ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR’S OFFICE
On Friday October 12, Library Director Ramiro Salazar led a meeting with the Library Foundation and representatives from the President’s Office at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) regarding Library program sponsorship opportunities. UTSA is interested in partnering with the Library to sponsor two programs – Mariachi Vargas and the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition.

On Thursday, October 18, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Library Staff attended the United Way Charitable Campaign Kickoff Luncheon. The City of San Antonio participated in the United Way Charitable Campaign as a pacesetter organization. The Library surpassed our Departmental 2012 Charitable Campaign goal and raised more than $35,500 for the United Way Charitable Campaign. That afternoon, Ramiro Salazar, Director; Dale McNeill, Assistant Director; Ruben Flores, Acting Assistant Director; Rich Walker, Project Control Manager; Cheryl Sheehan, Branch Services Coordinator and Jessica Ramos, Executive Assistant met with staff from the Capital Improvement and Management Services (CIMS) Department and the City’s Real Estate Brokerage firm to visit proposed sites for the new District 9 Branch Library. Library staff is working closely with the CIMS Department to fully evaluate the possible sites for the new District 9 Branch Library.

On Sunday, October 21, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the Arts and Letters Award hosted by the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library. Immediately after the event, Ramiro delivered welcoming remarks for the inaugural event in the Central Library Plaza, a performance by Jose-Luis Orozco. The performance took place in coordination with the San Antonio Library Foundation’s Latino Leadership for the Library (L3) Committee.

The San Antonio Public Library hosted a visit by Edward Smith, Executive Director of the Abilene Library Consortium on October 25. The Consortium is a regional nonprofit organization for all types of libraries, museum, and information organizations. The West Texas Digital Archives, a resource of the consortium, is of particular interest to the San Antonio Public Library’s digital project with the Library Portal at the Briscoe Western Art Museum. Library Director Ramiro Salazar participated in discussions with Mr. Smith and Library Managers and Senior Staff participated in the day-long information session.

On Monday, October 29, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Jessica Ramos, Executive Assistant, participated in a meeting organized by the City’s Intergovernmental Relations Department regarding the Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County for Library Services. Seth Mitchell, Assistant to the County Manager, participated in the meeting on behalf of Bexar County.

To expand on the information learned through the visit with Edward Smith, on October 31, Library Director Ramiro Salazar led a Library Team to meet with Witte Museum staff to learn about the digital exhibits at the Witte. The Library’s Team gained valuable information to incorporate into the plans for the Library Portal at the Briscoe Museum.

On Sunday, November 4, the Ramiro Salazar emceed the closing event for the Cantinflas Retro exhibition. Mr. Mario Moreno Laparade and staff from the Moreno Foundation traveled from Mexico City to San Antonio for the closing event. The closing reception was sponsored by the Library Foundation Board’s Latino Leadership for Library Committee. In total, approximately 75 attendees attended the event and reception.

Writer Maria Hilda Piñon visited the Landa Branch Library on November 7 for a reading of her book, Willows of Corona. Library Director Ramiro Salazar delivered welcoming remarks during the event.

On November 13, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Children Services Coordinator delivered a presentation to the City Council Education Excellence Council Committee regarding the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition. Ramiro took this opportunity to introduce Dale McNeill, Assistant Library Director, to the Education Council Committee.
CHILDREN’S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]
As October came to a close, fourteen library locations hosted Halloween parties for children. Underwritten by the Friends of the Library, these Halloween events featured stories (that were not too scary), crafts (that were not too tricky) and treats (that were not too sticky).

Just under 1,600 children (and their grownups) attending these events with the largest attendance at the Parman Branch where the festivities included a “Spooky Walk” along the hiking trail.

The fun continued in November with twelve branches hosting a “Dinosaur Day” event. These sessions were fashioned after the Play & Learn programs developed by Little Read Wagon staffers. After a brief story/song session, attendees participated in a variety of self-selected activities designed to engage children and parents in the early literacy strategies of talking, singing, reading, writing and playing. While some were building dinosaur trains with blocks and small plastic dinos, others were sorting dinosaur silhouettes according to pattern and color, stamping dinosaur shapes into homemade play dough, making dinosaur hats, creating dinosaur habitats or retelling dinosaur stories using felt shapes and puppets. Total attendance figures are not yet available, but to date, ten branches have reported that 360 customers, young and old, have played and learned about dinosaurs at the library. Funding for Dinosaur Days was provided through an early literacy grant from Dollar General Stores.

Due to the enthusiastic response of both customers and the staff, plans are already underway to host similar, topically-based Play & Learn sessions in March.

In addition to coordinating these programs across the system, Viki Ash continued to represent the library in the community. Included among her activities were:

- Moderating a panel of children’s illustrators at the Texas Book Festival in Austin
- Serving on the planning committee for Kids Day in the Park, which is slated for April 20, 2013 in San Pedro Park
- Promoting the 2013 Young Pegasus Poetry Competition through school visits and an appearance on Cover to Cover
- Coordinating Jose-Luis Orozco concerts at the Central Library Plaza and at Bowden Elementary School in the East Side Promise Neighborhood
- Participating in meetings of Excel Beyond the Bell, the SA Botanical Garden’s Education Committee and the SA Children’s Museum’s Planning/Design Group

LITTLE READ WAGON
This month Little Read Wagon has completed well-attended Play & Learn program series at the Carver and Igo libraries. Xelena Gonzalez and Corinne Sanchez presented a one-time Play & Learn program on the Fox Tech High School campus. The program allowed teen parents who have attended early literacy presentations and their children at the on-site child care center who receive monthly story time programs to participate in early literacy activities together. Hopefully similar programs will be made available to teen parents at other campuses with on-site child care facilities.

More early writing development workshops were presented to child care teachers on Saturday, October 20 and November 10. So far the “Most Important MARKS” workshop has been well-received with teachers contributing plenty of good early writing ideas and engaging in lots of dialogue with their colleagues from other child care centers. The next workshop will be presented in Spanish in January. Liliana Ornelas and Martha Wichy are working on translations of the slides and handouts.

Julia Lazarin represented SAPL at the Edgewood ISD Fatherhood Festival on October 20 at the Cardenas Early Childhood Center. On October 24, Cresencia Huff presented at the Texas Association for Bilingual Education Annual Conference as part of their Early Childhood Institute. Head Start of San Antonio and Bexar County held its annual Parent Conference at the Convention Center on November 14. Julia Lazarin and Martha Wichy staffed an information table and made a brief presentation during the parent luncheon. Corinne Sanchez participated in community resource fair for clients of Catholic Charities of San Antonio on November 15.
MARKETING
As always, the Marketing team is actively supporting programs and projects system-wide by providing graphics assistance and public relations to promote new events. Additionally, the team has been busy hosting its own events including the closing event of the Cantinflas Retrospective.

PR/Marketing
Beth and Joseph have been working with the Director's Office to finalize the upcoming re-branding plan and reviewing the potential partner agency's proposal. Modifications and further review are pending.

Beth coordinated the annual Tamalada including logistics and marketing. Beth has also been preparing the department for her retirement and reviewing pending projects. Beth's last day at SAPL is December 18.

Joseph worked on the closing Cantinflas Merienda (approximately 75 people attended the program and reception), the Cantinflas altar, the SAPL Newsletter, all PR, event promotions, etc. He also assisted Joel Bangilan with the promotion of the Meet the Author: Domingo Martinez event and visited Texas A&M University-San Antonio to remove the Cantinflas art from its gallery.

Beth and Joseph began working with Jennifer Velasquez to discuss a design concept for the new van donated by Valero. A concept is in progress and Joseph is working with Ana Farr to develop for review.

The search for a new Marketing Specialist continues.

Graphics
Ana and Giselle have been working on the following:
December Bookmarks – print edition
Tamalada materials
Branch hours clings
Branch bookmarks
Reprints of popular outreach materials: Live Homework Help and Job Center Bookmark, student resource sheets
New services page and banners on website
SAPL holiday card
Every Child Ready to Read bags
Little Read Wagon bags/t-shirts
Safety/problem situations manual
5 in 5 Adult Reading Challenge logo
5 n 5 Bookmark
5 n 5 Reading Log Form

Social media
Facebook currently has 3,823 “friends”.
Twitter has 1,129 followers.

TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]
Off-Site Service
On November 5, Teen Services Librarians Brooke Ballard and Kathleen Fordyce visited Lanier High School to give several presentations to classes about the services and resources the library offers for teens, including Live Homework Help. Brooke and Kathleen talked to over 300 students and signed them up for library cards.

