



Dear Library Patrons,

I sincerely hope that this message finds you and your family safe and well. The past few weeks have been filled with so many emotions. From sadness that the Library doors cannot be physically open to our community, to excitement at the tremendous response to our social media, virtual programs and digital collection, the ups and downs have been many, varied and rapidly changing.

With so much uncertainty about what the “new normal” will look like for all of us, one thing is constant. We are here with you and we are here for you. We hold fast to our commitment to provide for our community.

While our physical doors are closed, the Library is very much open. Library staff are working hard from home with incredible passion and talent to keep our community connected. Here is just a sampling of things that your APLD team is doing for you:

- Developing, producing and sharing fun and robust content on social media in meaningful ways, including community challenges with prizes purchased from local businesses, online activity kits to learn about everything from beer to birds, and a hilarious and informative weekly “Not the Tonight Show with Sam the IT Guy”
- Engaging and educating children through virtual storytimes and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs
- Providing live online programming like book discussions and the writer’s group that provide a sense of community in isolating times
- Inspiring people with educational programming like art classes and guided meditations
- Helping users access our digital materials by working through tech challenges they are having
- Increasing our collection of digital materials to further provide for our community
- Providing online access to digital library cards for those without one
- Providing virtual reference service to ensure the Library is accessible to all
- Keeping blog content fresh and new on the website, including information about early literacy and child development, creative writing for all ages and gardening tips and inspiration
- Working with several vendors to ensure online resources are available and accessible
- Keeping the equipment at the library running remotely so people can access things such as our catalog to find online materials and they can log into our online resources
- Working on a plan for when we reopen to be both as effective as we can be in providing services and as safe as we can be while doing so.
- Keeping staff connected through online meetings, engaging activities and interesting projects
- Hosting virtual public Board and Committee meetings to keep the Library moving forward
- Getting the Library building and grounds in top shape for when we reopen



- Purchasing cleaning and safety equipment to be prepared for reopening
- Setting up equipment for managers to work remotely to provide entertainment and resources to our community
- Continuing to learn by participating in webinars to expand and renew our skills to provide services for our community both now and when we reopen

Since we have been closed, 17,365 people have visited our website to access vital information. 6,705 people have been inspired by our incredibly creative staff who are generating content on social media. 6,050 digital books, audiobooks, songs, movies and magazines have been enjoyed due to the dedication of Library staff constantly adding to the digital collection and ensuring that it is accessible and intuitive to use. I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the ingenuity and passion for service that Library staff possess. They are working around the clock to issue digital library cards, answer reference questions remotely, lead virtual programs, and so much more, all while finding a new way to navigate these uncertain waters.

Our compass points constantly to you, our community. We will always be your gathering place for information, collaboration, creativity and entertainment. We will always seek to strengthen the community by providing materials in a variety of formats for all ages. We will always place the highest value on stimulating young children's interests and appreciation for reading and learning.

So, until we meet face to face again, stay connected to our online offerings through social media, our website and the Library online calendar. Please keep your suggestions and comments coming. We look forward to providing information in the future on our reopening.

Stay strong Antioch. We are with you.

This sentiment is from me,

Jennifer Drinka, the Library Director, the entire APLD Staff and your Board of Trustees

Be safe. Have a good evening.