



Chapters

Kitsap Regional Library's Community Story



Allie's Kids Space

Read, discover, and play in Silverdale's newly enhanced children's area.

Annual Report

Join us in celebrating all that was accomplished at the Library in 2023.

Issue 002 | Spring-Summer 2024

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letter from the Director

Dear Kitsap Community,

In this edition of Chapters, we share our 2023 annual report, encapsulating a year of remarkable achievements and progress. Our annual report is a testament to our commitment to fostering community and connectedness, which lies at the heart of our work.

We concluded 2023 by embarking on an exciting journey, unveiling our five-year strategic direction. Guided by our new mission, “Inspiring curiosity and connection,” we’ve embraced the values of service, equity, and curiosity. These principles will shape our actions and initiatives into the future.

Aligning with our new strategic goal to build collective impact, we forged vital partnerships in 2023, such as our collaboration to bring public library cards to all kids in the South Kitsap School District and active engagement in our community’s celebrations.

Our dedication to improving access, creating adaptable spaces, and aligning our technology to meet future needs has resulted in tangible benefits for our community. Noteworthy achievements include successfully launching a new website and mobile app, introducing a more convenient printing system, and critical updates to library facilities, including the renamed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. branch.



Furthermore, our commitment to learning, workforce readiness, and social connectedness is evident in the diverse range of classes and events offered throughout the year.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of 2023, we are also mindful of the fiscal responsibility that comes with being a junior taxing district. In our assessment of the community’s needs, we are developing a new levy plan to guarantee the ongoing delivery of services expected by the Kitsap community.

Thank you for being an integral part of Kitsap Regional Library. Together, we are shaping a future where curiosity and connection thrive, and the Library remains a beacon of knowledge and community for generations to come.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Driver".

Jason Driver

Library Director
Kitsap Regional Library

Cover: Tree design in the recently completed Allie’s Kids Space at Silverdale. Table of Contents, clockwise from the top: Community members enjoy Allie’s Kids Space at Silverdale. Gem S. laughs during all-staff training day at Marvin Williams Center. Michelle S. reads during Family Storytime at Little Boston. Three youths celebrate summer at Port Orchard.

Inspiring Growth in Honor of Allie

Let imaginations run wild, and stories sprout in the recently unveiled Allie's Kids Space at the Silverdale library.

The roots of the delightful area were carefully cultivated into existence after the new branch opened two years ago.

When the new Silverdale library opened, it was the realization of a decades-long dream. Through nearly 30 years of work, donors gave generously and made the dream a reality when the doors of the new branch opened in 2022.

A cornerstone of the community and a key part of Central Kitsap High School's campus, the library welcomes all. Recently, the kids space was transformed into a word wilderness in honor of one special gift from an anonymous visionary who generously contributed to the fundraising effort to open the new Silverdale library.

The new space celebrates the memory of the donor's cherished friend, Alison "Allie" Cragin Herzig. Herzig was an award-winning children's and young adult fiction author as well as a beloved wife, and mother.



Working with the donor, Kitsap Regional Library and Kitsap Regional Library Foundation enhanced the children's area, creating a forest of hidden words and animals for reading, discovery, and play.

Finished in December, families are already enjoying Allie's Kids Space, featuring a woody wonderland design inspired by her work, with one parent sharing, "It's exciting to see such a unique and captivating approach to promoting literacy and learning."

The word and animal search in the area took inspiration from Allie's book, "A Word to the Wise," co-authored with J.L. Mali in 1978.

This book illustrates the transformative power of words and learning, encouraging children to advocate for change and find joy in learning.

"The artwork creates a playful environment that encourages exploration and compliments the outdoor education programs our community loves," Youth Services Librarian Aleah Jurnecka said.

"The installation of the 'Forest of Words' in the Silverdale kids' space is truly enchanting," said Silverdale Branch Manager Ana Cuprill Comas. "It's a delightful and creative approach to fostering a love for language and literature in our kids. The installation not only adds visual appeal but also inspires curiosity and cultivates a love for language and storytelling."



Connecting

2023 Annual Report

Here, no matter what. Kitsap Regional Library is committed to ensuring that everyone sees themselves reflected in the Library with programs, collections, and resources that are inclusive and representative of the communities we serve.

Building relationships and fostering engagement with the community are at the core of our work. Together, with partners and local organizations, we facilitate programs, discussions, and events, enhancing access and prioritizing community.