On November 6 and 7, Brooke visited Highlands High School to talk to teens and sign them up for library cards. She gave 14 presentations and spoke to over 600 students. Library Assistant Rachel Stone (McCreless) and Teen Services Librarian Sarah Weinblatt (Mission) assisted Brooke with the visits.
In partnership with Communities in Schools in San Antonio (CISSA) and the San Antonio Food Bank, Kathleen attended a Food Bank pick-up at Anson Jones Middle School on November 6. The Food Bank gave out bags of food to families that had signed up for the program, and as families drove out, Kathleen talked to them about Live Homework Help and gave them bookmarks.

The library was invited to participate in the 3rd annual Core 4 STEM Expo by the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. On November 8 and 9, Brooke represented the library at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. She brought iPads for teens to use and presented to thousands of teens, including a Live Homework Help demonstration. Brooke presented at the STEM Expo at UTSA on November 10. Videos of the event are on the Teen Services Wordpress blog: http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/.

On November 13, Brooke visited Alpha Academy to speak to parents about the services and resources the library offers for teens, including Live Homework Help.

Partnerships
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Staff participating in the Inspire U program met with their Littles from Twain Middle School on October 22. Everyone enjoyed pizza and salad, and Bigs and Littles discussed a “Reasons for College” quiz.

Programming
Teen Services volunteers planned and created a Haunted House in the department. The teens did all of the decorating, created props, mapped out the “tour” area and acted (as zombies and scarers) as patrons of all ages went through the Haunted House on October 27 through October 30. Teen Services volunteer extraordinaire Megan, and Teen Services Library Assistant Victoria Tijerina did zombie/monster makeup for the participating teens. Over 150 people went through the Haunted House over the four days. Teens worked on putting the event together throughout the entire month of October. Teen Services Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo served as a facilitator for the event and actor/scarer. Pictures and video of the event are posted on the Teen Services blog and Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/210teenlibrary/.

Teen Services Librarian/Liaison Meeting
Teen Services Librarians and Teen Liaisons met for their monthly meeting at Central on November 14. Teen Services Librarian Melissa Strasser (Great Northwest) provided a training session on creating a welcoming experience for teens at the library.

KUDOS
A big CONGRATULATIONS and thank-you are due to the whole SAPL staff!

According to the latest report from Tutor.com the number of one-on-one tutoring sessions increased almost 70% from September to October. Although the number of Skills Center sessions decreased, total overall use (one-on-one tutoring plus Skills Center) of Tutor.com went up almost 40% from September to October.

From October 2011 to October 2012 there was a 62% increase in one-on-one sessions, a 27% increase in Skills Center usage, and an increase of almost 56% in overall usage.

This is due to all you have done to get the word out to the community, so thanks again! We’ve had several requests for more Live Homework Help bookmarks and school resources sheets and will be sending new supplies out to all locations. Keep up the great work!

For some fun reading, here’s a selection of comments from Tutor.com users:

omg! I was searching for this one answer with my mom and we couldn’t find it, I called my grandma if she knew and she called the library, I thought that was silly, but whoa was I wrong!!!!! my tutor was patient, understanding, and fun! I will use this 24/7! tell my tutor she is the best!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! [this one was my personal favorite]
I appreciate this wonderful resource. Especially when math strategies have changed today from when I was in middle school. This wonderful tutor not only tutored my daughter but myself! :)

Dave helped me tons. He was funny just like what kids like. They don't want someone boring. He was cool. I have to tell everyone about it. I'm going to pass my test!

I love this site! I did not understand how to do this at all beforehand, now I feel so much more confident in chemistry and feel that I will pass it!

Awesome tutor! Added to favorites.

VERY good at translating "Math" to "English."

I GET TO PROVE MY TEACHER WRONG SO I'M SUPER HAPPY, THANKS! [I'm sure there's a story here – wish we knew what it was]

Thank you for all you do every day – Beth (Graham)

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Central Library’s Halloween party for children was well-attended with over 170 participants. There were games such as “Pin the Eyes on the Monsters” and “Monster Bean Bag Toss.” Many crafts were available that involved mummies, pumpkins, hats of all kinds, disguises, and more! Best of all was the popular “Costume Parade” which occurred twice during the party so we were sure everyone had a chance to participate. The Department staff dressed up with Snow White (Ruth Chiego, Children’s Department Manager), The Butterfly Princess (Kate Sandoval, Librarian II), The Pirate Queen (Clair Larkin, Librarian I), and the other-worldly alien (Judith Slaughter, Library Assistant), all ready to hand out treats to the children who joined in on the fun.

The Central Children’s Department welcomed Ariel Cummins, Librarian I, to the team in early November. Ms. Cummins was formerly a Librarian I (Teen Services) at Cody. She has already begun work on several projects in the Department and is currently learning the ropes of all the unique programs Children’s Services offers. The team is ecstatic to have her at Central!

Clair Larkin, Librarian I, is serving on the iPad Committee for Children’s Services and assisted with the selection of applications to be used in future children’s programs system wide.

Kate Sandoval, Librarian II, hosted a fun celebration of Diwali at Central’s Family Fun program. The November 3 event recognized the highly anticipated COSA Diwali Festival at Hemisfair that weekend. Ms. Sandoval read books about life in India and made paper versions of the traditional lamp lit to celebrate the holiday. Several of the families in attendance said they would check out the City's Diwali event that evening, and were happy to learn about it. Ms. Sandoval represented SAPL at Harlandale ISD’s VM Adams Elementary for their first Parent's Cup of Tea and gave the parents a presentation about using Live Homework Help with their kids. The parents were thrilled to learn about this exceptional SAPL resource. Ms. Sandoval and Ruth Chiego also assisted Texas Woman’s University practicum student Heather Noe, who has an interest in Children’s Services. Both librarians spent time with Ms. Noe discussing the planning process for Children's programming. Ms. Noe then created a sample programming proposal as part of her coursework.
Ruth Chiego, Children’s Department Manager, met with leaders at the Children’s Shelter on West Woodlawn to plan programs both in their SAISD classrooms and also at the Central Library for children ages 3-8. Ms. Chiego is also arranging a separate in-house program for the children and teachers from SAISD’s Harris Academy’s TLC Unit which specializes in working with sixth graders on the autism spectrum. The Central Library will be coordinating regular programs for the group from Harris, and their students may also participate in December’s *Jingle Bell Jubilee* in an effort to become more acclimated to the Central Library.

**DIGITAL SERVICES**

On October 12, 29 and 30 Sarah Carolan trained a total of 5 employees in the use of LibGuides. On October 15, Adam Spana and Sarah Carolan attended the American Library Association’s webinar “Learn about Makerspaces from the Innovators at Westport (CT) Public Library.” On October 25, Digital Services met with Eddy Smith, Executive Director of the Abilene Library Consortium, to learn about the ALC's experience with largescale digitization, preservation and web presentation using a Dspace repository. Additionally, Mr. Smith described how the ALC can provide support services for other institutions embarking on digitization programs. The experience was instrumental to the early planning of the library's own digitization efforts. On October 30, Digital Services attended a demonstration of Baker & Taylor's Axis 360 ebook platform. On November 9, Adam Spana attended a Personnel department meeting to discuss Personnel's 2013 training initiatives and how Digital Services will provide support. On November 14, Rolf Laun implemented the Central Greeter Calendar on the Library’s Staff Web. On November 15, Digital Services attended a demonstration of the Sierra platform (the successor to the Millennium ILS) from Innovative Interfaces.

**OUTREACH**

The bookmobile has been on the road with school visits, in addition to its regularly scheduled runs. On October 12, the bookmobile participated in a Careers on Wheels event at Fenwick Elementary; on October 19 and Nov. 2, it visited the Unicorn Center; on October 20, Harvestfest at Huebner Oaks (a video of this visit, filmed by Firstmark Credit Union, appears on YouTube); on November 9, Johnson Elementary. On October 27, Barbara Celltans issued library cards at LaVillita’s Treat Street. Gamini Haluwana’s Dare to Read book club for adult learners of English held weekly meetings at the Ferrari Center; Outreach intern Cindy Deleon conducted a Dare to Read ESL club at the DHS’ Ferrari and at St. Mary’s Learning Center, a Dare to Read for adults who are learning to read.

**REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS**

October and November were very active months for offsite service and community outreach in the Central Reference Department. Reference staff visited all over town spreading the word about library services, performing programming and outreach, and serving the community in the community.

Diana Starrett has expanded her English as a Second Language book groups at the Ferrari Center with the help of Reference staff member Cynthia de Leon and Outreach librarian Gamini Haluwana. Students come from all over the world – including Iran, the Ukraine, and Columbia to attend one of three book groups reading and discussing in English as a second language.

Cynthia de Leon has also partnered with literacy organization Each One Teach One to start a book group for low literacy or beginning reader adults. These adults, who read at or below an 8th grade reading level, are using a series of books that adapt classic works of literature to lower reading levels to make reading appealing and accessible to adult new readers.

Reference staff members continue their partnership with Goodwill by teaching participants how to use library resources in Goodwill’s Job Readiness Training program. During this period Pannaga Prasad, Deedee Lu, and Jim LaFerla all shared information on the services at the Jobs and Small Business Center and on the mysapl.org website.

Dan Garcia and Ronee Anderson traveled on the road to share the class “eReader University: eReaders 101” with 35 seniors at Oasis Senior Center. eReaders learned how to browse, check out, and download
library eBooks on a variety of handheld devices. eReaders are always a hot topic right before and after the holidays, and the seniors were very pleased to learn about library eBooks.

On November 1st, Maria Hernandez, Ronée Anderson, and Blanca Hernandez traveled to the large Norris Center Job Fair to represent the library and share library services with attendees. They spoke one-on-one with nearly a hundred people searching for jobs and shared how the library services can help them target their search and develop skills for work readiness.

Early this month, Medicare held a kickoff event at the Forest Hills library and Reference staff members Bettina Hernandez and Lily Perez helped the Forest Hills staff serve customers and help them create email addresses to apply for the new Medicare aid.

Lastly, on a lighter note, Hondo Aguilar was pleased to send a correction into the New York Times whose recent article on Maya Angelou revealed several mistakes when comparing it to the information from the Library of Congress. Hondo worked with the Library of Congress to verify the correct information on the author and poet to answer the customer who called, and the staff at the Library of Congress sent the correction into the New York Times so that other customers would not receive incorrect biographical information.

**TEEN SERVICES**

**Weekly Programs**

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): J.D. hosts his Eclectic Electric music program every Monday night, in which teens can learn to play guitar from J.D. or from each other. During the reporting period, teens under J.D.’s supervision worked on building the Teen Services Haunted House. They used their imagination and ingenuity to create the Haunted House out of somewhat limited raw material. In addition to the fun aspect of this program, teens experienced team building and gained organizational skills.

Tuesdays with Brooke Ballard (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Brooke facilitated the fall “Teen Science Tuesdays” programs (chosen by teen volunteers). Teens made their own soda, created fizzy fountains and experimented with “elephant toothpaste.” Additionally, teens took part in various gaming events held on Tuesdays as well.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): Wednesdays are gaming nights, and teens choose the video and/or board game they would like to play. The San Antonio Food Bank’s nutritionist, Matthew Molpus, hosted his monthly nutrition lesson on November 14, in which he and the teens made healthy chocolate banana graham crackers.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Peer interaction and encouragement, creative expression and friendly competition ranked high on Thursday nights. In October, teens continued making Halloween-inspired crafts. On October 18, teens used clay and wire to mold gravestones, pumpkins and trees, set them in a glass jar with dried moss and spiders and created eerie graveyard terrariums. On October 25, to tie in with the featured movie teens watched, *Snow White and the Huntsman*, teens used green and glow in the dark fabric paints on a foam apple to design poison apples. While their apples dried, teens made s’mores. To commemorate the Mexican holiday *El Dia de los Muertos*, teens decorated sugar skulls and then made some Mexican hot chocolate. Getting back to craft basics, teens used only sand and glue on paper November 8 to create some colorful art to decorate Teen Services. With the release of the last *Twilight* movie in theaters, teens made candy apples. After each program, teens requested use of a gaming system where they engaged in quick decision making and testing hand-eye coordination. Pictures from each Thursday night program (as well as other fantastic SAPL teen programs) are on Teen Services’ Flickr page: http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary.

Monthly Anime and Manga Club: Two Teen Services volunteers, Megan and Archie, plan and implement a monthly anime and manga club, with Megan taking Monday nights and Archie in charge of Saturdays. Both teens prepare crafts and create promotional materials to market their programs. During the reporting period, they both made furry anime tails out of yarn with their peers.
Tours/Groups
On October 17, Brooke Ballard provided a group of students from the San Antonio Technology Academy (SATA) with a tour of the library and catalog and database instruction. On October 22, two groups of Providence High School students visited the library. Kathleen Fordyce provided a tour for them and showed the students how to use the catalog. On October 30, 63 8th-graders from Harlandale Middle School received a tour of the library from Regina Almanza and J.D. Elizondo. Kathleen provided 3 presentations (one for each group) on catalog and database instruction. On November 5, 8th-graders from St. Luke’s received a tour of the library from Regina and catalog and database instruction from Kathleen. Kathleen also talked to them about career resources for a research project they were working on. On November 6, 7th-graders from St. Luke’s received a tour of the library from J.D. and catalog and database instruction from Regina. Regina also talked to them about biography resources for research.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY
Staff of Texana/Genealogy had another busy month. It began with Debbie Countess presenting a “Beginning Genealogy” class on the thirteenth, and Matt DeWaelsche and Frank Faulkner at Thousand Oaks for the Children’s Fiesta looking up the meaning of last names and giving out “name certificates.”

Andy Crews was at Igo on October 16 introducing various “Genealogical Software” programs to the genealogy group there.

October 20 again saw staff going in two directions. Ms Countess was a Great Northwest discussing “How to Research Female Ancestors.” Sylvia Reyna and Frank Faulkner staffed a booth at Founders’ Day on the Alamo grounds with many other historical groups.

On the twenty-fifth Ms Countess was again on the road---this time at Oasis discussing Online Genealogy. The next day Mr. DeWaelsche discussed Preserving Family Treasures to the genealogy group at the Del Webb Community Center.

Los Bexarenos met on November third in the morning in the auditorium. That afternoon D. Aaron Holt from the Fort Worth Branch of the National Archives spoke about researching at that facility with special emphasis on Native American research. Mr. Holt’s presentation was sponsored by the Friends of Texana/Genealogy.

The last presentation for this reporting period was an internet class on Cyndislist and usgenweb by Frank Faulkner on November 6.

Retiring Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison donated to the Library and Texana/Genealogy memorabilia from the dedication of the USS San Antonio, which included a model of the ship. These are currently on display in the department.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

BAZAN
Children’s Librarian Hope Sonnen continues to present weekly Family Fun & outreach to daycare centers (Avance, Mirasol, Good Samaritan) in both the Bazan & Las Palmas communities, as well as two weekly Baby Times at Bazan. She was on hand to promote library programs, Live Homework Help, and other help-with-school programs during a return visit at Family Literacy Night, Gardendale Elementary School. She facilitated the 4th grade book discussion groups at Margil Elementary School, and the 4 & 5 grade groups at Crockett Elementary School. A visit to Bazan by the 4th graders at Brewer ES made for a lively morning on the 12!
Loved ones were remembered by staff with an altar for *El Dia de Los Muertos*, which included traditional items as well as photos and mementos of family members.

Librarian II Patricia Soderberg assisted at Landa on November 2 as the LIC. She also partnered with Librarian III Mariya Rodriguez (Pruitt) to create the segment on inventor Sandra Vasquez for SAPL's *Tamalada* LibGuide.

Circulation Assistant Rene Leija continues his weekly ILL assignment at Central, assisting in recovery of overdue items, and processing billing statements for items lost.

The PALS (Peer Assistant Leadership Program) mathematics program has experienced inconsistency with tutor attendance; staff is in contact with the coordinator to determine if changes are needed.

The class roster for the Citizenship classes presented by Academia America stands at a core group of ten, with open enrollment/completion adding & subtracting participants on an ongoing basis.

Bazan staff and SAPL colleagues celebrated the upcoming retirement of Library Assistant Rosemary Lozano on November 15. Family and friends were on hand as Director Salazar thanked her and presented her with her 25 year pin and *Certificate of Service*.

**BROOK HOLLOW**
The big news at the Brook Hollow branch this month was that this library was the busiest early voting place in Bexar County. Despite the crowds, both voting and library services proceeded smoothly. The branch staff have been weeding heavily, and experimenting with ways to make the collection more user-friendly, including reorganizing the adult biography section and the books on CD.

