The Summer Reading Program was in full swing during July. Preschool story times included craft to extend stories. Craft days offered on July 10 (Egyptian cartouches) and 25 (maple seed dragonflies) for school age children were very well attended. Our scavenger hunt on July 18 had an unexpected result. The Preston family brought in a skull for the first item on the list which was “bone”. It had been in their garage for several years in a cardboard box. They were asked if it could be on display in the Children’s Room until school started in the fall. The next day Mrs. Preston brought in two other bones from the same creature to add to the counter display. Now, the collection has grown to include another mammal skull and the jawbone of a rodent. Children and adults are encouraged to figure out which critters used to have the bones. Two events were shared with the Windham Recreation Summer Camps. Peter Boie, Magician for Non-Believers was held at the Windham Middle School on Monday, July 22 and attended by all three of the camps as well as the library’s patrons. Windham Parks and Recreation and the Friends of the Windham Public Library joined forces to cover the expense. The Discover Camp was invited to come to the annual Ice Cream Party on July 31. The weather was glorious and the back lawn of the library was the perfect setting for sundaes and sharing time with new and old friends. Thanks go to the Friends of the Windham Public Library for providing the funds. Author Brenda Reeves Sturgis presented a program about writing on Saturday, July 27. Children enjoyed her book 10 Turkeys in the Road, using a real turkey call, and hearing her recite a story she hopes will someday be a book. She also shared pictures from her two new books that are slated to be released in 2014.

Pass usage was constant this month. In addition to the high numbers there were many phone calls and in person patron queries and requests for them.

July 15-17 the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Historical Society, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, offered training for the 2013-2014 four Maine grant awardee groups. “Local and Legendary: Maine in the Civil War” brings historical societies, libraries, and educational groups together to focus on local stories for the sesquicentennial. One of the grants was awarded to Windham and Gorham, centered around the powder mills on the Presumpscot River that supplied 25% of the Union Army’s gun powder. The three day classes, readings, and resource sharing that took place at Bowdoin in Brunswick was topped off by a tour of Joshua Chamberlain’s home. Watch for more information on the Local and Legendary grant throughout the coming year.

Laurel T. Parker
Children’s Librarian