



## **Alganssee Branch**

Hello Spring!

We have better attendance with unscheduled programs. When Adults and children come in to borrow books, we have lots of books and crafts out for all ages. We still have a program planned for every other Saturday of the month.

Saint Patrick's Day Craft was creating green jewelry. The next Saturday was lots of spring coloring and reading books.

Our One Book One Community Book discussion was a success. Jeanne Berg was a wonderful leader for our discussion. We all enjoyed her. There were 8 patrons attending.

We have been spring cleaning, dusting shelves and books.

I have been ordering new books and DVDs for all ages.

Everybody welcome at Alganssee Branch of the Branch District Library. Come and check us out!

Respectfully Submitted  
Jan Clark

## **Bronson Branch**

April has been another busy month so far. During the end of March, Steve and I attended Anderson school's Kindergarten Round-up. This year I was even given the opportunity to speak in front of all the parents and kids about library services, something new they allowed us to do. We had families visit our table and take information regarding library cards and District programs.

The next week we attended Ryan school's spring program "In The Spot-Light", a fun and very busy evening with many, many, families visiting. Mr. Heifner provided us with bait to draw people to our table (a plate of cookies) and once there we shoved a leftover summer reading bag at them and started giving them lots of take home information plus fun things for the kiddos. A super fun evening.

We will be attending St. Mary's Kindergarten round-up April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will also be visiting classrooms to read to the students and talk to them about the library.

I attended MLA Spring Institute in Frankenmuth along with other branch managers. We all came back with ideas and bags full of books. Break-out Sessions I attended: *Shelf Ready STEAM Kits on any Budget* (really exciting session lots of ideas!) *School Outreach on a Shoestring and Beyond*, *Teen Programs in a Box*, *Brookie Says: Dive Into Your K-12 Market with Me!* *Get Noticed: No-Cost Tools to Promote Your Programs*. We attended the *Cool Things My Library Does* event and again picked up lots of ideas and ate pizza.

On short notice, we decided we needed some special programs during Spring Break. (Who's idea was that?!) Tuesday, we had a *Noon Movie* (47 attended), right after that *Kids Coloring Cornucopia* (33 attended), then Games! Wii, Legos (25 attended). Wednesday another *Noon Movie* (42) *Kids Coloring* (28) *Teen Club* (8). Thursday, we had *Puzzle Palooza!* and 30 children, teens and adults showed up. The program was held from 11:00-5:00. *Adult Coloring* in the evening. *Friday Tales* on Friday morning.

Teen Club has a *Book Tasting* program this month. Next month will be *Mystery Month* and we plan to hold *Mystery Theatre* programs during both Teen Club and Kidz Crew.

The Friends of the Bronson Branch Library have their spring book sale April 11-15. Every month we think it will slow down but every month it seems to be picking up speed. Guess we just hold onto our hats and keep moving!

Lynnell Eash

### **Coldwater Branch**

The Coldwater Branch continues to busy with activities. Whether it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor full of patrons reading the newspapers or magazines, the groups of patrons working on homework together, or parents bringing in their kids for the weekly entertaining story times! It is nice to have the place buzzing during the day and into the evening.

#### **Adult Programming:**

- **Coloring is Not Just for Kids!** The weekly adult coloring class on Tuesdays continues on. There is a core group of participants who look forward to this weekly. Stop by the second floor and see their pictures displayed in the display cases!
- **One Book, One Community Discussion:** Jeanne Berg facilitated a great discussion regarding the book "Peace Like a River". Participants were treated to refreshments (provided by the Coldwater Friends of the Branch District Library), a quiz testing their book knowledge, and then a lively discussion.
- **A Thousand Letters Home:** Author Teresa Irish, presented her book "A Thousand Letters Home: One WWII Soldier's Story of War, Love and Life" The book is based on her father's letters from while serving in WWII.
  - Patron Feedback from the event highlighted the inspirational and educational aspects of the letters. One comment that we received was

that a patron had picked up the book by chance and happened to find on the authors website her author talk at BDL. She was ecstatic that she could meet the author in person after reading such a great story.

