

spark

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Supporting Dreams, Supporting Community



A Partner
for Life

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STAFF

Library Director

Pam Sandlian Smith
psmith@anythinklibraries.org

Communications Manager

Stacie Ledden
sledden@anythinklibraries.org

Editor

Ken Devine
kdevine@anythinklibraries.org

Graphic Designer

Jane Rabadi
jrabadi@anythinklibraries.org

Spark is what's created when Anythink customers walk into our libraries – it's a spark of creativity, of imagination and interest. Anythinkers offer the fuel.

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On the cover: Anythink Bennett Children's Guide Kaye Barnes poses with budding singer Sofae Berzon.

HOW TO REACH US

Questions or comments? Call us at 303.288.2001 or email us at itink@anythinklibraries.org.

FIND YOUR LOCAL ANYTHINK

Anythink Bennett

495 7th St. • Bennett, CO 80102
303.644.3303

Anythink Brighton

327 E. Bridge St. • Brighton, CO 80601
303.405.3230

Anythink Commerce City

7185 Monaco St. • Commerce City, CO 80022
303.287.0063

Anythink Huron Street

9417 Huron St. • Thornton, CO 80260
303.452.7534

Anythink Perl Mack

7611 Hilltop Cir. • Denver, CO 80221
303.428.3576

Anythink Washington Street

8992 Washington St. • Thornton, CO 80229
303.287.2514

Anythink Wright Farms

5877 E. 120th Ave. • Thornton, CO 80602
303.405.3200

Outreach/Anythink in Motion

8992 Washington St. • Thornton, CO 80229
303.288.2018

Visit us at anythinklibraries.org.

A Letter from the Director

"The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas."

– Dr. Linus Pauling

Rangeview Library District strives to provide an award-winning library for our citizens in Adams County. Our community deserves only the best libraries that support the endeavors of each and every member of our Anythink family.

As 2011 draws to a close, by any measure, Anythink has had yet another amazing year. Last December, I was in Washington, D.C., with Kay Riddle, Library Board President, and Donna Kelly, our community representative. We were there to accept Rangeview Library District's award as one of five libraries to win an IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Having the opportunity to receive the award from Mrs. Obama and to be part of such a festive reception at the White House in December was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Anythink continues to push the envelope. In June, our library received the John Cotton Dana Award for outstanding public relations from the American Library Association. This is the most prestigious honor a library can achieve for a public relations campaign. The creation and implementation of the Anythink brand received recognition from colleagues throughout the country. Anythink will also be one of four U.S.



Donna Kelly, left, and Pam Sandlian Smith with the First Lady.

libraries that will be featured in a new marketing book for libraries published by Neal-Schuman.

Anythink Wright Farms was one of the top 10 New Landmark Libraries featured by *Library Journal* this year. Sustainability, innovation, inspiration and delight were key evaluation elements in this competition. This library, like all of our buildings, creates an atmosphere of inspiration and adventure.

The Anythink story continues to inspire other libraries throughout the country and even international libraries. Outside Colorado, we've been asked to talk about our library in Montana, Texas, Florida, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Alaska, and even London.

Our next big ventures in 2012 include collaborating with the first round of libraries and museums that will be adding digital learning labs for teens at their organizations. Receiving a \$100,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to

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Anythink Provides Support, Value and Fun

Kressin relies on the library to research historical topics that pique her interest on television. And Anythink's genealogy resources – particularly free access to Ancestry.com – have jumpstarted a family genealogy project for Michelle Buendia, who visits the Perl Mack location.

For some customers, the Anythink value outweighs whatever travel inconveniences there might be as they literally go to great lengths to make it to the library. That would be the case for Deborah Benson, who makes the uphill hour-and-a-half trek from 104th and Irma to Anythink Huron Street with her daughter or granddaughter two to three times a week.



Bonnie McGrew, left, receives guidance from Wrangler Rachel Safe at Anythink Bennett.

In this economy, \$38 doesn't go very far. A family can easily spend that amount on a single trip to Walmart or King Soopers in buying groceries or filling the gas tank. At Anythink, that dollar amount goes a lot farther. Children benefit from rich programming and creative spaces. Job seekers count on library resources to find employment during difficult times. Teenagers enjoy a wide social circle and plenty of study areas. Book lovers find or download the best new titles. And those who can't make it in to the library use the services of Anythink in Motion, the district's bookmobile, or Anythink's online services.