**CARVER**
DL Grant set up an information booth displaying library services and materials at literacy fair held on November 3, 2012 at S.J. Davis Middle School. The fair was sponsored by Carver’s community partner Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc., an organization devoted to the education of youth and community service.

IDEA Carver Academy and the branch partnered to host family reading night at the library. DL Grant and Children’s Librarian Amy Thorne led tours and explained library services to about students, parents and faculty members. Families signed up for library cards and some remained until near closing to read with their children.

Children’s programming at Carver stayed busy this month. Tween Time saw some ambitious construction projects using the Straws and Connectors set and Family Fun welcomed many children and their adults for a variety of stories and crafts—including one to help decorate the children’s area for fall. The kids’ Halloween Party on October 31 saw kids and grown ups alike in costumes visit the library for crafts, music and treats. On November 3, Carver hosted a Dinosaur Day event—kids participated in Play and Learn style activities with a dinosaur theme and created a large dinosaur decorated banner that is hanging in the children’s area.

Carver teens have taken the last fall harvest from their garden—herbs, tomatoes and peppers—and are getting ready to prepare some of the plants for winter. The teens are also planning a Dr Who themed program for December. The teen volunteers have also been a big help this last month—the special children’s events would not have gone so well if not for the their help with the preparation.

**CODY**
The weeks leading up to the November 6 General Election were a busy time for library staff with over 15,500 citizens voting early at Cody. Although Cody was not an Election Day voting location, reference staff assisted many voters by directing them to their assigned polling locations.

Cody’s Beginner Readers’ Book Club welcomed more new members this month when it met on October 16. As members signed in, Children’s Librarian Sheila Acosta gave each child some creative materials to
accompany their reading selections. Everyone in attendance, both parents and children, conveyed their excitement and enthusiasm to read more books in the series.

Head Start on Rhapsody received a visit from Sheila on October 18. Sheila is now serving five classes at this site, compared to the four from previous months.

Just Kids Day Care #1 received information about Halloween events and Dinosaur Day when Sheila visited them on October 19. Teachers welcomed the library postcards to hand out to parents.

Tweens tried to “out scare” one another with their scary stories when they showed up for Cody’s Annual Scary Stories to Share in the Dark contest on October 22. Students from Howsman Elementary and Hobby Middle School competed in this Halloween event, enjoying the treats and prizes awarded by Sheila at the end.

Sheila visited Kids Campus I by the Medical Center, and also added a new Head Start site at Oak Meadows Elementary on October 23. Children listened to not-too-scary stories, and received information about the library’s Halloween events.

Children at Chabad Child Center enjoyed stories about the changing seasons and about dinosaurs when Sheila visited them on October 25. Sheila talked to the each of the classes about the Dinosaur Day event being hosted at the various libraries.

Babies and toddlers showed up in their Halloween costumes for the Boo! Parade which followed Baby Time, Toddler Time and Story Time on October 29 and October 31. Each child paraded through the children’s section where they met a very kid-friendly ghost, and then received treats from the reference desk as well as Halloween stickers from Ms. Sheila.

The Halloween Party on October 30 was a popular event with more than 75 Cody patrons in attendance. After stories, games and crafts, Sheila handed out a bag of treats to each child.

Bracken Bat Cave spokesperson Fran Hutchins spoke to more than 50 people at the Bats! Bats! Bats! event held on November 3 in the meeting room. Library Assistant Debbie Bender assisted with the visual display on exhibit and announced door prizes at the end of the event. After the presentation, Sheila directed families to the craft tables where children created bat hats, and flying bats in celebration of the international year of the bat.

Sheila created informational flyers and signs for Cody patrons in promotion of Free Family Day at the McNay on November 4. Several families took advantage of the free shuttle service to the McNay from the Cody parking lot.

Dinosaur Day at Cody was a tremendous hit with the families who attended. Parents commented to Sheila that they appreciated having events where the children had an opportunity to interact with others at the various play and learn centers set up around the room. Over 75 were in attendance for this event on November 7, and Sheila plans to offer another one like it in the spring.

Sheila visited Just Kids Day Care #2 on November 8. After her class visits, Sheila left flyers and postcards for the various library events being held in November.

Blattman Elementary fourth-graders learned all about the Young Pegasus Poetry contest on November 13, when Sheila visited them in promotion of the annual literary event. She was quite impressed with the Q & A that followed her presentation, and overheard several students saying that they wanted to submit a poem or two.

Cody’s Beginner Reader’s Book Club met on November 13, proudly finishing up their second book series. After each member shared a favorite chapter or scene from their books, they listened to Ms. Sheila
introduce the next new book series. One parent said that her son was extremely proud to be a member of a book club.

Sheila managed to visit Head Start on November 15, before the classes went on Thanksgiving break. She also hosted a Thanksgiving Come and Go crafts event in the afternoon after school in the children's area.

On Thursday November 15 the library welcomed vocal finalists from the international *Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza* accompanied by *Mariachi Flor de Jalisco* and UTSA's *Mariachi Los Paisanos*. Patrons of all ages enjoyed the live performance of traditional *Mariachi* music.

**COLLINS GARDEN**
Collins Garden Branch served as an Early Voting and Election Day site. There were 4,858 citizens who chose to vote early, which probably accounts for the low turnout of only 209 on Election Day even though citizens living in three surrounding precincts were required to vote at the branch.

The branch has been celebrating fall with not one but two major children’s events. First, the branch celebrated Halloween with a boisterous and well-attended party. Guests had their choice of several crafts varying from the very simple to the more challenging while listening to fun Halloween music. The party concluded with tasty Halloween candy and prizes.

The second event featured dinosaurs, more dinosaurs, and even more dinosaurs. There were crafts, games, and stories all about the long-ago animals children always find fascinating. Finally, Collins Garden is once again decorated for the season. Paper pumpkins, paper turkeys, fall leaves and lots and lots of books celebrating the joy of fall and cooler weather.

**CORTEZ**
The library screened the popular Cantinflas movie *El Señor Fotógrafo* in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The library was an early voting site from October 22 through November 2 and daily voter turnout was heavy.

Shakespeare was the theme of this month’s popular book and media display. The display featured movies based on plays by Shakespeare.

To celebrate Native American Month, the branch featured a popular book display and the library screened the documentary *Trail of Tears* from the PBS series the *American Experience: We Shall Remain*. Earlier in the month a banned books display was featured.

Cortez continued to offer its weekly *Teen Time* program on Thursdays. Loyal patrons regularly attend this program, which offers teens a chance to play video games, use the Internet on laptops, participate in craft activities, and socialize with friends. The teenagers especially appreciate the snacks and refreshments provided by the Friends of Cortez Library. On average, around 9-12 teenagers attended this program. Library Assistant, Jo Ann Paredes, designed an eye catching display promoting YA graphic novels and popular YA fiction genres.

Cortez also continued to offer its regular slate of programming for adults: Yoga and ESL. The weekly yoga classes remain extremely popular. Saturday’s ESL classes have a small, but devoted following.

Cortez continued its regular slate of programming for children: *Story Time* and *Tween* time on Wednesdays and *Family Fun* on Tuesdays. The library also sponsors a monthly family movie screening. Children and their families enjoyed these programs and continue to express their appreciation for them.
FOREST HILLS
Children's Services
Bringing stories to life is a team effort for the Forest Hills staff. In the spirit of Halloween, Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley shared We're Going on a Ghost Hunt by Susan Pearson with her story time audience. The children were then led around the library on a ghost hunt. They enjoyed exploring the children's area as the search party hunted and found their ghost hiding in the fiction section. The Costume Parade brought in ghouls, pirates, scarecrows, owls, princesses, and sumo wrestlers on Halloween evening. Various treats were served up and costume awards presented. Parents were happy to have a place to bring their children to celebrate and interact with other children in a safe environment. All staff participated by welcoming the children to the library and handing out treats from each desk.

Tween Time is a popular offering as tweens come together after school to play interactive electronic games, do homework and make crafts. The tweens are enthusiastic about the activities offered and look forward to the weekly event.

Ms. Shelley created a recycling program with the help of Richard Denning, Library Facilities Coordinator, and Erika Phillips, Solid Waste Management Department Senior Management Analyst. Materials, pictures, books and DVDs were collected and shown during the event on America Recycles Day, November 15, 2012. A thanksgiving napkin holder craft was made out of materials that could be recycled or reused.

