

May 6, 2024

Gustavus City Council

RE: Gustavus Library Budget

Please do not cut the library budget. The programs that have been created for children are very valuable. The programs draw children and their parents to the library. The programs use library books that pertain to the program and also colorfully display children's books. The kids browse the library during these sessions and familiarize themselves to a fun and interesting atmosphere. They can check out books and DVD's when attending the programs.

Due to school budget cuts, there are few extracurricular or elective classes. The City can't fix the school budget, but they can budget for the library to provide art and music and programs the school does not offer while making the kids comfortable and familiar with the library. I use the library more as I drop off and pick up my child.

There are adult programs as well that are scheduled by the librarian. The adults can organize and run their time themselves. The children's programs need the child friendly and child assistance skilled direction and presence of the librarian. The kids need activities in this community. Since Covid, families seem to have held on to their family and friend "bubbles" as far as getting their own bubbles together. The activities at the library re-awakes getting together and provides time for the kids to creatively learn outside of the school setting and socialize with their peers.

I'm curious if the people that are for cutting these programs have children. If they don't have children and see no need to spend money on these programs, I hope they will reconsider those of us that DO have kids. I just have one of the many children in this town. She needs the library, she needs art, she needs music and she needs social time with her peers. The GCC provides 2 Wednesday after school "Kids nights"; fun, active times in a bigger space. The library offers more and varied activities for the kids on the opposite 2 Wednesdays as well as other programs that in addition connect the kids to the library and reading. The outdoor story walk is a pleasant stroll while reading the outdoor book. The reading hammocks are great for encouraging reading. The new mural behind the whale spectacularly highlights the whale. Anything that takes place in the library inspires knowledge of what the library holds. The extra gatherings make the library a familiar, comfortable place for children to visit and use the computers and check out materials.

I believe Leann Weikle's skills and enthusiasm, time, and effort have made the library a more welcome and enjoyable place to visit for all who attend the extra programs.

Please do not cut the library's budget.

Sincerely,



Camlyn Cacioppo P.O. Box 213 Gustavus, AK 99826