2010 MAJOR COLORADO COUNTY LIBRARY INCOME	
Library	Income Per Capita
Arapahoe Library District	\$103.69
High Plains Library District	\$77.99
Douglas County Libraries	\$72.97
Mesa County Public Library District	\$53.69
Denver Public Library	\$50.13
Pueblo City-County Library District	\$44.75
Jefferson County Public Library	\$43.96
Poudre River Public Library District	\$43.75
Pikes Peak Library District	\$38.85
Rangeview Library District	\$38.05
Westminster Public Library	\$26.18
Aurora Public Library	\$9.28

Source: Library Research Service

Anythink Wright Farms customer and book lover Phyliss Adams can't say enough about the Anythink bargain, which includes the convenience of interlibrary loan and general cost savings.

"The value is immeasurable, it really is," she says. "If we had to go to the bookstore and buy the majority of the books that we read, we'd be broke." Typically, checking out five hard-copy books from the library is the equivalent to paying around \$125 from a bookstore.

While most customers feel that Anythink is well worth the price of admission, there's a greater truth: The experiences people have at the library transcend monetary measures with the fond memories and community bonds that

are formed. You can't put a price tag on sparking creative thinking in children through mySummer, receiving career counseling at Anythink Works that leads to that next big job, inspiring teenage dreams through the Teen Advisory Board, and making lifelong friends in book clubs like Anythink Brighton's Rowdy Readers book club.

And for customers like Jill Alexander and her family, Anythink is not just a partner, but a lifesaver.

"It was awesome because our kids went to the library and almost every day [the library] had an activity for them," she says. "Money wasn't as much of an issue because they had stuff to do. They didn't feel like they missed out."

Anythink Wins Grant Competition

Anythink is one of 12 museums and libraries in the U.S. to receive a grant funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to design a digital learning lab for teens at Anythink Wright Farms. The lab will be designed to improve digital literacy and to engage young people in hands-on learning, providing 21st century skills and knowledge they need to succeed in school, careers and life today.

Anythink received \$100,000 in funding from IMLS and the MacArthur Foundation to plan and design the learning lab at Anythink Wright Farms. Not only will this lab act as a national prototype, but it will also be a model for potential digital learning labs at additional Anythink locations.

"This project gives Anythink an opportunity to collaborate with key

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libraries and museums throughout the country that are working on common goals," says Anythink Director Pam Sandlian Smith. "Our staff will have an opportunity to develop challenging computer learning projects and support for our teens. This grant provides a path for furthering our development as a 21st century library."

The learning lab at Anythink Wright Farms will be developed in partnership with the University of Denver School of Library and Information Science and other existing community and business partnerships. The lab itself is tentatively scheduled for completion in March 2013.

"With the help of this grant, Anythink will be able to continue their outstanding work with Colorado's students and prepare our young people to meet the challenge of the global economy," says U.S. Representative Jared Polis (CO-02). "The innovative learning lab is an exciting and welcome addition to Thornton. I thank everyone at Anythink for their commitment to our community."

"Life on the Eastern Plains" Celebrated at Anythink Bennett

On Dec. 13, mixed-media artist Deidre Adams unveiled her much-anticipated textile quilt at Anythink Bennett that commemorates life on the Eastern Plains. Adams' breathtaking 8-square-foot quilt celebrates the spirit of the frontier and reflects colors, impressions and contributions as experienced by community members. Reception attendees were in awe of the mounted artwork that will quickly become a fixture

New Books: Check 'Em Out

We've got great new titles in January for children and adults at Anythink.

CHILDREN

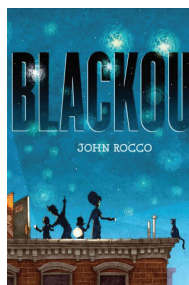
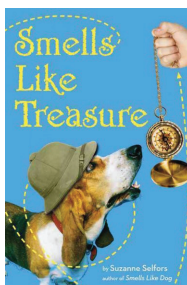
Blackout by John Rocco

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka

Smells Like Treasure by Suzanne Selfors

Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson

Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature by Joyce Sidman



ADULT

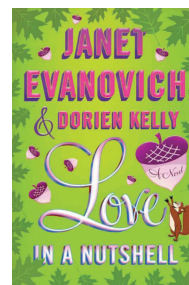
Private #1 Suspect by James Patterson

Love in a Nutshell by Janet Evanovich

I Got This: How I Changed My Ways and Lost What Weighed Me Down by Jennifer Hudson

American Sniper by Chris Kyle & Scott McEwen

Cell 8 by Anders Roslund & Borge Hellstrom



in the library, and were moved by how Adams incorporated the materials they contributed.

