

Running a Region-wide Storybird Printing Program

Program Outline:

Wheatland Regional Library is made up of 45 branches. Using the Storybird platform we let kids get creative and write their own books. Published books are then printed in full colour at our central administrative office, assembled, and sent out to the creator's home library for pick up.

Program Setup Details:

In order to know which branch to send the finished product, each branch is set up as its own class in the Storybird program. Information on how to sign up was then distributed via postcards available for pickup in each local branch. The postcards were personalized for each branch with the class code that Storybird assigns. This allows the centralized facilitator to know where to send a book once it has been created. The reverse of the postcard contained simple instructions on creating a student account with Storybird and how to register in the right "class".

Posters were also distributed to every community encouraging kids to come to the library and tell us their stories. The program ran mostly as an independent project that kids could do either from home or on the library's public computers.

When printing the books, it was helpful to assign a "grade" so that staff could easily see from the class screen which books were outstanding. We also included a brief note letting the author know when their book would be ready to pickup and at what branch.

Supporting Programming:

A few Storybird kick-off programs were held at branches. Multiple computers were used to register kids and then start creating their books. While interest was high, there wasn't enough time to complete a book. Most authors went home and started a new book rather than finishing the one from the event.

Several branches held "author readings" or "book launches" for their budding authors at the end of the summer. These were great community building events and the kids were very proud of their achievements. We even had one branch partner their Storybird readings with an actual author visit. We've also had some uptake by teachers in the winter months. After their class wrote books they came to the public library for a small reception and to receive their book.

Outcomes:

Committing to print out every book published is time consuming, but the experience of writing a book and having a physical copy delivered into your hands is one that every child found magical. Our usage doubled in the second year with twice as many authors creating twice as many stories.

Author:

Cassandra Mireau,

Wheatland Regional Library.

cmireau@wheatland.sk.ca



SUMMER OF STORYBIRD

Hey kids! Do you have an interesting story to tell? Want to write your own book? The public library wants to help!

Sign up for a Storybird account and start writing your very own picture book. When you are done, Wheatland Regional Library will print and bind a copy for you!

Your book will be sent to your local library where you can pick them up and show them off.



Warman Branch

Class Code:



Getting Started

1. Go to [storybird.com](https://www.storybird.com) and register for a new account by clicking "Sign Up for Free."
2. Choose to create a Student Account (This is important!).
3. Create a user name but don't use your real name! Fill out the rest of the form. Adding an email address is optional.
4. Choose "Skip this Step" if you do not want to create an avatar.
5. To join Wheatland, click on the class tab and enter the class code from the front of this card. This is the branch your finished book will be sent to.
6. To start writing your book, click on "Write" and choose which artwork you would like to use. Use the search buttons to find different choices. See the help menu for lots of tips.
7. Once you have perfected your book, add a cover and a title. Click "Publish" in the Menu button when you are done.
8. You will receive a comment on your book once it is printed letting you know when you can go pick your book up.