



## LEAP and Copper Queen Library end of summer extravaganza

By Christine Steele

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BISBEE – Parents and friends and family members packed the auditorium at the Bisbee Royale on Friday afternoon for LEAP and the Copper Queen Library’s Summer Reading Program year-end extravaganza.

They had a lot to celebrate, too as this year’s program was about a lot more than reading.

Friday’s event highlighted all of the classes from both programs at Leap’s new home at the Bisbee Royale, said Alison Williams, LEAP’s program director and the assistant program coordinator for the Copper Queen Library.

The Summer Reading Program included eight field trips, essentially taking the library out of the library. Between those events and the LEAP program, more than 150 kids got to learn some new things this summer. Kids in the library’s Summer Reading got to try their hand at Victorian photography in Evergreen Cemetery, got a tour of the wastewater treatment plant to learn how things work; studied desert plants on the Laverne Williams Arboretum botanical tour, got to explore their artistic side plein air painting in Grassy Park; and enjoyed a special walking tour of the Queen Mine. LEAP students got to experience dance, theater, music, art, architecture, fabric arts, creative writing, altered books and more.

Friday night’s program included a play, creative dance class by the Bisbee Leapers dance company led by Williams, a performance Danielle Panther’s music class, Gretchen’s Hills’ writing class performed a reading, the astronomy class performed an astronomy song, and students artwork and writing was on display in an art exhibit. Student writing from the creative writing class was made into a literary journal which the Copper Queen Library published under its new literary press, Copper Prints Press. This issue, called Copperopolis, is just the beginning, Williams said, with a poetry chapbook competition planned for the near future.

The art show included a sample of the visual art the students created from the altered books, to the Victorian photography, and spine poetry. The chess club held a tournament and played their final chess game in the tournament between Scout Day and Paloma Asaro, which ended in a stalemate, Williams said. “Now, they will have to play another game for a championship.”

“All of these new programs and collaborations wouldn’t be possible without the leadership and direction of Jason Macoviak, now the permanent Library Manager.”

Macoviak was named the new library manager last week. He had been serving as the interim manager for the past six months.

“We had over 100 people attending Friday night,” Williams said. “Including members of the community who didn’t have kids in the programs. All of these people came to enjoy and support our program, which is a really unique thing for a children’s program. Thanks goes out to our 20 volunteers, 24 LEAP teachers, four assistant teachers all the volunteers and students who worked incredibly hard to create all aspects of this show and performance. This was all about the joy of education arts activities to make our children grow in this community. The library will be collaborating more with the school district and LEAP to give our kids as many opportunities as we can.”