"It's absolutely beautiful, and I think it represents the plains pretty well," says Katherine Hitchcock. "I really feel very honored." Adds Peg Mancuso, "Thirty years from now, my grandkids will come in and be able to say 'Grandma's fabric is there.'"

The reception, which coincided with the library's Holiday Tea program, marked the conclusion of Anythink's first collaborative public art project, a series entitled "This Is Who We Are." The project pairs local artists with library customers and community members to create public art that will be displayed



Artist Deidre Adams and Mary Lou White at Anythink Bennett's public art reception.

at each of Anythink's seven locations in Adams County. These projects provide a transformative experience that gives customers a unique opportunity to discover their own creativity.

FACES OF ANYTHINK



Laci Henning and Diante Perkins have taken the Teen Advisory Board to new heights.

Dynamic Duo Gives Power to the Teens

Over the past several months, something special has been brewing with the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) at Anythink Washington Street. In creating new programs for their peers and proposing suggestions for the district as a whole, the eight-member panel is taking charge and making the TAB their own.

While the contributions come from everyone on the board, the driving forces behind the TAB's success are Youth Services Guide Laci Henning and sidekick Diante Perkins. The key to making the TAB great? Having each participant commit to the library and to one another. The results are original, entertaining programs like Swedish Cultural Night, Duct Tape Crafts and Retro Gaming. The latter, which debuted at the end of November, was not only Perkins' idea, but the first teen-led program under Henning's watch.

Perkins has become a great leader for the TAB with his warm, open nature that provides plenty of smiles and easy conversation. Henning loves that he's not afraid to voice his opinion

because it gives his peers confidence in voicing theirs.

Beyond that, one of Perkins' biggest assets is his technical expertise.

"Anytime I do a program that's really heavy in technology, I have some kind of guest. And he can be that guest," she says. "He opens my eyes to new ideas and things that we can do to bring more tech things into a program."

Although the TAB is not new, the program took on a different shape shortly after Henning came onboard at Anythink Washington Street last December. She reimagined the TAB as an entity with accountability, and made each board member sign a form stating that they'd promise to attend monthly meetings, help out with library programs and serve as an advocate for Anythink.

"I think we've created an environment where they want to be, so they're willing to give up their time doing other things," she explains. "They've made a commitment and they're standing by it."

Perkins has been a regular at Anythink Washington Street for the past three years. As an 18-year-old who's seen his fair share of moves between California and Colorado, he found stability in coming to the library every week. It wasn't long before he got to know everyone and began assisting other customers. In May, he made the easy transition into officially volunteering his time four days a week at Anythink Washington Street. As the only sidekick currently on staff, Perkins does whatever's needed, but tends to focus on helping pull holds, serving as a PC Partner on the computers, and handling the allCIRC DVD machine.

"When I first started at this branch, everyone said, 'You have to meet this person – he's one of your teens, he's gonna be here all the time,'" says Henning. "Diante was my very first patron that I really met by name. He was here that day, and he's been at almost every program ever since."

Before coming on as a guide at Anythink Washington Street, Henning began her time with the district in June 2010 as a wrangler at Anythink Wright Farms. After graduating from high school in Steamboat Springs, Colo., the library world wasn't her original destination – first it was fashion, then psychology. But when she decided that social work or psychology wasn't for her, she did some more soul-searching. Realizing that libraries were one of her favorite environments to be in, she went and got her MLIS from San Jose State University.

"I always wanted to work with kids," she says, noting her time spent as a student tutor and babysitter – and the fact that she majored in developmental psychology. "Even when I was in fashion school, I focused on kid's fashion."

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Perkins' academic path has also changed course. After deciding to stop attending a traditional high school, he enrolled in online high school at the Insight School of Colorado for his senior year. During his off-hours at the library, you'll find him doing schoolwork, participating in online class discussions, and writing papers.

His dream is to be admitted to a prestigious technical college where he can earn a degree and determine where in the IT world he wants to work. After enjoying a steady lifestyle in this profession, he eventually wants to go back to school to pursue a career in graphic design.

