

October 2021 Youth Services Report

Story Time Programs:

On Mondays at 10:30, I have Storytots Story Time and this is for ages 0 – 3. During this story time, we read stories, sing songs, learn nursery rhymes, dance and jump around, and the kids have time to play at the end. On Thursdays at 10:30, I have Preschool Pals Story Time and this is for ages 3 – 5. During this story time, each week has a different theme (colors, letters, shapes, etc). We read books, sing songs, and say rhymes that go along with the theme of the week. I do allow kids to come to both and don't turn anyone away. I am requiring registration due to the fact that when the weather gets colder, I will move the story times inside and I want to be able to keep attendance at a safe and comfortable number.

Storytots: 3 Mondays, 36 total in attendance

Preschool Pals: 3 Thursdays, 20 total in attendance

Library Programs:

Grab and Go Kids Crafts: This is a weekly craft kit that people can register for. We also stick a craft kit in any bundle of kid's books we see on the holds shelf. Each week I start out with around 25 kits plus the number of kits that people register for. Each week I am making up between 30 and 40 kits. In October we had 135 craft kits distributed.

Grab and Go Teen Craft: Autumn Leaf Mason Jar Candle- Those who were interested received a kit that contained a mason jar, faux leaves, mod podge, a foam brush, and a flameless tea light. 12 teens participated

Offsite Story Time: Every Tuesday from 10:00 to 10:30 I do an offsite story time at Partners in Parenting with their preschool class. I try to pick books that have a theme to them, and sometimes use the books that I use during my Preschool Pals story time. There are around 13 children each week.

Special October Programs:

Kids Fire Safety Program: I teamed up with Fairmount Library for this program. We held a fire safety program at Fairmount Fire Department on Thursday, October 14th at 10:00 a.m. During this program, kids learned about fire safety at home, the different jobs the people at the fire department have, and they got to see a firefighter dressed from head to toe in his full fire protection gear. They were also able to walk around and look at the fire trucks as well. Each child left with their own firefighter hat and a goodie bag with coloring books, crayons, and information how to set up an exit plan at home. We had 54 people in attendance, 33 kids and 21 adults. After this program, Brenda and I spoke about doing more programs similar to this with other agencies around the area: police, a dentist, etc.

Pumpkin Decorating: For this program, we had families register to decorate a pumpkin that they would then bring back to the library for us to use decorations for Halloween. The Friends of Maxwell Library were very generous and purchased all 25 pumpkins that we used for this program. Thank you Friends! We are hoping to make this an annual program.

Mischief at Maxwell: This was our version of a Halloween party for families. We had games set up to play, grab and go craft kits that families could take, and candy. Kids were encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes. We had Halloween decorations outside. We also had all the pumpkins that families decorated on display for people to look at. We had 33 people come, 19 kids and 14 adults. We are hoping to make this be an annual event and we were happy with the attendance for our first time having this.

Professional Development:

When not doing programs, I was very busy with training sessions on using the new computer system we will be using to check in and out books, catalog books, place holds, etc.

NYLA 2021: (New York Library Association) Annual conference

This conference actually just happened last week, but since there is no December meeting I thought I'd highlight a few things that I did while at the conference. This year it was in Syracuse, which was nice and not something that happens often. The keynote speaker this year was Robert Kolker, author of the nonfiction book *Hidden Valley Road*. The book is about a family overcome with Schizophrenia and the major achievements in our understanding of mental health. He spoke about all the research he did for the book and all the research the family underwent as well.

Some of the other sessions I went to were:

- Youth Services Table Talks: these sessions are meant to be sort of like speed dating. The room is set up with tables and chairs around. At each table, there is a different presentation going on and you get to pick which tables you want to visit. One table talk I went to was about a small library in the Adirondacks. The person who spoke told us about how she has gotten people in the town to record stories of life there and then they created a website where anyone can go and read the stories. I also went to one about upcoming children's books that will be coming out or just came out.
- I went to a session hosted by the Brooklyn Public Library about Teen Engagement. The library staff at NYPL put on a 6 month virtual workshop for teens. There were weekly sessions on Children's Lit, Library Services, Child Development, Creative Labs, etc. There were also mentoring sessions the teens attended. 3 or 4 teens were paired up with member of the library staff where they spoke about a certain topic and had a space to just talk. Teens who participated had independent work that had to be done each week to prepare for the next week and they were asked to participate in at least 10 other library programs of their choice. This is a very big project to undertake, but a couple of the youth services librarians from DeWitt and OnFree and I spoke afterwards about possibly doing something on a smaller scale together. We shall see!

There are a few virtual, on demand sessions that I still want to attend but haven't yet. Overall, I feel like I got a lot out of going to the conference. It's always nice to just be able to network and speak with other librarians both locally and from around the state. It was nice that the conference was in person again.

Submitted by Melissa Lewandowski November 10, 2021.