I hope you all join me that evening so we can pack the Opera House. Our kids need help, so let’s band together and figure out how to help them. Until next month!

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Friends of the Library Valentine’s Day Bake Sale

Cakes     Cookies     Gluten Free and MORE
Candy     Pie

February 14th
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mancos Public Library
211 W. First St.

See you there!

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FEBRUARY LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Death Café
February 18th - 5:30 pm

Everyone Has A Story
February 8th and February 22nd - 5:30-6:30 pm

Knitting with Kathy has returned! Every Thursday at 3 pm by the fireplace.

Conversational Spanish at Chavalo’s 2nd and 4th Mondays from 6-7 pm

Teen Game Night
February 2nd - 6-9 pm
February 16th - 6-9 pm

Teen Cafe
February 10th 6-8 pm

For more February adult activities see Midge’s newsletter page.
For more February teen activities see Jenni’s newsletter page.
For more February children’s activities see Erin’s newsletter page.
ADULT PROGRAMS - FROM THE DESK OF MIDGE KIRK
FEBRUARY 2024

Art Wall

The Art Wall this month will feature the work of Melissa Blaine.

PARENTS, GUARDIANS, GRANDPARENTS and anyone who values our children! Please come out on February 29th at 6:30 (doors open at 6 pm) to view the film, **The Right to Read**. This is a collaboration between the Library and Re-6 and it is a critical topic. We all know that Reading is an elemental building block to receive a quality education and every child should read at grade level by the end of third grade. However, statistics from Kids Count in 2022 tell us that we only rank 15th nationwide and 62% of our fourth grade children are not proficient in reading and 72% of our eighth grade students are not proficient in reading. We find this alarming and we are sure you will as well.

Navigating Uncertain Times through Poetry

February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 6:30 pm
Facilitator: Carol Bylsma

We all feel it: uncertainty whether on a global scale or on a more local or individual scale. Often a route through our uncertainty can happen through poetry. Poetry can calm us, provide insight, push our thinking into new ideas and places, or reassure us that we are not alone, not unheard, and simply delight us.

This is a six–week exploration of these uncertain times using poetry from many sources to launch us on the themes of: Worry, Presence, Hope, Self-Compassion, and Joy and Celebration.

Bring a journal and pens or pencils, be ready to engage with the group in sharing your insights, writings, and so much more.

Carol is a retired educator, biologist and naturalist. She writes poetry, keeps journals, contemplates writing a book or two, is always curious especially about the joys found in nature and loves to share and learn in community.

While it didn’t work out last year, once again we may have an opportunity for a pen pal in Morocco, through a school in Morocco. If you have any interest, please reach out to Midge and she can give you some details. This seems like a really exciting opportunity.

Midge is working on certification as a presenter of Ageless Grace. Ageless Grace consists of 21 simple exercise tools designed for all ages and abilities. These exercises, based on everyday movements that are natural and organic, focus on the healthy longevity of the body and brain. By practicing Ageless Grace for 10 minutes every day, you can improve your brain health. **We will tell you more about this and set up a schedule for offering it at the library, sometime next month.**

Death Café will meet on February 18th at 5:30
Healthy Relationships
(Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month)

About 1 in 12 U.S. high school students experienced physical dating violence.

About 1 in 12 U.S. high school students experienced sexual dating violence.

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepart
ernviolence/teendingviolence/fastfact.html

Characteristics of healthy relationships include trust, openness, boundaries, respect, affection, communication, and mutual give-and-take. Everyone deserves healthy relationships. Nobody deserves to be abused. If you feel you are in an unhealthy relationship, find someone you can talk to. Maybe you and your partner can learn and grow together. It is possible but doesn’t always happen. If you feel you are being abused, reach out to someone you know is safe and can help you get out. Leaving an abusive relationship is not easy (and can be dangerous) but it is possible. The City of Cortez Police Department suggests the following resources.

Non-Emergency Police Number: Cortez Police Department (970) 565-8441
Victim Response Coordinator: (970) 564-4028
Renew/Wings Safehouse: (970) 565-4886
The National Domestic Violence Hotline (24 Hour) 800-799-7233
Wings Safehouse: 970-565-9116
Four Corners Child Advocacy Center: 970-565-8155
Victim/Witness 22nd Judicial District: 970-565-1147
Southwest Memorial Hospital: 970-565-6666
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD)
https://www.cortezco.gov/387/Domestic-Violence-
Safety-Plan

https://www.thehotline.org/resources/healthy-relationships/

FEBRUARY TEEN EVENTS

Teen Game Night
Friday, February 2nd - 6 to 9 pm
Friday, February 16th - 6-9 pm

Teen Café
Saturday February 10th - 6 to 8 pm
We will be showing a Chinese animation, LIKE THE CLOUDS, LIKE THE WIND, in celebration of the Chinese New Year (Year of the Dragon) and eating Hot Pot along with a sampler platter of tasty treats.