Teen Services
Teen Time has a variety of participants throughout the month. Activities include use of laptops, crafts, movies and games (board and electronic). Library Aide Monica Castillo successfully appeals to teens and invites them to participate in the activities every Wednesday evening. Ms. Shelley joined Cresencia Huff at Holmes HS to introduce the Forest Hills teen activities and Little Red Wagon. The interdepartmental outreach was a huge success. Students and their teachers were eager for the next session which will be in December.

Outreach
Esparza Elementary School was the site for a Family Fun Night for their dual language program. Valerie has been working diligently with the school, parents, students, and Margo Guzman (Collection Development) to stock the shelves at Forest Hills Library will appropriate Spanish materials. The collection is growing and useful for the Spanish language patrons/students. Ms. Shelley continued outreach to the Circle North and Children’s Summit Learning Center where children were provided with books on the topics celebrations, Fall, and Thanksgiving.

Adult Programming
Forest Hills continue to host three on-going programs, the Forest Hills Quilting Bee, Project Linus, Knitting Circle, and the Ladies Book Club.

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, The Friends of the Forest Hills Branch provided funds to invite the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center dancers to perform for library patrons. The performance was an impressive display of talent enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience.

Librarian Sandra Griffin facilitated a partnership with Bexar Area Agency on Aging to offer Medicare recipients Medicare enrollment counseling on October 26. The Baptist Health System also offered free health screenings to any interested patron. Participants were received measurements for blood pressure, heart rate, cholesterol, and blood sugar. Many staff members participated in the screening during their lunch breaks.

Library Services
The Forest Hills staff is busily preparing for the upcoming closure for renovations in December. Patrons are being informed of the closure and are excited to see the results of all the planned work.
Blanca Morales, Circulation Attendant (PT) joined the Forest Hills team on October 22. She has made a smooth transition into her new role and enjoys providing quality customer service to the patrons of the library.

GREAT NORTHWEST
Great Northwest hosted early voting during the latter part of the month and was once again one of the busiest voting locations in the county. Well over 14,000 people cast their ballots at this location.

Great Northwest Library has been invaded this last month with ladybugs, butterflies, lions, superheroes and lots of princesses. Three costume parades with an amazing array of creatures, danced, pounced and flew around the library during the Halloween week. The programs brought in more than 200 people from the community into the branch.

This fall, Great Northwest Library has had the privilege to have Cynthia Huntimer, a library assistant at Maverick Library, complete her Practicum for her MLS degree at this branch. She has been quite a valuable asset with the children's programs each week. She has been working especially hard with the older children in the new Family Fun program. There are about 35 participants in the program learning about different types of storybook art each week.

Teen events had 40 participants during this period. The Continuing Digital Literacy Initiative paired teens with iPads and they documented two programs using photo and video apps.

Melissa Strasser, Teen Services Librarian, attended an outreach at Lanier High School and spoke to over 200 students about teen services and Live Homework Help on November 6.

On November 14, Melissa Strasser conducted training to Teen Services titled “Creating a Welcoming Experience for Teens.”

Two special adult programs were held during this period and they included “Finding Female Ancestors” and “Beginner Tai Chi.” These programs were in addition to the regular weekly adult programs that include the Chess Club, Knitting Group, Book Club and the Quilting Group.

GUERRA
The branch served as an early voting site from October 29 through November 11 for over 7,000 county residents; a smaller number voted on Election Day, November 6.

Kate Cordts/Interlibrary Loan Librarian provided on-site training to branch staff in the Navigator system on October 16. A branch staff meeting was held on November 15. The generous support of the Guerra Friends Group allowed staff to share a Thanksgiving meal at the end of the meeting.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman attended a Safety/Security Work Group meeting on November 7. On November 8, he met with a branch and central staff to continue work on the UT Health Sciences Center Family History Project. On November 13, he participated in a staffing study in the morning. In the afternoon, he joined Dianna Morganti, Central Library Reference/Government Documents Librarian, and Roberto Zapata, Manager/Great Northwest, for interviews of eight part-time Library Assistant candidates.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo attended the Texas Library Association District 10 Fall Conference at the Patrick Heath Library in Boerne. Monica presented an eReader Help Session on Friday October 19. To celebrate Halloween, Monica organized a Pumpkin Carving event for more than 30 children and adults on October 20. Monica attended the monthly Meadow Village Neighborhood Association meeting on October 23. Monica facilitated a discussion of Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* on November 8. On November 11, she helped organize the Native American Heritage Month performance of “Music from When Time was Young.” She attended Overdrive Advanced training on November 13. She worked with other staff during the reporting period to create Halloween and Thanksgiving displays.
Children’s Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs attended the Lackland Terrace Neighborhood Association meeting on October 16. On November 7, she planned and presented a special Dinosaur Day Play and Learn. On November 9, she represented the branch and SAPL at Career Day at Cable Elementary. She spoke to 80 first-graders about her job as a Children's Librarian and presented a story time to the students and faculty. On November 10, she attended the 9th Annual San Antonio Express News Children's Book & Author Event where she assisted with children's art and craft activities. As part of her outreach efforts, Arlene visited the Temple of Praise Early Childhood Centre. She delivered books to the center and arranged to have the children visit the library for a special story time and early literacy program. She visited Lackland Headstart and arranged to begin regular story times and book delivery to this organization. During the reporting period, Arlene presented five Toddler times and five Story times. She designed a display highlighting Halloween Children's books. In observance of National Picture Book Month, she worked on another display highlighting School Library Journal's Top 100 picture books of all time.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish language book club) on October 31. The participants discussed El intermediario (The Broker) by John Grisham.

Teen Liaison Kenneth Perez held a Classic Horror Movie Trivia Night on October 14. Two teams competed to see which one was better able to answer questions about classic horror movies filmed between 1950 and 2000. Continuing with the October/Halloween theme, on October 25, he treated the teens to a screening of Ghostbusters movie, along with popcorn and refreshments. On November 1, Kenneth held a video game activity. The teens were played Nintendo Wii and Playstation 3. On November 3, he held an activity celebrating International Games Day. Participants played video, card, and board games from all over the world. On November 8, Kenneth provided the teens with a movie and refreshments and then discussed ideas for next month's programs. He ended the reporting period with a gaming activity on November 15; participants were play games.

IGO

30,215 customers and voters visited the Igo branch library between Oct, 22, 2012 and November 2, 2012; many of these visitors had never been to the library and were not aware of what libraries have to offer. During the two weeks of early voting, library staff processed many new library cards, handed out information on library services and promoted all of the various library programs we offer. The Igo Elderberry Thanksgiving Potluck monthly meeting had a number of new members. Forty seniors enjoyed food, music provided by the band Pickin’and Grinnin’ along with great conversation. The Igo Genealogy club guest speaker this month was Andrew Crews from the Genealogy Department who discussed software available for genealogy research. The Igo author speaker of the month was Fritz Bohne, Special Agent of the FBI topic: Igo’s Most Wanted: An Evening with Fritz Bohn.

The Igo Teens have also been busy; in October thirty two people came to the Teen Supernatural program and heard Sixth Sense Supernatural speak. For Halloween the teens made creepy trees, played with Candy Corn Catapults, and engaged in a spot of Pumpkin Bowling. So far in November they have played various board games, done some creative bird feeding, and had fun popping bubble wrap in the name of science (they proved beyond a doubt that bubble wrap is indeed addictive.)

The last two weeks in October and first week in November proved to be extremely busy at the Igo Branch due to the excitement and enthusiasm of early voters. Story time families were not discouraged by heavy voter turn-out with all story times and regular weekly programming enjoying high attendance. Staff received extremely positive comments about the number and variety of programs offered at the library from those waiting to vote.

In addition to our regular early literacy programs, the Igo Branch was thrilled to offer San Antonio Public Library’s Little Read Wagon Play and Learn sessions on Thursday afternoons from October 11 through November 15. Cresencia Huff and her talented early literacy team inspired parents and caregivers to explore learning concepts with their toddlers and preschoolers through hands-on activities and play.
Visitors to the branch on Saturday, October 27, were trick-or-treated by princesses, witches, skeletons, and super heroes at the Igo children’s services annual Halloween Party. Party attendees enjoyed stories, treats, games, and crafts. Lastly, Igo participated in the system-wide Dinosaur Day Play and Learn session on Wednesday, November 7, to support the San Antonio Botanical Gardens’ Dinosaur exhibit. Dinosaur books flew off the shelves and into the arms of anxious readers excited to learn more about these huge and fascinating creatures from our prehistoric past.

