

## **More than Books**

### **There's a New Children's Librarian in Town**

This is Youth Services Supervisor Roberta Craig's first week on the job. Roberta, who is known as Robby, holds a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois. In addition to experience in school and public libraries here in Illinois, Robby worked for two years as the librarian at an international school, the Kuming International Academy, in Kuming, China.

There were over 20 applications for the Youth Services Supervisor position, an opening created when Amie Bommelje resigned in February. Amie has married and relocated to Atlanta. .

As the finalist for the position, Robby's follow-up interview included a tour of the city as well as more time in the library and the opportunity to meet individually with library supervisors. Robby also visited with Freeport School District 145 Director of Equity Teresa Hines. Teresa agreed to meet with Robby and describe the makeup of the school district and some cooperative programs, current and in the works, between the library and the district.

Library Board Member Jill Collin and other members of the interview panel remarked on Robby's enthusiasm for the position. We were also impressed by the increasingly responsible positions Robby held at Rockford Public Library, which she describes as her "hometown library." Here's wishing her a warm welcome and a successful career at Freeport Public Library.

### **Wednesday Story Times**

Wednesday mornings have long been "Time for Story Time" at Freeport Library. Thanks to the team of Circulation Supervisor Lois Rees and Administrative Assistant Connie Hoffman it has been possible to keep story times up and running during the search for a new children's librarian

A little history: over the years, attendance at the Wednesday morning story times grew to up to 50 children and adults. Those are great statistics, but that number was taking away from the intimacy and warmth of a good story time experience.

A couple of years ago, with Amie Bommelje's arrival, the library began offering two story times, but kept them both on Wednesday, with one starting at 9:30 a.m. and the next at 10:30 a.m. Now that Robby Craig is coming on board as the new Youth Services Supervisor, I encourage you to let her hear from you about what you'd like to see at the library for your preschooler.

I've been told, for example, that we need to refurbish the collection of toys in the toddler play area. That's easily done, and we may even be able to get an assist from the Library Foundation with our purchases.