Summer Experience has concluded! We got great verbal feedback from parents and children who attended, as well as patrons and visitors who walked over to the program area to see what all the excitement was about. On that note, Ann Brooks, our YS library advisor who has been with Imagine IF a combination of 20 years, has officially retired. August 13 was her last day and we are going to miss her, her incredible ideas and enthusiasm. We had a farewell party for her during her last story time and we got to hear incredible stories of how she impacted the lives of people of all ages. We are grateful to have had her as a part of our staff.

Columbia Falls branch closed Wednesday, August 3rd, due to the concerning nature of donated books with bullets that were put in the Kalispell alley drop. We are grateful for the immediate action of our director and leadership team in dealing with the matter in a way that made our staff feel safe. The staff in C-Falls did stay in the library and worked while we were closed to the public. It was stressful for the next week but we trusted our team in Kalispell was dealing responsibly with the matter.

Sam Crompton came up and installed the third Windows computer and so far, all three seem to be working great. He plans to replace the rest of the Userful computers throughout the month of September. Sam and Teri are also working on getting our copier replaced with a more efficient and inexpensive model, as our current one had a broken part that was no longer being manufactured.

Columbia Falls is a landing spot for travelers and seasonal workers during the Summer. Our seating areas have been full throughout the day with visitors. Our hotspots have been circulating nonstop. We have had 2 people come in and inform us they got a job thanks to our computers and internet access. Canada’s ArriveCan App has given travelers some issues, and we have seen several couples coming in to use our computers to secure their pass into Canada. It takes visitors an hour or two to complete the sign up, and it demands a lot of our attention, but it is always rewarding to see them leave with peace of mind.

Furniture for the Teen Zone will be delivered by the end of this month. Sean Anderson and Tony Edmundson will be coming up sometime next month to discuss its arrangement. Our floor furniture is still getting upholstered, and we plan to send out the last batch of seating to get done within the month.