

Monthly Statistics Report		
	January 2024	January 2025
New Patrons	21	20
Library Visits	1,217	1,105
Circulation	1,596	1,737
Phone Calls	85	71
Reference/Reader's Advisory	25	6
Programs	32	36
Program Participation	328	364
Social Media Reaches	11,768	9,273
Social Media Total Likes	426	343
E-material Circulation	660	629
E-resource Usage	16	9
ILL Circulation – Received	24	5
ILL Circulation – Requests	42	0
Computer/iPad Usage	174	204
Wi-Fi	84	60
Tech Help	17	25

Note that OLS has switched to the new system for Interlibrary Loans, and our numbers reflect this transition time.

January Highlights:

This month, the library significantly enhanced our resources and collections. We successfully added new Launchpad tablets to our collection for loaning out to families. Playaway Launchpad tablets are innovative, pre-loaded devices designed specifically for library circulation. These tablets come equipped with a variety of educational apps, videos, and games catering to different age groups and subjects. They are user-friendly and secure, requiring no Wi-Fi or download time, making them perfect for on-the-go learning and entertainment. Each Launchpad tablet features a high-definition touchscreen, durable construction, and a protective bumper, ensuring they can withstand frequent use. We are grateful to the Community Foundation Grey Bruce and the Friends of the Dundalk Library for their generous support, which has made this project possible.



Furthermore, the Friends of the Dundalk Library also donated two additional Yoto players to our collection. These children's audiobook players have been extremely popular, prompting us to add more to meet the demand. We are delighted that families are enjoying these devices, which bring a new dimension of books into their homes.

Additionally, we introduced a new e-resource to our library's offerings. The staff decided to transition from LinkedIn Learning to Universal Class, which provides a broader range of subjects. Through our website, patrons can now access over 600 courses across 35 subject areas, many of which offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) accredited by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). Patrons have unlimited access to these courses and can complete them at their own pace, on any device. Real instructors grade assignments and provide feedback, helping learners gain a deeper understanding and mastery of the subject matter. Alternatively, patrons can choose to take courses without the grading option. The diverse range of subjects caters to both professionals seeking to upskill and lifelong learners exploring new topics for enjoyment. Subject areas include Arts and Music, Cooking, Computers and Technology, Exercise and Fitness, Entrepreneurship,



Health and Medicine, Home and Garden Care, Homeschooling, Job Assistance, Law and Legal Studies, Parenting and Family, Pet and Animal Care, and many more.

Staff Professional Development:

At the end of every January, the Ontario Library Association hosts the OLA Superconference. This year, two staff members attended: Librarian CEO Lacy Russell and Assistant Librarian & Digital Services Greg Haug. The theme for this year's conference was "Building Bridges." Staff attended various sessions on topics such as outreach programming, connecting rural libraries with the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, the power of data analysis to boost engagement and retention, neurodiversity, project management, discovery spaces for children, and IT infrastructure. The Expo at the conference was particularly valuable, providing opportunities to meet with various vendors, publishers, authors, and for networking.

January Programs and Events:

January was a particularly snowy month, presenting some challenges due to the inclement weather. Despite this, we successfully held most of our scheduled programs. However, a few events had to be canceled or postponed to ensure the safety and convenience of our patrons and staff.

Kids:

- The Toddler Playdough Palooza event, held on Thursday mornings throughout January, brought parents and toddlers together for social time, sparked the imagination of children and helped to development their fine motor skills.
- The LEGO Club event on January 8th provided children aged 5-12 with a creative and collaborative environment to build and explore with LEGO bricks after school.
- The Kids Winter Reading Challenge in January motivated children aged 4-12 to record their reading time for a chance to win a fun pizza, pop, and ice cream party. Bookmarks to track their progress were available at the front desk, adding excitement and encouraging a love for reading during the winter season. A total of 33 children participated, making the challenge a successful and engaging event.
- The Drop-in STEAM program, held twice in January, allowed children aged 8-12 to explore and have fun with tech gadgets like Ozobots and Makey Makey.
- The PD Day Movie event was well-received, featuring a screening of *Yogi Bear* accompanied by complimentary snacks for the kids.

Teens:

- The Video Games and Snacks program provided an enjoyable experience for participants, who played Switch games while enjoying a variety of snacks. It offered a fun activity for teens to do during their winter break.
- The Kinder Egg Hot Cocoa Bombs program allowed teens to get creative and have fun making their own hot cocoa bombs using Kinder Eggs
- The Teen Book Club met to discuss their favorite books and share their insights.
- Teens enjoyed creating small winter signs using the take-home craft kits provided by the library.
- The ongoing Break in Bags program invites teens to solve clues to unlock a treat, with bags available upon request at the front desk.

Southgate Public Library



Adults:

- The Adult Crafternoon session the participants crafted beautiful shadowboxes featuring layered cardstock images.
- The Edgewood Suites book club discussed *Heart Berries* by Terese Marie Mailhot
- January was the first month for the Cozy Winter Kits program provided to adults with monthly kits filled with books, puzzles, activities, and treats. Participants could fill out a form online or in the library, and the kits were available on the first Tuesday of each month until March.
- The Digital De-Clutter program on January 14th provided participants with valuable tips on backing up and organizing their files to free up storage space on their iPhones and Samsung devices.
- The Decorated Book Bags craft on January 15th allowed participants to use their creativity by decorating their own canvas book bags with fabric paint.
- Participants at the adult paint night skillfully created beautiful winter cardinal-themed artworks.
- The library's tech help has been experiencing high demand, with numerous patrons seeking assistance with their devices and digital resources. Staff members are diligently addressing each inquiry as promptly as possible.

