



Alganssee Branch

On Feb 4th, I attended a staff meeting for the new Evergreen.

The craft we had for February was a candy flower. Five Ladies attended. All had a good time and took home a special Valentine.

Our craft for March is Marching in with a Ladybug. Everybody is invited, on March 16th from 9 to 12. A little painting is involved.

Lots and lots of new books for children, Juvenile, YA and Adults. Come in and check us out!

Any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Alganssee Branch Manager

Bronson Branch

February and March could be called "School Activities" months. I was able to meet with Anderson Elementary School principal Kerri Jent to discuss upcoming school programs we could be involved in. We also talked about our respective summer reading programs and how we can help children to participate in both programs. I was able to attend St. Mary's Kindergarten Roundup this year and met their new principal Angela Johnston. Was able to talk to several families about BDL programs.

Attended Anderson's Literacy Night and again spoke with families about the benefits of a BDL card and our summer reading programs.

Wednesday March 13, we participated in "United We Read" by reading to three classes at St. Mary's School. United We Read is sponsored by Branch County United Way and this year they had nearly 200 volunteers reading in every preschool – fifth grade class in the county.

Coming up yet in March will be Kindergarten Roundup at Anderson and Literacy in the Spotlight at Ryan. We will be there! Steve Watson and I will be setting up a table during Science Olympiad at Bronson High School. Families from all over the county attend so it's a great place to have a BDL table setup.

We ended February with a puzzle mat give away. Anyone borrowing a jigsaw puzzle during the month of February was able to put their name in for the drawing. We had 26 people participate in the giveaway.

Quincy Branch

I viewed three webinars over the last month, each of which were informative. With the Summer Reading Program 2019 theme being "A Universe of Stories", there are many program and event ideas that can take place at libraries across the country. One webinar, "NASA in your Neighborhood", focused on the space aspect and provided helpful connections for information.

I also viewed the ALA Youth Media Awards winners webinar on "How to Create Buzz in your Library". Many of the featured titles are already on Quincy's shelves and in our library system. The "Booklist Spring Picture Books" webinar proved the same results.

A Mystery Tasting teen event was held with small, but fun attendance. "Are You Smarter than a Librarian", "Custom Wand Making" and "Puzzle Races" were other teen events held at our branch. The winner for the puzzle races won in under 30 minutes, completing the 100-piece puzzle without the box cover to view.

Our adult Winter Blahs contest winner was pleased with the great goodie basket they received. 24 adults participated in our February contest.



The One Book, One County book discussion at the Quincy Branch will be held this Saturday from 10-12.

I read to two Jennings 4th grade classes on March 13, which was the 7th year for the United We Read day. 191 readers were in every school in Branch County in every Preschool-5th grade classroom

Summer Reading Program events are being planned and Branch Managers are brainstorming to create a fun summer for all ages.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Wood

Sherwood Branch

Greetings from Sherwood!

We are well on our way into the new year and we've hit the year running!

Several new programs have been added to our calendar of events and our numbers are growing with attendees. We've incorporated a Wii Fun Day Friday, which if you hadn't guessed already, is a program we're doing each week at the library. The kids love it, and Maria and I do, also! Lots of laughter and some friendly competition has definitely made this a hit! Not only do we have the maximum number of players participating every week, eventually we'll be adding a sign-up sheet. So far, the kids have been amazing about taking turns and sharing the controllers!

We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday earlier this month, as we continue to celebrate the month of March because March is all about reading!

I continue to travel to the Elementary School in Union City each week to read to two different classes. I've included a picture from the preschool class - I will also be visiting Union City schools to promote our library services at some of their upcoming evening events later this month and into next month, as well.

All materials have been ordered for the 2019 Summer Reading Program - It's right around the corner already!

Until next month,
Respectfully,

Traci Counterman - BDL Sherwood Branch Manager



Union Branch

- I would like to thank John for the Webby Training that was offered to all staff. John did a wonderful job of explaining the new look and the many facets of our Evergreen System.
- This month I was able to watch a summer reading webinar for kids called A Universe of Stories.
- We are now having a story hour each week. It has been slow getting the little ones here but the ones that have been here for the story hour are enjoying themselves. I am sure as more patrons learn about story hour our numbers will increase.

