



Bookmobile & Junior

November routes have gone well and we enjoyed some amazing weather! The Bookmobile was off the road for Thanksgiving and the Friday after, per the County holiday, and on Saturday due to the snow storm.

In December, the Bookmobile will be off the road December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.

Dream Bus

Routes have been generally well-attended with lots of holds being placed and picked up. The Bus has been off the road on days when MMSD and SPASD have been off school.

In December the Bus will be off the road from December 22, 2025 – January 3, 2026. This break gives staff time to do collection clean up, swap items on the Bus, and organize our annual statistics in preparation for Annual Report.

I have applied for a PHMDC Violence Prevention Grant that focuses on three neighborhoods served by the Dream Bus: Kennedy Heights, Madison Estates (formerly The Crossings), and Harmony Apartments. The grant is to further literacy connections with our visitors by hiring two literacy mentors who would accompany the weekly Dream Bus stops and engage children in read-alouds, discussion, and activities. Announcements about grant recipients will be made in early January.

Staff

Nicolas Dupaty acquired his driver's permit and has been practice driving on both regular vehicles and on the Dream Bus. The goal is that Nic will receive his license in January.

Ricardo Marroquin completed a year of Spanish Story Times across various Dane County libraries. He shared pictures of his sessions: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/7PQQgMmx7MTafCfV9>

Selectors have weathered the abrupt change from Baker & Taylor to Ingram with grace and patience. We discovered that Baker & Taylor carts could be used to assemble Ingram orders, thereby limiting the duplication of selection work. A special shout out to Angela Neath, Library Assistant, who had to take up processing Ingram materials with the change. It is my hope to have Ingram process – barcode and cover- our materials; however, due to their increased volume of business, this is expected to take some time.

Beyond the Page

Rooted in Relationships proved to be popular with library audiences, as did the Forward Monologues. For 2026, the focus is on an NEA Big Read grant that focuses on a list of classic American works:

<https://www.arts.gov/initiatives/nea-big-read> . We are looking at collaborating across all libraries in a community reading effort.

The Regional Equity Teams are five years old this year. In order to direct future initiatives and the next iteration of equity work, Ali Treviño-Murphy and I will compose a survey for libraries to give their feedback on how the RETs are working locally.