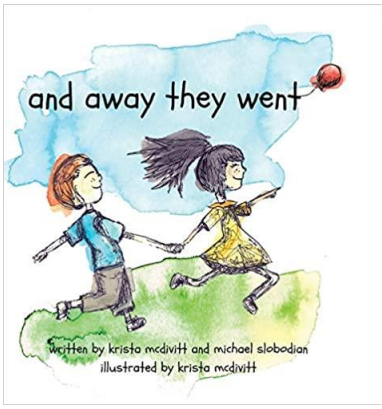
“Saskatchewan Libraries Rise Above” in Pierceland !

How do we rise above? Pierceland Library held two main programming events for the 2021 Saskatchewan Library Week. For the adults we built ladder stands and for the children we focused on balloons!



Ladder Stand
Photo: Anita Kajner

To” get over the obstacle” of lack of social events, the Pierceland library decided to make ladder plant stands! We were able to partner with the RONA store in the neighbouring community and get supplies to make very simple plant stands. We approached the shop class at Pierceland Central School and they cut all our supplies to the dimensions we needed. We had people order the supplies and provide a small deposit and we received orders for twenty projects. We provided make-at-home kits with instructions for people who wanted to build the project on their own or in small groups at home. For those interested in having more of a social event, we rented the local arena lobby on Friday evening and made four ladder stands with some people coming in groups and some people coming solo for a fun evening out. The project was a huge success! The school even had students complete 2 ladder stands that were then sold to people that loved the stands (the attached picture is one that the students completed!). This was a fantastic community project led by the Pierceland Library. Each stand cost under $40 for supplies and the Saskatchewan Library Week Grant we received from SLA provided funding for us to rent space to complete the projects. There was so much interest in the project that we ended up making ten more kits and renting the arena for another day in November for ladies to get together and build the stands.



For the children in the community, we focused on balloons. We found three very different books about balloons. We were able to do virtual readings with the students in Pierceland Central school for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Grade 2 &3 and an in person reading in Grade 1. I was able to find a book titled *And Away They Went* written by Saskatchewan authors Krista McDivitt and Michael Slobodian. The book tells a story about two friends that race around Saskatchewan trying to catch the one little boy’s balloon. I also read *Spenser’s New Pet* by Jessie Sema and *The Remember Balloons* by Jessie Oliveros. We also purchased balloons and handed them out to the children at school and at the story time. The three books were very different and very interesting to read. The children had fun listening to the stories and attending a virtual reading was definitely a learning experience for all of us!

I really enjoy trying to find simple projects that fit with the Saskatchewan Library Week each year. I find that what often seems like lots of work is really quite easy if you plan ahead and keep it simple. The community response from reading a few books, handing out balloons and making a simple project is always amazing. We usually have a fundraising effort going on at the same time and people are always happy to support the library either with donations for prizes, selling tickets or purchasing tickets. I’m looking forward to this year’s theme and what fun ideas I can pull together!

Thanks,

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