- Our adult Spring into Reading has started and will continue until March 20th the first day of Spring. At this time, we have 12 adults signed up.
- Community Action is using our library for a senior meal voucher program. Each month seniors are allowed anywhere from 3 – 5 meal vouchers to local restaurants they can use for a lunch or dinner meal at no cost to the seniors. Two hundred and sixty vouchers were handed out in February. Our local Broadway Grill is the only restaurant in town that is currently using this program. There are also restaurants in Coldwater and Quincy. While the seniors are waiting to talk to the rep I have been engaging them about the many programs offered at the library. I had one senior sign up for a library card and many others just looking around. I enjoy talking to the many seniors that are coming in and feel if we can help just one senior learn more of what we have to offer; it is a good day.
- Ten area adults signed up for our mason jar craft. Not only did they have fun talking to each other but made a solar mason jar craft.





The Coldwater Branch has officially opened the 2019 Seed Library. We put out a call for help to Branch County for additional seeds. Luckily, we received two anonymous donations that will keep the Seed Library well stocked for the growing season. The Branch County Literacy Council donated several packages of wildflower seeds. Also, Biz Aid Recycling of Coldwater donated 40 seed starter kits that are available to hand out! The Seed Library is located on the first floor of the branch!



Library Staff Highlighting Seed Library



Until the end of April, stop and see our festive Spring Display Case highlighting the work of Shelley Avra. Her intricate rock painting adorns both cases and is a pleasure to view. The display case is open to any person wanting to share their prize collections or craft abilities. The cases are locked and items are on loan to the library for approximately one month.

Adult Programs:

- The Winter Reading Challenge was a success for the month of February. We had 67 adults participate who read 274 books over a 4-week period. Congratulations to the follow winners: Susan Fisher (El Cerrito gift card), Kathy Deck (Jeannie's Diner), Marge Inde (The Patio), and Mary Jones (NCG Movies gift card)
- Coming up are several great programs including the One Book, One County talks on March 30 and April 3 and "Cake" Floral Arrangement on April 13.
- Spring into the Library with several programs including Prep Your Plot, a drop-in program where one can make a garden stake and a seed bomb! An author visit is scheduled where the program "People, Plants, and Pollinators: The Herbal Connection" to keep gardening at the front of your mind!

Kids' Place:

- ProMedica Coldwater Regional Hospital did a fantastic job sharing heart healthy diet and exercise during the Healthy Hearts held on Saturday, February 23rd. We look forward to having Bridget Barle back this summer to share exercise for our future astronauts during our version of Astronaut Training Camp.
- What fun we had during our Tween Club Valentine STEM program. We did everything from cup-stacking to engineering electrical circuits for "light up my life" cards. The Squishy circuits using play dough were also a favorite. All

those in attendance took home a kit to make more “electrified” Valentine cards. Our next event will be plastic art in the style of Chihuly.

- Our March is Reading month challenge has 89 young patrons currently busy reading to meet the goals in order to earn prizes from the Battle Creek Bombers. Our families are enjoying working on the weekly scavenger hunts. These involve finding books and other materials within our collection. (a great way for patrons to become familiar with our offerings!) For every row completed, the patron (child) gets to enter a drawing held on April 1 for an Amazon gift card valued \$25.
- Always a highlight in March, a visit from the Cat in the Hat led a lively group of children astray with stories, games and crafts. A special shout-out to Laurie VanDosen and Christy Fraley for helping with the craft tables and clean-up!
- Miss Gracie was back with her Gracious Art. She and the children/adults in attendance had fun learning how to sketch and paint a pot of gold and rainbow in honor of St. Patrick’s Day.
- Linda Dull, has been busy visiting various preschools to read during the month of March. The books are provided for free from the Library of Michigan under the Ready to Read Program. And even better the book is a great lead in to our summer Reading as it all about the stars, “Touch the Brightest Star”.



St. Charles Elementary Students

Teen Space:

- The first Smash Brothers tournament was a success for the Teen Services Department. A group gathered to challenge each other’s gaming skills including challenging staff members. We always consider a program a success when the group leaves all wanting to know when next event will be!
- Teens were also thinking Spring and planned a Seed Bomb Program.
- Homework help has been in demand from teens visiting the basement. All of the then services staff have been glad to assist and show students the great resources available to them!



- The Teens again will be taking over the Coldwater Branch for a 24-hour movie marathon of Harry Potter at the end of March! Games, Food and of course all things Harry Potter will keep teens busy!

Submitted:
Kimberly Feltner