

Dane County Library Service

February 2026 Director's Report



Bookmobile & Junior

The Bookmobile & Junior was off the road during the extreme cold warning from Thursday, 1/22/26 – Saturday, 1/24/2026. We are looking at ways to streamline our schedule to make travel more efficient and economic. We will be putting out a user survey to get feedback from our Dane County patrons about possible route combinations.

Dream Bus

The Dream Bus was back on the road on January 5, 2026. It was off the road the eve of 1/22 & 1/23. The awning it due to be replaced on 1/20 at Custom RV. With two days left in January, the Dream Bus has had almost 600 visits this year, even with the extreme weather.

I joined Tana Elias, Director & Tammy Pineda, Youth Services Manager from MPL on a tour of The Playing Field East. DCLS brings the Dream Bus to this daycare every Friday and serves babies to 5 YOs. This location serves daycare to families facing transitions, economic hardship, and trauma. The staff and children are delighted with their access to the Dream Bus, a trusted partner for these little patrons.

Outreach Services

Mary Driscoll continues to work on organizing the Juvenile Detention Center library with items she bought with the Homegrown/Kohl Foundation grant. She received this feedback from teacher Kim:

"Well, "K" has said that you are his BEST friend. They use it often and continue to give me lists. They get excited when new books come out. For some kids it's a way for them to cope with what they are going through in detention. Supporting literacy, comfort, and continuity during these times would not be possible without the generosity of our donors, and we deeply appreciate the book donations that help maintain consistent access to engaging reading materials for the youth we serve. Thank you!"

And from "K" himself (my new best friend, lol): "I love Fridays - that's new book day! It means a lot to me to have something to read as it's one of the few things we can take to our sleeping area and it helps me pass the time"



Beyond the Page

Planning for the 250th anniversary is underway. This project will feel much like the Ripple Project, representing many different voices, stories and reflections. If you have not yet signed up for the Beyond the Page newsletter, please do so here: <https://beyondthepage.us15.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=bc81e96f6f17b2cef6bcaa2c9&id=77f0b0687b>

System Update

In April 2026, all libraries in SCLS will migrate from the current ILS to Sirsi/Dynix Symphony. This means that the interface patrons use to search and access their library records will look & feel different – hopefully better! While we are excited to move to this platform (Sirsi/Dynix has been serving public libraries for decades), there will likely be hiccups along the way. Mobile service is hands on with check in, checkout, searching and holds, so staff will feel this migration acutely. SCLS has taken a train-the-trainer approach, and several of us are set up to attend in-person training at the end of February. Look for more information, and possible demo, in March.