**JOHNSTON**

Johnston Branch served as an early voting site for the General election. The final tally of voters was 6,216! It was an interesting two weeks, as we had a very heavy turnout. Many people stopped in and asked for Library Services as well, many of them before the branch opened. In addition to voting, the Book Nook saw increased sales. Julie Gil and Diane Backhus kept the shelves stocked with great donated materials. Many voters decided to take advantage of Library services, and signed up for Library Cards. A special note of thanks and appreciation to Christina Martinez, Margie Esparza, and Julie Gil who came in especially early, and to Rich Fields, who stayed late most evenings, and until almost midnight on Friday, November 2.

Beverly Wrigglesworth, children’s librarian, was able to continue with her programming while the meeting room was in use. She offered Tween Time, Baby Time, Story Time and Craft Time in the story corner. She continued her Outreach to the Valley Hi Head Start, and read stories to four classes. She visited four classes at Madla Elementary School and read Thanksgiving stories. When she mentioned the boats and asked who came over on the Mayflower, the children said – Pirates!

Christina Martinez engaged her teens with a great variety of programs. They enjoyed movies and snacks. They celebrated Oktoberfest with sausage, root beer and the Chicken Dance! For Halloween, they painted pie pumpkins and created their own pumpkins out of old paperback books. They celebrated “Diwali” by playing cards and doing a Lantern craft. Ms. Martinez also presented information to students at Shepard Middle School. She focused on Live Homework Help and the great opportunities for teens at the Library. In partnership with Southwest High School, Library cards are being issued to the 9th graders. Library Aide Shea Faulkner alternated shelving duties with creating close to 350 cards!

The branch was spookily decorated for Halloween with donations from library regular Irene Salazar. The Halloween book display was very popular. The Library also has displays for Native American History.

**LANDA**

Landa Children’s Services librarian Karen Sebesta received a gold medal in her age category in SNIPSA’s 5th Annual Race for the Rescues held during October. This worthy organization (Spay, Neuter, Inject, and Protect) assists in finding homes for pets in need. Karen is an avid runner and participates in many community races throughout the year.

Rainbows for Hoboken – Thursday morning Story Time on November 1 heard the story of *Elmer and the Rainbow* by David McKee and made a rainbow craft using paper plates, crayons, and crepe paper streamers—one to take home and one to send to the Children’s Department at the Hoboken Public Library in Hoboken, New Jersey, which was flooded in the recent hurricane. Senior Children’s Librarian Lois Gross emailed an acknowledgement and note of thanks to the children for their thoughtfulness. On October 27 Ms. Karen hosted a special Halloween party. Families heard Halloween stories, sang favorite songs and made bat hats, ghost windsocks and jack-o-lanterns.

On October 28 singer, song writer and proprietor of Guitar Tex guitar shop, Mark Waldrop, performed a tribute to influential artists of the New York folk revival of the 60s and 70s. At the time, Mark was a struggling young artist who had moved from San Antonio to New York where he met and worked with some of those who later became icons of the era. Native American dancers drew quite a crowd on the lawn in front of the Landa pavilion on November 10. On November 7 author Maria Hilda Piñon read from her book, *The Willows of Corona*. 
Teen Liaison, Beatrice Canales, continues to lead a group of Alamo Heights high school students who tutor young kids on Sunday afternoons. Many families are taking advantage of this opportunity.

LAS PALMAS
Stephanie Vazquez, Teen Librarian, performed outreach services at Gus Garcia Middle School on October 19. She had been invited to speak to parents about the Live Homework Help website to an appreciative crowd.

The Scholastic Caravan made a visit to the Las Palmas Branch Library on October 20. Many of the children who toured it were pleasantly surprised to receive some of the gift books that were provided. In the meantime they took advantage of the various educational games in the caravan, which were especially meaningful to the youngest children.

Las Palmas also participated in the San Antonio Walks Program on November 14. Enthusiastic adults became informed of the physical rewards of walking and took advantage of the newly established route in the area.

October was greeted by teens as the perennial favorite craft month as they participated in various in-house activities. They made tasty fall treats including popcorn balls and caramel apples.

Teen programming focused on Edgar Alan Poe with a scary story display *Trick or Treat, give me something good to read,* and crafts like making a mustache on a stick and the decoration of library windows with ravens all in support of the current scary themes.

MAVERICK
Maverick Library was a busy place the last two weeks of October for Early Voting and also on Election Day. Thank you to the staff that came in early and stayed late. Many voters came into the library to get library cards and also to find out about library programs.

The branch had a few special programs during this time period. During voting time, Teen Liaison, Audrey McPherson and several teens decorated Maverick’s small study room for Halloween. On October 27, 110 patrons attended a performance by students of the Suzuki Violin method. Finally, on October 29 and October 31, all the story time children were invited to come in costume and parade around the library.

MCCRELESS
Despite being an early voting location, and a busy one, McCreless was still able to host a variety of events this month.

Five Story Times were held from Oct. 12 to Nov. 15. Children heard stories, made crafts and learned about animals and animal behavior around the world. At two Tween time events, kids age nine to twelve played various games, snacked and just had fun hanging out at the library.

The Dino Day celebration was a big hit. Kids of all ages played games and listened to music while learning about dinosaurs and practicing early literacy skills.

A fifth grade class visited the branch to gather materials for a research project on inventions and inventors and staff visited Adams Elementary School to kick off a book club for third graders, who will be reading and talking about books, just for the fun of it.

Children’s Librarian Katy Brown also visited Pecan Valley Elementary School to talk to parents about library services and attended the San Antonio Express News author luncheon to help children make crafts.

McCreless library hosted three Teen Time gaming events in which teens played Wii and PlayStation 2, had snacks and mingled with their peers. Staff member Rachel Stone assisted at an outreach event at
Highlands High School where she was able to introduce library services including Live Homework Help to about 250 students.

Adult Services Librarian David Liserio showed the film *The Hunger Games* on November 10 for “Movie Time @ McCreless”. Fourteen people attended the showing.

**MEMORIAL**
The Memorial branch saw customer traffic surge in October and November as it served as an Early Voting and Election Day site. Staff took this opportunity to welcome many new customers and introduce them to the great services available to them. Many voters stopped to apply for a library cards or renew an existing account.

Teen Tuesday events were temporarily moved to Wednesdays to accommodate Early Voting. Attendance remained strong as teens enjoyed a number of fun activities including an outdoor program.

The Six Sense Paranormal group visited the branch on October 18 and spellbound the audience with accounts of their paranormal activity investigations in and around San Antonio. The audience of about twenty brave souls had many question about local haunted places.

A beautiful altar was erected at the branch by artist Imelda Garcia in celebration of The Day of the Dead. The community was encouraged to participate in the altar creation by adding pictures of loved ones who had passed and include objects that were dear to them. On November 2, Ms. Garcia and her daughter returned and read Calaveras, poems written for the Day of the Dead but intended to humorously criticize the living.

Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, was invited to speak to parents about SAPL's library services at Las Palmas Elementary School during their monthly parent's meeting. Story time increased with a core group of children who enjoy stories, music, and crafts on a variety of topics. The families of Memorial Library had a blast during our Halloween Party in which 85 people attended. They enjoyed funny and not-too-scary music, crafts, games, and special treats. The Head Start students of Madison Elementary School enjoyed listening to stories on their unit about man-made giants such as bridges, skyscrapers and airplanes. Native American Heritage Month was celebrated by having discussions, listening to stories, and creating totem poles about the indigenous people of North America.

**MISSION**
The Friends of the Mission Library held a book sale on Saturday, October 13. Many book donations were received from the community prior to the successful event.

District 3 held three community sessions at the library. This was the first set of community meetings geared toward gauging community concerns regarding improvements along the Roosevelt AV. corridor.

Mission Library served as an early voting site. Over 4,000 voters used Mission as their polling location.

The Mission Library kicked off Native-American Heritage Month on Saturday, November 3. A tribal blessing, prayer, and songs were offered by the San Antonio River Mission Descendants and the Intertribal Group. Later that afternoon the Institute of Texan Cultures offered Native American artifacts for patrons to explore. The program day ended with a Drumming with Nina program. The program discussed rhythm and the significance of drumming in history and music.