This blend of interests is telling of Perkins' nature. While he knows much more about hacking video game emulators and producing stop-motion animation than the average teenager, he's also something of an artist himself. He works on art that revolves around the online world of furry fandom, in

which people role-play as fictional anthropomorphic animal characters with human personalities and characteristics. Perkins' "fursona" is an arctic red fox, something to which he associates a large part of his identity. The common things they share? Wits, swiftness and the love of snow.

Snow was one of the things that brought Henning back to Colorado.

"I wanted the mountains. I wanted to snowboard. I wanted to be near my family. I wanted to be home," she says.

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The TAB's monthly meeting at Anythink Washington Street opens with a fun icebreaker and updates about upcoming programs. Then Henning introduces a non-academic topic such as a trending social issue, interesting guest speaker, or an uplifting story. The most recent topic was Steve Jobs' 2005 graduation speech at Stanford. In October, she had Scott

Liningier come in from Google to talk to kids about how they can parlay their love for technology into a job someday.

"I just want to give them some kind of inspiration, emotion and positivity," she says. "I feel they need some kind of place where this is presented to them."

After that, the group does a roundtable discussion about changes and new programs they'd like to see at the library. Though they're usually full of ideas, not all come to fruition. Others – like the new chairs the TAB selected for the teen section months ago – are approved, but take time to materialize.

"As much as I would love to see everything they wanted happen, I think it's really good for them to see how bureaucracy works, and how sometimes you just gotta get a new plan if you get turned down," Henning says.

It's this kind of philosophy that gives Anythink Washington Street's TAB the layers it has. While the immediate goal is to breed confidence and empower its members, the larger one is to create an environment that helps teens understand the realities of the world and grow as human beings. To that end, Henning has built the TAB with tenets of tolerance, acceptance and kindness among all.

"I think they've learned what it feels like to be accepted here, and I think they can make other people feel that way in their own circles outside of here," she says. "And if you do one kind thing or say one less derogatory comment, then the world's gotta be a little bit better, right?"

Perkins agrees. "It has to start somewhere."



Perkins helps Nadia Feinstein at Anythink Washington Street's Retro Gaming program.

Events Not to Miss



Anyteen Animoto

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 4-5 pm

As the first in a Make-Your-Own Movie or Music series, learn to animate your own film for February's Teen Oscar/Grammy night. Enjoy snacks and experimenting with Animoto software. Prizes for winning entries will be awarded at Oscar/Grammy Night (Wednesday, Feb. 22). Students in grades 6-12 and young adults welcome.

Anythink Huron Street
9417 Huron Street
Thornton, CO 80260
303-452-7534



Blogging 101

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6-7 pm

A blog gives you the ability to express your own voice on the web. Participants will learn more about blogging and set up a free Blogger account. Space is limited; registration required. Please visit our online calendar to register.

Anythink Wright Farms
5877 East 120th Avenue
Thornton, CO 80602
303-405-3200



Make a Wookiee Birdhouse

Friday, Jan. 20, 3:45 pm

Unleash your inner Star Wars guru and create your very own Wookiee birdhouse.

Anythink Bennett
495 7th Street
Bennett, CO 80102
303-405-3231

For a complete listing of Anythink events, visit anythinklibraries.org.

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fund this lab is yet another indicator that our library system is not only on the right track, but is one of the leading libraries in the country. Other libraries that received the grant include the San Francisco Public Library, Nashville Public Library, St. Paul Public Library, the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Columbus Metropolitan Library. It's an honor for Rangeview Library District to be competing in the arena of some of the top library systems in the country. With this honor comes both an obligation to continue to provide the best library service possible and an opportunity for our community to explore an adventure in inventing libraries for the 21st century. Libraries, just like businesses, have to continually

be reinventing themselves in order to remain relevant in this rapidly changing environment. The transition from print to digital media is happening, and Anythink is part of this revolution.

As we begin a new year, we hope that you and your family participate in this changing landscape of library services. We wish you all the very best in 2012.

– Pam Sandlian Smith

Help Support Anythink

On behalf of the Rangeview Library Friends Foundation, thank you! A gift in support of Anythink – in any amount – empowers us to provide the best possible services to our community. If you would like to make a donation, please visit anythinklibraries.org/donate-now.



When you're done reading *SPARK*, share with a friend, give back to your librarian, or recycle.