

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

JANUARY, 2017

Happy New Year! May it be filled with discovery, learning, new experiences, as well as the comfort of those things familiar.

I had the distinct pleasure today to assist with the KinderCare class that comes in each week for library time and learning. What a wonderful group of children!

The focus of their class today was *keyword* searching with which I and other staff helped. First, we put in a search term that the children would find appealing. Wouldn't you know, I was assigned to two girls and we searched, "Disney Princesses." Of course, as the grandmother of 7 girls, I am quite familiar with this type of material. I had to point out to the girls that some items showed up as DVD's. As we were looking for books that they could check out, they had to select 2 books. They each were proficient enough to write call numbers on a slip of paper shaped like a key. We then went to the shelves and found at least one of the books that they put on their keyword list. And finally, the big payoff.... they got to check out a book to take home!

This class, taught by Jackie Sisco, is just one of the many exciting and fun children's opportunities offered at HPL. Monday through Thursday mornings, you can find at least one group each day enjoying such an experience. We are so fortunate to have a staff that plan and provide these learning moments. They are talented, caring and enthusiastic about our community's children.

Of course, one of the delightful aspects of helping with the KinderCare class is that I learned things, too. I learned that one little girl has six brothers. Another has a very silly uncle, who is her father's brother. One of the students with whom I was working had aqua glasses which matched my scarf and we both love that color. My other searching partner for the day was only 4 years old and taller than just about everyone else in the group. I found out that the class of 14 gets much bigger in the afternoon when "the other kids come in." And, on and on they went, telling me all that they could fit in to less than a ten-minute encounter while waiting to check out books.

Suffice it to say, these children are full of ideas, stories, opinions and thoughts that need to be heard. Listening to them was even more fun than teaching them the keyword skills. I believe that the wonder and awe that surrounds children learning something new is often lost as we mature.

I hope that you will visit the library to find those things that inspire and excite you as it did today's class of children.

Best to all,

Barbara S. Ellis

Director of Library Services