

Library update: Changes in the Children's Room

By MARY FINNEY
and JENNIFER COSTLEY

It's gratifying when a long-term project nears completion. After more than a year of dreaming, planning, ordering, rearranging, deconstructing and constructing, Pendleton Public Library's National Parks-themed Children's Room renovation is nearing completion. The project, which began last April, is a collaborative effort made possible by funding from the Wild-horse Foundation and a generous local donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Sweat equity was provided by members of the Pendleton Friends of the Library. Much consultation with the city

Facilities Department helped the changes develop more smoothly.

Over the course of the last four years, the library has sought to increase its program attendance. It's a little known fact that public library programs are no longer limited to just story time for children and an adult program or two. Most libraries strive to fill the role of community center by offering access to technology, culture, educational and recreational programs in addition to more traditional literacy-based activities for audiences of all ages.

In addition to the usual preschool and toddler story times, Pendleton Public Library offers monthly toddler events, elementary school book clubs, weekly "Crafternoons" and special events geared toward children of all ages

and their families. Programs for adults include weekly computer classes, monthly adult programs such as its popular Do It Yourself craft night and the new Coloring Club, as well as author readings, travel forums, and special programs of all types.

This new area, equipped with an interactive whiteboard, is a considerable upgrade to weekly toddler and preschool story times. It runs touch screen games and activities and has already been used to teach library behavior, information literacy and action rhymes. The whiteboard will also enhance presentation for adult programs.

What an awesome technology!

Other noteworthy changes include a large forest-scape mural, animal growth chart, campground complete with realistic tent, rocks to sit upon and a camping-style fire pit. Those wanting to learn more

about our National Parks need only look around the room, which is full of books, documentaries, park related art and a viewfinder featuring slides of the Grand Canyon!

This radical update has produced a charming programming area that the library is proud to share with the community.

Mary Finney is Director and Jennifer Costley is Assistant Director and Youth Services Librarian at the Pendleton Public Library.

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Pendleton Public Library's new national park-themed children's area.

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