FEBRUARY 2024

Healthy
Unhealthy
Abusive

A healthy relationship means both you and your partner are:
- Communicating
- Respectful
- Trusting
- Honest
- Equal
- Enjoying personal time away from each other
- Making mutual choices
- Economic/financial partners

You may be in an unhealthy relationship if your partner is:
- Not communicating
- Disrespectful
- Not trusting
- Dishonest
- Trying to take control
- Only spending time together
- Pressured into activities
- Unequal economically

Abuse is occurring in a relationship when one partner is:
- Communicating in a hurtful or threatening way
- Mistrusting
- Accusing the other of cheating when it’s untrue
- Denying their actions are abusive
- Controlling
- Isolating their partner from others

Resources for Teens (or anyone that may need some help understanding Love and Abuse)

https://www.loveisrespect.org/
https://youth.gov/youth-topics/teen-dating-violence
https://www.teendvmonth.org/
https://www.thehotline.org/
DID YOU KNOW THAT, NATIONALLY:
33% of Fourth Graders Cannot Read At A Basic Level
66% of Fourth Graders are Cannot Read At Grade Level

DID YOU KNOW THAT, IN COLORADO:
62% of Fourth grade children Cannot Read At Grade Level
72% of Eighth grade students Cannot Read At Grade Level

To understand how our nation and our local school districts have arrived at such an alarming place, and to become a part of the solution as an informed community member, please plan on joining us on February 29th at the Opera House for a full screening of the film The Right to Read, executed by Levar Burton. Doors will open at 6:00 pm; the event begins at 6:30 pm with a brief keynote address by Mancos’s very own Adyan Farrar, long-time English teacher in the Mancos school district.

This event is in collaboration with the Mancos Schools’ “One Book, One Community” kick-off event which will take place at the school directly before the film, from 5:30 - 6:00 pm.

You will find the trailer here: https://www.therighttoreadfilm.org/

It takes collaboration and partnerships between educators, schools, communities and families to improve literacy for all students. Tell friends and neighbors and invite them to join you. It does take a village!
February is not only about chilly weather, there are some warming holidays to help celebrate the month.

Valentine’s Day. Find some love-themed books or movies.

Black History Month. Look for books highlighting influential figures, literature, or events celebrating Black history and culture.

Chinese New Year. February brings a great seasonal opportunity to learn about this vibrant holiday, its traditional recipes and cultural insights.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Happy black History Month! Happy Chinese New Year!
Hello all!

It’s likely that you have heard the term “digital literacy” before, but do you really know what it means? The American Library Association’s definition is as follows: “Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills.” This might mean learning how to effectively use social media, build a website, or research a topic they are interested in. There is a lot more to it than that though. How do you know if a website you are using for research is providing you with factual information? How can you safely post information about yourself on social media without worrying about scammers? Digital literacy requires knowing a good deal about how to safely navigate this immense resource, and updating that information constantly as the environment changes. It’s also a very important skill to teach children who are growing up with all of these digital resources. Here’s a few great resources for kids, teachers, parents, and anyone else who might be interested in learning more:

https://www.diigo.com/list/abubnic/digital-citizenship_literacy-assessment

https://www.commonsense.org/education

https://about.meta.com/actions/safety/topics/digital-literacy


https://newslit.org/

If you have any tech questions, you can book a free tech appointment with me by going to the Mancos Library website and clicking on “Make a Technology Appointment.”
**It’s Valentine’s Day Bake Sale month!**

The Friends will be organizing for our annual event at our next meeting, **Tuesday, February 6** at 4 pm in the library.

The Bake sale is, as indicated in its title, on **February 14th** (a Wednesday this year), from 8 am to 4 pm in the library. If you’re a baker or candy maker, please consider donating an item or two.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the library after our meeting on the 6th if any of you are interested in volunteering for a few hours on the 13th and 14th.

Friends logo hats are at the library and can be purchased for $20.

**Friends meet the first Tuesday of every month at 4 pm in the library. Join us if you can.**

Friends is a volunteer organization that supports and promotes the Mancos Public Library. To become a member, go to mancosfriends.org and download the membership form. The link can be found at the bottom of the page. It’s a mere $10/year and your membership dues go to our amazing Mancos Public Library.

Questions about Friends can be directed to Anne at southwestanne@yahoo.com.

See You At The Library!