Communities



Community & Connectedness

Bridging and building relationships and fostering engagement with the community are at the core of our work. In 2023, initiatives like Student Library Accounts launched with South Kitsap School District as the newest school partner, the Community Learning Internship returned, and the Library turned up and out at local events including the Juneteenth Freedom Festival, Kitsap Pride Festival, and Islander Festival.

Open to All

We prioritize diversity and inclusion in our programs, collections, and resources. Our focus areas span early learning, making and interest-based learning, workforce readiness and development, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and social connectedness, ensuring everyone feels represented and welcomed.





Creating Future-Ready, Universally Accessible Spaces

As stewards of community resources, we completed necessary maintenance across several branches in 2023. We also unveiled a new immersive and imaginative space in the kids' area of the Silverdale branch, Allie's Kids Space. Thank you to the community and building partners for your support as we make sustainable changes to meet the needs of current and future generations.

Improving Access to Library Resources

Last year, we significantly improved digital access with a revamped website, mobile app, and catalog, enhancing search and navigation with a mobile-friendly design. Additionally, remote printing became available in November.



Our Fiscal Responsibility

As a junior taxing district, the Library relies on community support. In 2023, the Library received approximately \$17 million in annual property tax revenue, accounting for over 94% of the operating budget.

Since 2018, the Library's revenue growth has averaged 2.4% annually. While demand for library service in Kitsap County remains strong, the Library's revenue growth is falling behind. Soon, funding will not be enough to maintain the Library's present level of services

and collections. This decline was anticipated when the Library sought a levy increase in 2017, asking for funding to sustain a five-year spending plan.

Currently, the Library is assessing the needs of our community and the Library's facilities, collections, and services—five to 20 years into the future. This analysis will inform a new levy spending plan and ensure the Library continues to provide the services expected by our Kitsap community.



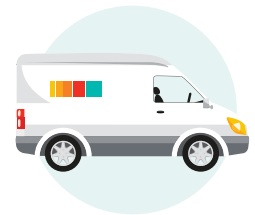
766,970+ visitors
across 9 locations



47,500+
program attendees



2,500,000+
items borrowed



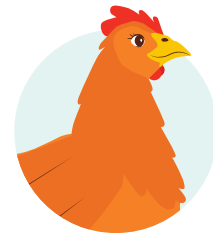
2,970+ home visits
by Mobile Services



2,560+ live
& virtual programs



733,260+ ebook, audiobook
& CuriosityStream downloads



15,770+ summer
program attendees



382,370+ hours
of summer reading

Library Collection

The Library offers a wide array of resources thoughtfully curated to cater to the diverse educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the Kitsap community, delivering free, accurate, equitable, and confidential access to information.

Expanded YA Video Game Collection

A new young adult video game collection was introduced in April, with exciting games for kids aged 13 and up.

New Kits

Sixteen new learning kits were introduced in October, designed to spark learning across diverse topics like astronomy, manga, drawing, and baby sign language.

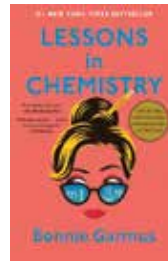
Some of 2023's Top Checked-Out Items



Fourth Wing
by Rebecca Yarros



Everything Everywhere All at Once



Lessons in Chemistry
by Bonnie Garmus



Spare
by Prince Harry

Thrive Ahead

In 2023, we completed our 2024-2029 Strategic Direction, setting our course to become more accessible, collaborative, and sustainable.

We are extending our mission beyond our conventional library boundaries in recognition that we are both a place and presence, fostering digital literacy, civic engagement, economic development, and a sense of belonging for everyone.

We invite you to join us on this extraordinary journey as we write the next chapter in the story of Kitsap Regional Library.



Read the 2024-2029 Strategic Direction at KRL.org/thriveahead.



There's More to the Story

Scan the code to read the full report online, or visit KRL.org/annualreport.



You can inspire the future of our Libraries.

Kitsap Regional Library is our community cornerstone—a place of growth, curiosity, learning, and play—dedicated to the service of all people.

On April 16, we invite you to support the Library during the Kitsap Great Give, a 24-hour online giving event supporting local nonprofits in Kitsap County. Your gift to the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation will help fund the programs that support literacy, foster connections, and uplift lives, building a vibrant and thriving community.