On November 4, the McNay Art Museum held an *El Día de los Muertos* event. Mission, along with Cody and Parman libraries, partnered with the museum to provide the opportunity for families to use free shuttle service to attend.

Approximately 140 people attended a Children's Choir performance in Mission’s meeting space. The Harlandale ISD initiative drew participating children from area schools. This is the second time the event has been held at the library. Plans are being made to host their third annual event.
Citizenship classes sponsored by Academia America continue to draw more students. The course has expanded to include online practice as well.

At Teen Times during the month of October and November, a significant increase in the number of attendees was noted. Teens made prints out of objects found around the home, carved pumpkins in teams, and created edible monster heads out of marshmallows. Edible eyeballs were made out of donut holes. During the Mission Muertos Halloween party, teens participated in make-up sessions that transformed them into zombies. Children were provided arts, crafts, snacks, and fun and all were given the opportunity to attend a zombie survival program. Approximately, 180 participants enjoyed the festivities.

**PAN AMERICAN**

Between November 6 and 7 children's librarian Carol Collins delivered to 19 school librarians in the Pan Am service area information on the Young Pegasus poetry competition, Pan Am's Mariachi Extravaganza and other library programs and services, including Live Homework Help. On October 26, Carol promoted SAPL at an Avance center fall festival. She spoke with individual families and then, when a storm drove all into the cafeteria, she addressed the crowd of about 120 people. At the same festival Carol learned of several other community organizations that have services of use to Pan Am customers. The local Texas Migrant Council center brought their older preschoolers to Pan Am for their first monthly Story Time visit of the year. The Scholastic Literacy Van visited Pan Am Saturday, Oct. 13.

Teens enjoyed making flower pins, creating bubble magnets and watching two movies during the Monday evening Teen Times this month.

The library was in festive spirit Wednesday evening November 14 with the talented group, Mariachis Flor de Jalisco. A small but enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the music and learned about the history, costumes and instruments that make up this unique musical genre.

Pan American was very pleased to host several members from the San Antonio Library Foundation on October 20. They toured the building and visited with staff about ideas for potential improvement projects.

**PARMAN**

For the most recent McNay Family Day, buses ran from three SAPL branches to the McNay offering patrons an alternative means of transportation. Twenty people chose to take the bus from Parman to the McNay for the Day of the Dead events including music, food, and art and crafts.

Parman hosted early voting for the November 6 Election. About 15,000 people cast their votes at Parman, and many people discovered the library for the first time during their visit to vote. On October 30, Parman staff hosted a Halloween party for the community. Ms. Vance planned several activities for younger children including a story time, crafts, costume parade and trick or treating. With the help of many staff members, Branch Manager Haley Holmes transformed the walking trail into a Spooky Walk. The Friends of the Parman Library supported the outdoor haunted house by purchasing many of the materials used to create 3 rooms and other spooky scenes such as a graveyard. The 3 rooms included a gross banquet, an Edgar Allen Poe room, and a mad scientist's lab. Several Parman staff members participated by dressing up including Aide Meredith Black as an old woman at the banquet, Aide Ariel Woodbury as the head on the banquet table, Aide Erendira Jimenez as Annabelle Lee, Circulation Attendant Sharleen Daube as Edgar Allen Poe, Library Assistant Eva Banda as Sally Skelington, Library Assistant Tyler Lutz as Where's Waldo, Library Assistant Christina Hess as a victim of the mad scientist, Aide Evan Tan as the scientist's monster, and Librarian Tim Johnson as the mad scientist. Ten teen volunteers participated by helping with the small children and by dressing up for the walk. Thanks to Central staffers Roberta Sparks and Andrea Silva for coming out to help with the Spooky Walk also. The event brought in hundreds of patrons, and the staff plans to hold the party and Spooky Walk annually.
Assistant Manager Tim Johnson and Children’s Librarian Carrie Vance have been busy giving tours to local groups. This month a Cub Scout troop, 4th graders from Buckner Fanning, and students from Rolling Hills Academy learned about the library, were given tours, and enjoyed story time activities.

November 10 was a very busy day at Parman. The Friends of the Parman Library held their first annual book sale with a Friends preview the night before. The Friends brought in an excellent profit for the branch and learned a lot through the process. Staff will present a wish list to the Friends at their December meeting. Dinosaur Day was held in the amphitheater with families enjoying the play and learn activities. Children’s Librarian Carrie Vance even brought real animal bones for the kids to dig up. In the afternoon, members of the RoTenGo Society gave a presentation in the parking lot. Patrons were able to try the sport which is a cross between tennis and table tennis.

Through the Live Well Age Smart committee, Parman hosted a Ballroom Dancing program. Eighteen participants over the age of 50 enjoyed learning to Waltz.

**PRUITT**

Pruitt’s customers are really taking advantage of all the digital and electronic offerings available to them. In addition to the weekly eReader U Tutorial Tuesdays, customers are also enjoying the opportunity to learn how to navigate the San Antonio Public Library’s resources. On October 13, Pruitt Librarian Kimberly Wygant taught participants about all the user-friendly features of the new catalog interface. Patrons were excited to learn to place holds and freeze them to control the arrival of their materials. The adults attending this class were most excited about the new reading list feature that allows them to keep track of the books they’ve previously read.

On October 20, Pruitt Librarian Troy Lawrence repeated one of the popular offerings: SAPL Genealogy Resources, and on October 27, Troy showed patrons how to use the Trumba calendar to find descriptions of upcoming events they were interested in attending. Patrons are always grateful for the technology offerings the Pruitt Library provides during its regular Saturday afternoon classes. These classes are designed to showcase SAPL electronic resources and help patrons strengthen basic computer literacy skills.

On October 13, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez participated as part of a panel discussion about trends in Collection Development at the Texas Library Association’s District 10 Fall Meeting held at the Boerne Public Library. She spoke about balancing the collection demands of a school and public partnership library, while Margo Guzman from SAPL’s Collection Development addressed collection issues with public libraries.

On November 5, Pruitt Librarian Troy Lawrence hosted Dinosaur Day at the Pruitt Library. He did an excellent job creating a very interactive event with various stations all about dinosaurs. All the kids who attended had a great time—especially loving the opportunity to showcase their Karaoke skills in the Dinosaur Disco.

On November 9, Mariya participated in Career Day at Camelot Elementary School. She spoke to 150 third graders about careers in library science. The students and teachers were wonderful, and Mariya was able to share a lot about various resources, like Live Homework Help, and opportunities for learning and fun at the public library.

On November 12, Mariya provided outreach at St. Thomas More Catholic School. She met with 43 PK4 and PK3 students for a fun time of Thanksgiving songs, poems, and stories. Each child also got to make a turkey hat to prepare for the school’s Thanksgiving luncheon.

Popular teen offerings like the Isshoni Anime Society’s regular Wednesday anime showings are drawing young adults to the Pruitt Library more and more. Pruitt continues to also offer a weekly Teen Time during the Roosevelt High School’s long lunch periods. Teens have had the opportunity to get in touch with their inner artists as they’ve been invited to create art inspired by famous artists. Pruitt Librarian Carolyn Bradley had a huge turnout for her lesson about stabiles inspired by the art of Alexander Calder. The
teens created amazing paper sculptures which Carolyn included in her book display about the various artists and artistic movements Pruitt librarians have used as Teen Time inspiration.

On October 26, Pruitt’s TGIF Book Club led by Manager Mariya Rodriguez met to discuss Mark Frost’s *The Second Objective*. Members loved this suspenseful historical fiction thriller about a plot to assassinate General Eisenhower as part of the Battle of the Bulge. The participants expressed how much the guest speaker from September helped to really make the military details of the novel come to life. The next meeting will be on November 30 when the group will discuss Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*.

Pruitt’s Dare to Read ESL Book Club for Adults continues to meet on Friday mornings to practice their English conversation skills and develop their English reading comprehension skills. This group, led by Pruitt Librarian Carolyn Bradley and Pruitt Library Assistant Loida Palomo, finished their first selection and have moved on to reading *A Christmas Carol*—a modified version of Dickens’ original tale.

**SAN PEDRO**

On Sunday, October 26, Branch Manager Dan Stanford represented the Library at Accessibility Fest at La Villita. The event is designed to provide information and entertainment to the Bexar County disabled community. On Saturday November 3, Dan Stanford had an information table at these years Arbor Day Celebration in San Pedro Park. Many of the visitors were very impressed with the books that SAPL owns concerning native trees and tree care.

