We’ve reached that time of year when, despite the continued high temperature and humidity, you notice that the leaves are just beginning to think about turning, and if you’re extra quiet, you can almost hear the sound of the school bell. The end of summer and start of the school year is always a significant time of transition and reflection, and this year, I’m particularly grateful for the wonderful and BUSY summer we had at the Roslyn Branch Library and the Abington Free Library.

Once we reopened our doors last summer, it became abundantly clear how much you missed coming to our libraries. The numbers tell the tale. This summer more than 500 children, teens, and adults participated in our Summer Reading Challenge online, reading books to win prizes, and 3,000 people attended over 240 programs. Over 450 people attended our first annual Summer Reading Kick-Off Party alone, and we saw more than 425 people when we took our show on the road to nearly two dozen outreach events like Abington Night Out, Summer Meals Program at the Crestmont Clubhouse, Roslyn Community Day, Montgomery County’s Juneteenth Celebration, and more. I had the pleasure of attending several of these events—I got to be the (temporary) tattoo artist-in-residence at Abington Night Out!—and observed and participated in some wonderful summer reading programs—including a very loud and cathartic teen art program where we created art by hammering nails into a wooden board. I’m really proud of the work that the library staff did this summer and continue to do year round.

Beyond programs, our books were flying off the shelves this summer! Year to date, our adult books have circulated 69 percent more than last year at this time, and children’s is at a whopping 147 percent—from nearly 33,000 last year to over 80,000 this year. We’ve had almost five times as many visitors to the library so far this year as we did at the same time last year.

All this to say, as we make our way into the fall, it feels like—and forgive me for the book metaphor, but it’s an occupational hazard—we’re turning the page and are at the start of a new chapter. I for one can’t wait to see what happens next. — Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Executive Director
Borrow a HotSpot or Chromebit with built-in WiFi, and get connected to the Internet. Just go to abingtonfreelibrary.org, where you’ll find the online catalog, resources, streaming content and programs for all ages.

**In a Halloween Mood Take-and-Makes**

**Teen Programs**

**Children’s Programs**

**Rosllyn Programs**

**Library Events**

**Teen Volunteer Events**

**Adult Literacy Program**

**Information for the Friends of the Abington Township Libraries**

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