For Little Kids & Kids

Explore programs, resources, and events available for Little Kids (ages 0-5.)

Bookflix - Develop early reading skills and vocabulary through read-aloud experiences in fiction and nonfiction, animated stories, and literacy games. Spanish versions are available for some titles.

Baby Band - Babies and their caregivers enjoy musical experiences that build early literacy skills and encourage social and emotional development.

Storytime - Enjoy Baby, Toddler, Preschool, and Family Storytimes that include stories, songs, rhymes, and full-body movements designed to build early literacy skills and emotional development.

Get started at KRL.org/littlekids.

Join in the fun with programs, resources, and events for Kids (ages 6-11.)

Northwest Nature Kits - Learn about local insects, arachnids, fish, birds, and more with Northwest Nature kits. Perfect for summer exploration and backyard discoveries. Learn more at KRL.org/nwnaturekits.

LEGO Club - Join other LEGO enthusiasts to build creations, friendships, and more.

Read to a Dog - Choose a story to share with a dog and practice reading. In partnership with Therapy Dogs International Kitsap.

Find events for kids at KRL.org/kids.





For Teens

Young Adult World Language Collection - Learning doesn't stop in the summer! Explore our collection of books and graphic novels in Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Tagalog.

[Discover more at KRL.org/yaworldlanguage.](https://www.krl.org/yaworldlanguage)

Young Adult Video Games - Get your game on with exciting video games suitable for teens ages 13+. Borrow yours for up to a week!

[Check out games at KRL.org/borrowmore.](https://www.krl.org/borrowmore)

Dungeons & Dragons - If you've ever wanted to try out your dice-rolling, role-playing, or adventure-building skills, Dungeons & Dragons may be for you! With virtual and in-person monthly events, join fellow gamers for this tabletop role-playing game meet-up however works best for you.

[Bring on epic storytelling at KRL.org/tabletop.](https://www.krl.org/tabletop)



Around the World with Mystery

Alongside thrillers, mysteries are the most popular genre for the Kitsap community, beating all other fiction genres in terms of borrowing statistics and general interest.

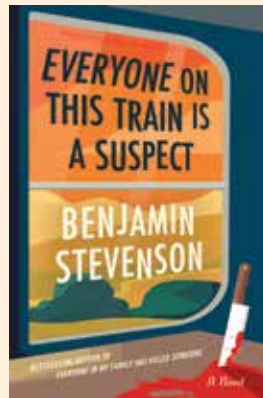
Mysteries can be page-turners or slow-burning, gentle or gritty, sparsely written or richly descriptive. For most mysteries, the setting—either the physical location or time period—plays a crucial role in how the reader enjoys the story.

A very common request we get at the Library is for mystery books that allow for armchair travel and exploring crimes in other countries from the comfort of your reading nook. There are many amazing mysteries set around the world, written by authors from a wide variety of backgrounds.

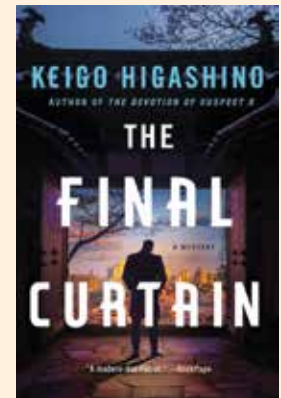
[Explore more at KRL.org/blog/mysteries.](https://www.krl.org/blog/mysteries)



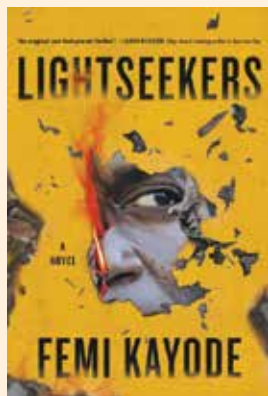
Don't Send Flowers
by Martín Solares



Everyone on This Train Is a Suspect
by Benjamin Stevenson



The Final Curtain
by Keigo Higashino



Lightseekers
by Femi Kayode



Mrs. Mohr Goes Missing
by Maryla Szymbiczkowa



Portrait of an Unknown Lady
by María Gainza



Get a Library Card

Your next chapter starts here! Applying online or visiting your library. Check out books, audiobooks, ebooks, magazines, instruments, Discover passes, and more.