San Pedro was the first location to receive a visit from Library Foundation members who are touring the branches. The visit was both informative and enjoyable. Staff appreciated the Foundation members for taking the time out of their busy schedules to come and visit with us.

San Pedro had to borrow folding chairs to accommodate the number of people who are attending our Native American presentations. Without having a meeting room having over 20 people come for an event can be logistically challenging.

Children’s Librarian Betsy Dalton presents monthly story times to children at the VIA Child Development Center (two classes), Educare Child Care Center (two classes), Monte Vista Montessori (two classes), and a kindergarten class at Bonham Academy. Betsy also presents monthly story time to two classes at the Ferrari Learning Center, a Head Start Facility. Fifteen books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month.

During this period, Betsy Dalton facilitated monthly books discussions at the Twain Middle School (6th grade), Monte Vista Montessori (4th) and Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th grade) book clubs. The Monte Vista club is new this year. The book clubs have 10-12 members. The book clubs meet during the students’ lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed.

Monte Vista Montessori brings 32 students weekly to the library. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades 2 through 8. When the class comes to the library, the Children’s Librarian spends approximately thirty minutes with the students, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials.

**SEMMES**

Early Voting was the main attraction at Semmes from Monday, October 22 through Friday, November 2. 16,629 voters chose to cast their ballots at the branch. The Semmes Library was the fourth busiest polling location in the county, behind Brook Hollow Library, Great Northwest Library and Crossroads. Although voting was exciting, staff and patrons are glad to have things back to normal.

Children’s Librarian Randi Jones held a Halloween Party on Saturday, October 27. The back patio was all decked out in spooky decorations. Fifty children and adults enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by the Friends of the Semmes Branch Library, fun games and a Halloween themed story time.
On Saturday, November 10, the Semmes Anime and Manga club enjoyed a presentation about Studio Ghibli, the Japanese animation studio. Library Aides Gimoy Louie and Elicia Brown were the co-presenters of the program.

THOUSAND OAKS
Book Groups
On November 15, the Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group had an interesting discussion about their latest read, *State of Wonder* by best-selling author Ann Patchett. Though reactions to the book were mixed, the group appreciated the detailed sense of place in the novel, and the intricate plotting.

On November 5, the Monday Evening Book Group discussed *Blood, Bones and Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef* by Gabrielle Hamilton. Overall the group member enjoyed the book with its insider’s look at life in a restaurant, but found the unflinching portrayal of the author’s personal exploits to be rather shocking and somewhat unbelievable.

Teen Time
On October 17, the Thousand Oaks teens made some delightfully creepy and cute Frankentoys, made by cutting up stuffed toys from the thrift store, and rearranging the parts and sewing them back together. The teens agreed that it was the best craft project they’d ever made. Teens had two weeks off in October due to early voting, but they came back on November 7 and learned how to bake home-made apple crisp in the microwave, an easy and delicious snack. On November 14, they enjoyed a screening of the blockbuster action movie *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol* starring Tom Cruise.

Children’s Activities
Children’s Librarian Leslie Elsasser presented some fun and popular story times in October and November. On October 18, the theme as Animals at Night, and the kids made a firefly craft from colorful adhesive bandages. October 27 was the annual Halloween story time. In November, the children participated in a “faux food” craft project, where they made pretend cupcakes with coffee filters, tissue paper, and glitter. Dogs were the theme of the November 8 story time, and on November 15, Leslie read stories about Thanksgiving, and the children enjoyed weaving their own placemats from construction paper.

Special Events
Mi Familia
More than 60 Thousand Oaks patrons celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a day of activities celebrating “Mi Familia,” one of three system-wide parties. The Los Inocentes singers performed musical selections for patrons. The Coordinator of Children's Services Viki Ash took family photos of patrons, and the Central Genealogy Department printed certificates for families with their name origins. Children also had snacks and two fun craft activities, at which they made their own traditional Mexican musical instruments.

Halloween Party
Approximately 125 children and adults attended the annual Thousand Oaks Halloween party on October 27. Children enjoyed snacks and activities, including a bean bag toss, a “pin the tail on the cat” game, and three craft activities: fingerprint art, ghosts made out of toilet paper, and skeletons made of Q-tips which they glued onto black construction paper.

Early Voting
Thousand Oaks hosted Early Voting for the General Election in October and November, with 6,498 registered voters’ casting votes during the early voting period. On November 6, an additional 1,274 voters cast votes in the General Election.

Outreach
Children’s Librarian Leslie Elsasser provided outreach children’s service to the Head Start Program at the Oaks Day Care Center on November 7. She read stories at four story times and brought 80 books for the four classes. Branch Manager Troy Hoyles, along with staff members from the Tobin @ Oakwell branch, hosted Trivia Time at the NE Senior Center on November 13. With over 30 people playing, it was a good time for all, and everyone received a chocolate prize afterwards no matter how many questions their team got correct.

**TOBIN AT OAKWELL**

Tobin Library welcomed new Library Aide Alexandra Garcia on October 22. Alexandra and the other aides appreciate the shelving changes initiated over the last month. These modifications have resulted in all items being shelved within 24 – 48 hours. Early voting had heavy turnout particularly on the first four days and the last day, November 2. Fortunately, the precinct had 16 voting machines and most people did not wait over 30 minutes to vote.

Children’s Librarian, Kimbra Cook’s, toddler time continues to grow each week with more tots attending. Ms. Cook conducted a fun Tobin Library tour for the entire second grade class from George Gervin Academy on October 12. Many of the kids had never been to a public library before and were thrilled with all the books and computers. Teen Librarian, David Gallin-Parisi, coordinated a tour of Spanish speaking parents from Garner Middle school with Library Assistant Elvia Ramos. The group obtained library cards and set up email accounts on October 24. One Garner student published a great article in the school’s newspaper called “A Fun after-school Hangout”. The piece describes Tobin’s Teen and Tween activities and Tobin as a place to meet new friends with Teen Librarian, David Gallin-Parisi. On October 27, lots of families came to try their artistic talents decorating sugar skulls in honor of **El Dia De Los Muertos**.

Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell purchased a beautiful bench and table for outside seating. The Friends held their annual meeting on October 13 with guest speaker, local author Susan Toomey Frost. On November 9 and 10, the Friends had a prosperous book sale.

The Interesting Book Club continues with stable attendance each month. This month the group is reading and discussing Ann Patchett’s, *State of Wonder*. Librarian, Keri Moczygemba leads the Suspense Club which is discussing Stephen King’s, 11/22/63. Circulation Attendant, Megan Stanley, and Librarian, Keri Moczygemba, made a quite impressive sandy pyramid display to highlight Egyptian history and culture. Library Assistant, Elvia Ramos, featured Native American history and culture items for another exhibit.

Keri demonstrated online services and enhancements to the catalog to 46 seniors at The Towers computer club on October 24. Similarly, Elvia Ramos, introduced the program to a small group at United Methodist Church’s Book Club on November 3. Librarian, D. Gallin-Parisi, attended Garner Middle School’s career night on November 13 to talk with kids and parents about being a librarian and career planning. Kimbra Cook, and Library Aide, Rebekah Corley, as Libro the Lion, greeted all parents and kids at Serna Elementary School’s Literacy Night on November 13. Kimbra and Libro shared information on Tobin and SAPL’s services and programs. On November 13, Library Assistants, Terry Verner and Elvia Ramos, and Thousand Oaks Manager, Troy Hoyles, played the popular Trivia Time game wheel at Northeast Senior Center. All participants receive sugar free candy funded by the Friends of Tobin Library, with the winning table receiving sugar free chocolate.

**WESTFALL**

Westfall added two new shelvers – Ashley Cortinez and Gerald Biggs – to the team recently. Gerald volunteered at Central for a while before being hired, and Ashley is new to the system.

The library was the site for two polling places during the November General Election, drawing 657 voters on Election Day.

Librarian II Jernell Williams discussed library services and resources available to job seekers when she represented the library at a Job Fair at the Norris Center at Wonderland of the Americas Mall. Other participants included News 4 WOAI-TV, Time Warner Cable, Avon, FedEx, USAA, United HealthCare and Red McCombs Toyota.
Members of Boy Scout Troop #87 now have their Reading Badge thanks to the help of Children’s Librarian Imelda Merino. Scouts held a meeting at the library and Imelda explained how to use the library and assisted them with finding materials. She also spoke with students during the Woodlawn Elementary School Literacy Night.