- Macro/Micro Photography: Another great photography workshop provided by Dennis James. These are popular events and BDL appreciates the wealth of wisdom that Dennis shares with every class!
- Poetry Contest: Did you know that April is National Poetry Month. Aspiring Poets are encouraged to bring in their original poems and they will be entered into the contest. The top three poems will be awarded cash prizes. Poems are on display on the first floor and we are always looking for more entries.

#### Teen Programming:

- Spring Break: Teen programming was scheduled every day during Spring Break! These activities were set up in the Teen Space and teens could come in throughout and have something to do.
  - Coloring Day
  - Blackout Poetry
  - Board Games,
  - Book Origami
  - My personal favorite Candy Scavenger Hunt!
- Teen Trivia Night: Jessica put Teen brains to the test in a variety of trivia categories including: Disney, Sports, General, Pop Culture, and History. Teens were challenged to beat the BDL staff members high score and it was a tie! The Teen Trivia winner (with a high score of 14!) was awarded a gift certificate to The Patio.

#### Kids' Place:

- Weekly story times remain popular and well attended. They keep the staff busy and parents happy! One can always tell when it is close to the start of story time with Linda or Angie when the groups of parents and grandparents that come marching in!
- March Book Madness Winner: The official winner is a classic "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss. The top 3 brackets winners were awarded prizes.
- Michigan Reads Program: Kids Place celebrated the 2017 selection for the Michigan Reads, "Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum". Michigan Reads is model after the One Book, One Community and strives to encourage early childhood literacy and takes place every year in March. This year's selection, readers wonder what happens when Toad get stuck in gum melting in the road. It is a great story relaying on friendship and teamwork to solve their "sticky" situation.
  - Patron Feedback from the event was positive with everyone saying the program met their expectations. The families, and kids, appreciated the interactive elements and one grandparent mentioned the story had a great life lesson on how to work well with others.
- Held Book Page Art and Story Book Art

- Spring Break Staycation: Oh what fun was had in Kids Place and good thing Kids had a busy schedule due to the weather not exactly cooperate during Spring Break. Throughout that week a wide variety of programs were scheduled, including a Lego Night, Family Story-time, American Red Cross Pillow Case Fire Safety, Yoga, The Giving Tree Program, and Poetry thru the Arts.
- Comments received from Spring Break Staycation Events included:
  - We love the library!
  - Great variety of classes offered at the library and great exercise (YOGA)!
  - Loved the information about fire safety and the emergency kits!



For the last few months we have had patrons fill out hearts on Reasons they Love their Library. Hearts are hung on the first floor right on the stairs- here are some of the responses we have been getting. It is great to hear how our library impacts our patrons!



Submitted by:  
Kimberly Feltner

## **Sherwood Branch**

Greetings and Happy Easter from Sherwood:

The Sherwood Branch is preparing for some cool Mother's Day projects! This Thursday for Tween craft time we will be painting terracotta pots and then will follow up next Thursday with planting flower seeds in them. Hopefully we will see some nice growth in time for Moms big day!

I have been in contact with the flower shop in Union City as we are working on putting an adult craft together in May. More details to follow!

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Spring Institute workshop last month that was held in Frankenmuth. I came away with some great Summer Reading ideas and am quite eager to put them into action.

Sincerely,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

## **Union Twp. Branch**

Our adult winter Spring into Reading contest was a huge success. We had 21 adults complete the program. The seven winners each received a nice gift that they were able to choose from a variety of gifts. All the adults stated that they could not wait for the summer reading program so they can sign up again.

Our One Book One Community was not a great success. Only two patrons read the book. Many others felt the book was not something they would read.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the board for allowing staff to attend conferences. I attended the Spring Institute this year and was very excited about the sessions I attended. The sessions I attended were Shelf Ready STEAM Kits on any Budget, Uke Can Make Music, Teen Programs in a Box and Brookie Says: Dive into Your K-12 Market with Mel! I have brought home with me many ideas for this library. I am looking at STEAM kits and seeing how to incorporate them into our programming. I was able to learn a few chords on a ukulele, programs for teens and learning more about Mel. In the Brookie (Mel) session, I received a booklet that will be helpful for me to learn more about what Mel has to offer our patrons. I am happy to say that all the keynote speakers were awesome. Once again thanks for the opportunity to attend this conference

I am looking forward to our Easter egg hunt on Friday, April 14 and my visits to the preschool and the Community Unlimited after school program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Gottschalk