

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights December 2019

1. OPL presented its annual Great Books program at the library, at Evergreen and during the Online Anytime Book Club, highlighting some of the best reads of 2019. More than 60 people attended the in-person sessions and the online version was viewed 207 times on Facebook. A link to the video of librarians Michael McArthur and Sara Kumerow sharing their favorite books of the year, as well as the list of books, is available at oshkoshpubliclibrary.org under the For Readers tab.
2. A Grinchmas Celebration offered its special brand of merriment and whimsy under the Dome on Nov. 23, as part of the Whoville Holiday in Downtown Oshkosh. The event drew 1,400 people for games, crafts and photo opps. Information gathered from 371 participants at the event also offered a snapshot of the crowd, including the number of participants who came from outside the city; who didn't have library cards; who needed to update their library cards; and who could not check out materials because of issues with their cards. The statistics highlight the opportunities to get participants' cards in working order and to get cards in the hands of those who don't have them.
3. Live performances are filling the Dome with holiday music this month. Performances by the UW Oshkosh Jazz and Handbell choirs brought in 142 people, while a piano concert by students of the Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Association drew another 51 music lovers. The season wraps up with a concert by the Aria singers of the Oshkosh Youth Choir. Performers and guests enjoy the atmosphere and acoustics under the Dome and appreciate the opportunity to attend live concerts at no cost.
4. The Wild Winter Read Off launches on Dec. 21, offering families the opportunity to brighten the gray winter days through reading, learning and discovery. Participants earn points for reading, writing activities and participating in special library events. It all leads up to a Feb. 22 celebration and visit by award-winning Wisconsin author Lisl Detlefsen. Weaving themes from Detlefsen's picture books into library programs, kids will have a chance to build a jetpack, craft their own writer's notebook and learn about life on a cranberry marsh (like the one Detlefsen's family owns near Wisconsin Rapids).
5. The library collected more than 400 books for the Salvation Army to distribute to children in need as part of our annual Give the Gift of Reading effort in November and December. Hats, mittens and other winter wear was also collected in the Children's Department for distribution to children in need.