August is here and we still have weeks left to enjoy summer reading! Submit all pages by August 18th at 5 p.m. to get entered into the summer reading raffle!

Join the library August 19th for the Summer Reading Talent show! Show off your dance moves, singing chops, and any other talent in order to win first place for our first ever summer reading talent show. The Talent Show will also be our wrap up summer reading celebration, and we will have a bucket raffle of all the amazing prizes for people who have logged pages this summer. Sign up by calling the library or filling out this form: https://forms.gle/S95VTWyeGsnxPUoT96.

The day for Toddler time day is changing. August 16th is the last Wednesday Toddler time. We are changing the day to Monday so starting on August 28th, Toddler time will be every other Monday at 11 a.m. (depending on Cultural Center availability). Keep an eye our Facebook page for the most up to date dates.
AUGUST CALENDAR

Library closed

26 25 24 23 22 21 20

Library closed

Saturday 5 4 3 2 1

Library closed

Monday 31 30
The library has been in full swing this summer with a ton of great programs. The UAF Kuskokwim Campus has two Jesuit Volunteers, and together they planned some great community programs for adults. Some of our adult program highlights from this summer include our kick-off program “Finding Fiddleheads” as community member Carey Atchak taught us about the uses of the first edible plant to pop up in the spring. Our JVs, Olivia and Amy, also organized two kayaking programs, a paint night, and taught community members how to make candles using upcycled materials. I had a blast leading another Dutch Oven Cooking Class.

Our rockstar Children’s Librarian Mikayla organized a variety of very fun programs for youth. Our favorite artist Jimmy Riordan came to Bethel for a week and led a weeklong t-shirt design program with opportunities for adults and youth. Mikayla organized a STEM program called Edible Science Experiments and taught kids how to make and the science behind making butter, rock candy, and color changing lemonade. And don’t forget- we are mixing up our end of summer reading wrap up celebration on August 19th with a talent show! Call the library to sign up.

One of the highlights this summer was when myself, Mikayla and one of our primary community partners Michelle DeWitt travelled to Washington D.C. to accept the National Medal for Museum and Library Service on behalf of the library. The ceremony included a breakfast reception, an awards ceremony at the White House, and a party in the West Wing of the White House. First lady Jill Biden and Institute of Museum and Library Services Director Crosby Kemper presented us with the award. We will celebrate this recognition with the community at the First Friday event co-hosted with the Southwest Alaska Arts Group on September 1st at the cultural center.

Library staff enjoy a short break from programs in September as we gear up for a very busy fall with some very exciting community events co-sponsored by the library. We will work with community partners to host the Indigenous Peoples’ Day Celebration on October 9th, a Terrifying Tundra Tales storytelling event modeled after Arctic Entries on October 27th, and Trunk or Treat on Halloween. Project Homeless Connect will be held in early November. We are always looking for community members to get involved as volunteers for our programs and to help with fundraising to support our programs, so please contact us if you are interested in getting involved.

Thank you to Amy and Olivia for serving the community as Jesuit Volunteers this past year. We wish you the best!
Welcome New Jesuit Volunteer: Ian Poole

Why JVCNW?
If I am being completely honest, I cannot succinctly place my reasons for joining JVCNW. I would probably best describe it as a call, one which has been pulling me in the direction of service for quite some time. I want to do something worthwhile for others, to have a chance to understand new people, places, and things, and hope that my own skills and talents (limited though they may be) can be used to help those I meet.

What are you most excited about?
Libraries are among the most important buildings a town or city can have. Repositories such as these provide spaces for people to gather in the spirit of learning and community. To be a part of that is a gift which I don’t think I will fully appreciate until I am there, but nevertheless fills me with excitement. I look forward to every aspect of and about Bethel, the JV House, and the people I will meet!

Degrees and awards?
I have a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science cum laude, and have had the very special opportunity to present historical papers at various conferences. It is nice to be appreciated for your work, but in my opinion, it is the work itself and not the award at the end which is the true reward.

Where are you from?
I was born and spent most of my childhood in Dublin, Ireland. I moved to Columbus, Georgia and have spent the past four years going to college at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. I have a deep love for my home, and try to go back whenever I can, but I also have learned to love my adopted home of the Southern U.S. and I look forward to being able to call Bethel my home for the next year.

Other information?
I think it is more fun to learn this kind of thing through conversation, so I look forward to meeting you all! I will say that my interest is in museum work, and I currently work as assistant collections manager at the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, GA, and I absolutely love it!