We are having a busy and wonderful spring at the library! Circulation for March 2014 was up 7% compared with March just one year ago. As we work to offer expanded and enhanced programming for children and young adults, participation in these library programs is surging, up by 20% in March!

Why expand programming? Because children and their families want and need it! I am reminded frequently of the staggering statistics for adult illiteracy in Pitt County, and we at the library are determined to be the strongest possible part of the solution to this problem. It is impossible to overstate the negative impact of illiteracy on individuals, our community, and society. Without basic reading ability, people cannot be fully-productive members of society and achieve the richest and most fulfilling lives. We know that the library is ideally positioned to make a dramatic positive difference in the effort to promote literacy, and we will continue to do everything we can to make that difference. It is known that developing literacy in children is the foundation of what needs to be done, and we are so excited to see that attendance and participation in our reading-centered programming for children and their families is increasing dramatically as we offer more.

We are promoting library services and events at each location and in every other way we can, including via our web site www.sheppardlibrary.org, our Children’s Library web site linked from the main page, and also through Facebook and Twitter, but nothing beats a recommendation from someone who knows personally what the library has to offer. So, please help us spread the word about library services and programs by sharing your library experiences with friends, family, co-workers and anyone else you think might not know what they are missing. Another way people are reminded of the library is by seeing the bookmobile, which is still going strong and makes stops all over Pitt County every week, as well as participating in other events like Christmas parades and the Touch A Truck event at the Greenville Mall in March, sponsored by the Junior Women’s Association of Greenville! Hundreds of people enjoyed the bookmobile at Touch A Truck again this year. The library partners with other organizations, including the Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children, and East Carolina University, just to name two more, whenever it is possible to make a stronger difference together for children, their families, and all of our patrons.

So, if March was exciting, what about this month? April 2014 is also bursting with excellent programming, including World Book Night 2014, ECU Storybook Theater Tales From Around the World, and The Great Sunflower Project presented by A Time For Science. We also have our weekly toddler and preschool story hours, the new and dynamic Young Adult Book Club meeting every month, Make and Take Craft programs, Bedtime Story Hour, and more! We hope you will enjoy the April programs; but if you miss any, we won’t slow down for May and beyond, so stay tuned each month. We’ll have the spring puppet show, The Three Little Pigs, May 5th–8th, and the summer reading program is just around the corner! See you at the library. Thanks for helping to spread the word about everything we have to offer!
**Eastern North Carolina Regional Quiz Bowl**

The 2014 Sheppard Memorial Library Public Library Quiz Bowl winners from Ayden-Grifton High School were runners-up in the 2014 Eastern North Carolina Regional Quiz Bowl hosted by Neuse Regional Library on Saturday, March 22. The team from Arendell Parrott Academy won the regional championship. Teams from Lee Early College, North Davidson High School, and Roanoke Rapids High School also participated in the regional competition.

Congratulations to coaches Will Tyer and Brian Saleeby and the Ayden-Grifton Quiz Bowl team for their successful Quiz Bowl season.

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**Statistical snapshot:**

- **March**
  - 38,612 items circulated
  - 590 new borrowers registered
    - (66,143 total borrowers)
  - Public computer/Internet use including wi-fi/laptop use
    - 14,226 sessions

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**Holiday Closing**

**Friday, April 18 through Sunday, April 20**

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Team from Ayden-Grifton High School
More Happenings

Celebrate World Book Night with a 450th Birthday Party for William Shakespeare!

We’ll eat cake, make crafts, play games, & receive a distinguished visitor: Queen Elizabeth I herself.

Join us in the Children’s Library Program Room
April 22, from 7-8 PM
Families are welcome.

Join us for our next meeting of the Sheppard Memorial Library YA Book Club
May 1, 7-8pm
We’ll meet in Room A and discuss Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
P.S. There will be treats
Any questions? Email Casandria Crane: ccrane@sheppardlibrary.org

Our Next Teen Reader Advisory Meeting:
Saturday, May 3 from 10-11 AM!
We’ll have games, treats, & book talk

We’ll also be planning our Summer Reading Kickoff Party!!!
The **East Branch Library** continues to have preschool story hour every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. We encourage you to bring a friend. Our last story hour for the spring is Tuesday, May 20. Story hours for the summer will begin on Tuesday, June 17.

Volunteers are needed at the East Branch during the summer. Stop by and pick up a volunteer application.

The spring story hour program will end on Wednesday, May 21, at the **Winterville Public Library** in order to prepare for the summer reading program. Weekly story times for children ages 2–kindergarten will resume on Wednesday, June 18. There will be more information forthcoming concerning school-age programming.

### Juvenile Outreach

The third series of story programs has continued through the month of April with stories about going to bed. Toddlers are enjoying *PEEKABOO BEDTIME* by Rachel Isadora. Another favorite book is *THE BABY BEEBEE BIRD* by Diane Massie. The baby beebee bird just won’t go to sleep and the children not only enjoy finding out the plan to get that baby bird to sleep at night, but also enjoy singing the bird’s song of *bee bee bobbi bobbi* all throughout the book.

April also brings us National Library Week and Week of the Young Child. The outreach librarian will be visiting classrooms to read to children of all ages.

### Children’s Library

National Library Week is April 13 through April 19. This year’s theme is *“Lives change @ your library.”* Lives change when people of all ages visit libraries to discover the world through books, music, digital resources, programs, and more. This year’s Honorary Chair, best-selling author and intellectual freedom advocate Judy Blume, writes that “she found her first favorite books while sitting on the floor of the children’s room at the public library in Elizabeth, New Jersey.” Come celebrate National Library Week by visiting the Children’s Library or any branch of Sheppard Memorial Library. You can read more at yourlibrary.org.

During National Library Week, winners of the N.C. Children’s Book Award will be announced. The N.C. Children’s Book Award, sponsored by the school and public librarians in North Carolina, introduces students to current children’s literature. Throughout the year, classroom teachers, school media coordinators, and public librarians, invite students to vote for their favorite title in two categories, Picture Book and Junior Book. The nominated books are available in the Children’s Library and at the branch libraries.

Planning for the summer reading program has begun. There will be summer reading clubs for children 3 to 12 years old and exciting story hours for toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children. Participants in the summer reading program keep a personal reading record and earn prizes by reading or by listening to library books read aloud. A special certificate of achievement is also awarded.
**Special Programs in the Children’s Library**

**Bedtime Story Hour**
Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.  
for families with children ages 10 and younger.  
Wear your pajamas  
and bring your favorite stuffed animal.

**Bedtime Story Hour**
Thursday, May 29, 7:00 p.m.  
for families with children ages 10 and younger.  
Wear your pajamas  
and bring your favorite stuffed animal.

**Toddler Story Hour**
Teddy Bear Picnic  
Tuesday, May 20, 10:30 a.m.  
for children ages 18 months–3 years.  
Bring your favorite teddy bear.

**We’re Going to the Zoo**
Preschool Story Hour  
Wednesday May 21, 11:00 a.m.  
for children ages 3-5 years.  
Bring your favorite stuffed animal.