[Learn more at KRL.org/cards.](https://www.krl.org/cards)

Puget Sound Genealogical Society



Puget Sound
Genealogical
Society

Puget Sound Genealogical Society hosts monthly events on genealogical research and resources. Discover your family roots by attending classes, and explore your heritage, locate missing ancestors, and review local records at the Genealogy Center.

[Explore now at psgsociety.org.](https://psgsociety.org)

Friends

OF KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY

Friends of the Library groups are organized at most Kitsap Regional Library locations. Through fundraising events such as book sales, Friends groups raise money for items not in the library's budget. Joining a Friends of the Library group is a wonderful way to support your Library. Looking for a way to get involved? If so, your Friends group needs you!

[Learn more at KRL.org/friends.](https://www.krl.org/friends)



Moments from Summer Learning 2023



WADE INTO WONDER

Summer Learning Starts June 1

Dive into Summer Learning 2024! June 1 through August 31, Kitsap Regional Library invites you to wade into wonder this summer with live events, activities, challenges, and more. This annual summertime program is for everyone and celebrates the joy of learning through fun, educational activities.

Reading Challenge - Read 10-100 hours and earn great prizes along the way for a chance to win one of our end-of-summer prizes. Record your progress using our Summer Learning guide. Pick up your Summer Learning guide at any branch.

Learning Challenge - Try hands-on learning! Pick a goal, plot out how you'll achieve it, and share your experience with us. Earn an entry into our end-of-summer prize drawing.

Live Performances - Get your groove on in the summer sunshine with live music, dance, and performances for all ages! Explore more events in the summer booklet or visit us online. You never know what you might experience!



Keep an eye on [KRL.org/summer](https://www.krl.org/summer) for more information.



Pick up your Summer Learning trackers at any branch starting June 1.



BOOKMA



MARKED



B

A Terra T. and Ayanna J. share a smile during all-staff training at Kiana Lodge in March.

B Young artists at Sylvan Way showed a lot of heart in their use of paint, stickers, doilies, and (of course) glitter at a Valentine's Day event.



E

C Kitsap History Museum Board Trustee Roosevelt Smith gives remarks during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. branch renaming celebration in January.

D Youth Services Librarian Aleah J. embraces the Year of the Dragon during a Lunar New Year event at Silverdale.



F

E Everyone's all smiles during Baby Band at Silverdale.

F In December, artists converged at Manchester to assemble their own miniature cozy holiday homes, creating a wintery scene reminiscent of vintage holiday villages.

The Library will be closed May 27, June 19, and July 4. For more information, visit KRL.org/closures.

Bainbridge (206) 451-5050
1270 Madison Ave. N, 98110
Mon. 10-6 | Tues., Wed. 10-7 | Thu. 10-6 | Fri., Sat. 10-5

Bremerton - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
(360) 447-5420
612 5th St., 98337
Mon.-Thu. 10-6 | Fri. 10-5 | Sat. 10-2

Bremerton - Sylvan Way (360) 447-5480
1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, 98310
Mon. 10-6 | Tues., Wed. 10-7 | Thu. 10-6 | Fri., Sat. 10-5

Kingston (360) 860-5070
26159 Dulay Rd. NE, 98346
Mon.-Thu. 10-6 | Fri., Sat. 10-5

Little Boston (360) 860-5080
31980 Little Boston Rd. NE, 98346
Mon.-Thu. 10-6 | Fri. 10-5 | Sat. 10-2

Manchester (360) 447-5430
8067 E Main St., Port Orchard, 98366
Mon.-Thu. 10-6 | Fri. 10-5 | Sat. 10-2

Port Orchard (360) 447-5440
87 Sidney Ave., 98366
Mon. 10-6 | Tues., Wed. 10-7 | Thu. 10-6 | Fri., Sat. 10-5

Poulsbo (360) 447-5450
700 NE Lincoln Rd., 98370
Mon. 10-6 | Tues., Wed. 10-7 | Thu. 10-6 | Fri., Sat. 10-5

Silverdale (360) 447-5470
3650 NW Anderson Hill Rd., Suite 101, 98383
Mon. 10-6 | Tues., Wed. 10-7 | Thu. 10-6 | Fri., Sat. 10-5

Mobile Services (360) 447-5505
Offering services for individuals who have challenges visiting our library branches, Mobile Services delivers library materials to those that qualify.
Learn more at KRL.org/mobileservices.

