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For Immediate Release

September is Library Card Sign-up Month

(ESCANABA, MI) – Today’s libraries are about more than books. They are creative educational spaces for learners from birth to high school and beyond. September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time when the Escanaba Public Library joins with the American Library Association and public libraries nationwide to make sure that every student has the most important school supply of all – a free library card.

Librarians provide important resources to families whose children are at the earliest stages of development, by teaching parents and caregivers the components of early literacy which help children develop the basic tools for school readiness. The Escanaba Public Library offers story times geared specifically towards babies, toddlers and preschoolers and partners with the Delta Schoolcraft Great Start Collaborative to offer monthly literacy programs for families.

Older students can access high-speed Internet, digital tools and the opportunity to work with trained professionals on how to use them. Librarians provide guided training in digital media and grow digital literacy skills. Libraries also provide equity of access to digital tools and media, which has become increasingly important in areas where students are less likely to have a computer or internet access in the home.

“Our library provides resources and programs for students of all ages,” says library director, Carolyn Stacey. “For the youngest children we offer early literacy and storytimes to encourage school readiness, for older children and teens we supplement education with hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) programs, and for nontraditional students we offer online learning opportunities and support.”

Resources at the Escanaba Public Library are available to anyone who has a library card. Students can turn to the library for materials, programs and knowledgeable library staff that support academic achievement. Free online resources to help with education and research are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The library is celebrating the month with various contests and promotions. Throughout September, every child who signs up for a new library card will receive a Friends of the Escanaba Public Library backpack. The library is also collecting donations of pet food and supplies for the Delta County Animal Shelter, in keeping with the national theme which features Snoopy as mascot.

For more information on how to sign up for a library card, visit the Escanaba Public Library in person at 400 Ludington Street in Escanaba, or visit the library online at www.escanabalibrary.org.