



May 1, 2020

Hello Library Patrons,

It has been about two weeks since I last updated you on the state of the Library. Library staff and Board are working around the clock to extend and expand services to the community while working from home. Library staff continue to amaze me with their creativity and passion for service in even the most disheartening of circumstances. From off-the-charts usage of digital Library materials and engagement with Library social media, to virtual programs such as storytimes, digital book discussions and online art classes, the Library persists. Thank you so much for the overwhelmingly positive response you are giving to the Library. We are totally committed to providing these services and more to you at this time, while looking forward to reviving all of the wonderful things that you want and need from the physical Library.

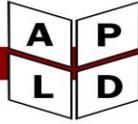
At this point, no order or direction has been given specifically to public libraries in Illinois. We are, and will continue to follow all government guidelines, and are awaiting guidance from the state government and the Reaching Across Illinois Library System. A study is being done by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to determine best practices for the safe handling of library materials. Unlike retail, library materials cycle through many hands throughout their lifetime. With 307,674 items loaned out last year and 129,181 people coming through our doors, it is important that we be confident in our ability to provide service with safety as our top priority.

The Library Board of Trustees approved the continued closure of the Library until the Stay-At-Home Order is lifted. This was a very difficult decision, with many factors to take into consideration. We are working hard to prepare for our eventual reopening, which we sincerely hope will take place in June. From developing a multi-phase plan to gradually and safely reopen the Library, to the purchase of personal protective equipment for library staff, to creating a plan to safely handle materials, we are so very eager to get back to providing for our community in the fullest capacity.

In the meantime, be on the lookout for a newsletter in your mailbox that will include a Summer Reading Program log suitable for all ages. Begin the program as soon as you get your log and be sure to track weekly. Complete the program by July 31 for a chance to win prizes and contribute to a very special community giving project. The newsletter will contain some online program information, but keep checking the online calendar and social media for online programs that are being added weekly.

We look forward to providing information in the future on our reopening. Stay strong Antioch. We are with you and will get through this together.

These sentiments are from the entire APLD Staff, your Board of Trustees, and myself,  
Library Director Jennifer Drinka



Be safe. Have a great weekend.