

## **Algansee**

Mary and Joseph came to the library and checked out stacks of books! They are Amish husband and wife teachers from Warren school and both got cards so they could checkout more books. It was so fun to hear them tell the reaction of the children when they saw all the books they took last time and that excitement will be doubled this time. They are very appreciative of the library "letting us take all these books" and I told them how much we appreciate them coming and using the library. After they left Linda commented if we get more schools they will wipe out the library and I told her I would LOVE that! Talked to another Amish teacher from Colvin School. (fingers crossed) I created a special apple tree picture for him so that kids can mark off an apple when they reach a goal. Yes, that was trying to get on his good side and make him think positively of the library. He said he would think about getting books for his school so I will keep checking with him when I see him.

Linda's December Adult Craft Hour was a full house where they made snowmen out of old bed springs. Everyone had a great time and asked what the next program would be. Linda does a wonderful job with her crafts both programs and kits. We had one teen register for the Teen Craft but then she had to cancel when her Grandma's car broke down. Looking forward to trying the Teen and Kids programs on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays to see if we can get a better attendance by avoiding the Wednesday church programs. That change will start in January.

The furnace stopped working over a weekend but Joy had someone there early Tuesday morning and it was up and running when Linda got there.

I had planned on attending the Algansee Township meeting but a sudden change in the weather prevented me from going. I was able to email my report to Russ, the township supervisor, and he presented that for me.

In November I helped herd pigs, with my van not on foot cause pigs freak me out. In December we had a rafter of wild turkeys run through the yard and fly across Ray Quincy Rd. Always pay attention in Algansee, you never know what critter you might see visiting the library building!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## **Bronson**

As the colder weather moves in we seem to be getting a few more people in the library. Steve's Tweens & Teens program has finally started getting kids again. It's mostly kids just wanting to hang out together after school but it's good they will hang out at the program.

He usually offers some sort of snack so I'm sure that is a plus too. Homeschool continues with great numbers. Our December passive program is "Guess how many chocolate candies are in the jar." The one who gets the closest wins all the candy. Very popular with all ages. We had a full registration for our Kid Craft, Grinch Ornament, but then we had a few cancel due to having to quarantine. We still had a nice size group and they had fun. Jessie's November Grab and Go Kit for adults was a big hit. By folding a paperback book they created a Christmas tree and then glued that to a glass candle stand. A red ornament and bow on top and they were ready to deck the halls. Kits for December include: Teens make a paper box, Adults Pinecone Gnome and Kids Craftstick Ornaments.

Looking ahead to 2022 we talked about adding new programs. Steve will be doing quarterly puppet workshops, we will have a Family Classic Movie Night once a month and we will bring back our Family Fun Nights. Family Fun Nights will include Legos, Shrinky Dinks, Purler Beads and Electronic Games. All 2022 events have been turned in for the Event Guide and Event Calendar.

I attended the Bronson Advisory Board meeting, Bronson Friends meeting, Bronson Township meeting and Bronson Community Foundation meeting.

Lobby/restrooms furnace wasn't working so Good's Heating and Cooling was called and quickly came and fixed a clogged condensation filter. The township put covers on the two outside cleanout pipes, they had been missing for quite some time. Ludwick Electric was called to fix the basement light at the bottom of the front basement steps. We still get compliments on how nice the library looks with the new carpet and paint. This building will celebrate 110 years in May!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## **Coldwater**

December at the Coldwater Branch is well underway with a variety of programs, kits, and events. Recent weeks have brought a slew of new and returning teen patrons. Our recurring Game Night and Art Club programs have inspired some of our teens to play board games and create art together here at the library. We currently have some of the teens' art in our display case. In addition, BDL's new Teen Services Coordinator, Sandi Podolan, has done some rearranging in our Teen Space to make kits and activities more accessible for our teen patrons.

Our crochet stocking kits for adults were "sold out" in two days. Valerie Albright of MSU Extension joined us with an interactive presentation about healthy holiday eating, and local yoga instructor Kristin Steckbauer led a virtual yoga series that will be available as recordings on our website and social media. Starting in January, emergency preparedness

expert Jim Cook of the Branch-St.-Joseph-Hillsdale Community Health Agency will be at the library on the first Monday of each month to discuss different aspects of anticipating emergency situations.

We held our first drop-in activity for kids. This time, we decorated wooden snowflake ornaments with markers, glitter, and adhesive jewels. 30 adults and children stopped in to make an ornament during the three hours we set aside for the craft. Drop-in crafts and activities are becoming a regular thing at the Coldwater Branch with drop-in times to create custom pinback buttons and New Year's Eve party hats later this month. In January and February, kids and families are invited to join our staff for a series of drop-in STEM building activities with themes ranging from sugar cube castles to groundhog burrows. We also have two scavenger hunts in December: a candy-cane themed activity in Kids' Place and a photo scavenger hunt for teens and tweens.

For the last several years, the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater has made a generous donation to the library to provide a special holiday keepsake book to area children. This year's book, *Red and Lulu* by Matt Tavares, has beautiful illustrations and stars our school mascot, the cardinal. To accompany the giveaway, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be making a virtual appearance on the library's social media account the evening of Tuesday, December 21st, with a special good night message for Christmas. To celebrate the season, we also have a selection of surprise gift wrapped books available for checkout.

In other news, Coldwater Branch staff have been hard at work scanning the collection with our new inventory management tools and preparing the next wave of Library1 cards. We also received our copies of the 2022 One Book One County selection, *Written in Bone* by Sue Black, which are now available to anyone looking to participate.

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

## **Quincy**

The Friends group offered the Letters to Santa event during the Village wide Quincy Lights evening December 3. Approximately 250 came to the library throughout the evening and 52 children wrote their letter.

Our Grab 'n Go kits are still well received each week with very few leftover kits to deal with. We will continue three kits each month for each age group.

We are looking forward to the addition of the Teen and Children's Coordinators services to our branch and all that they will have to offer and add to our programming.

Santa & Mrs., a.k.a. Thomas & Cindy Bland, visited our December 10 Story Hour and were very generous with their time. The children were enchanted with Mrs. Claus' outfit, jewelry

and her necklace watch with the North Pole Time! Many requests were made to Santa, while others didn't utter a peep, but listened to all that Santa had to share about the reindeer and his preparations.

Craft tables will be available during the upcoming school break.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood



## Sherwood

We blinked and November was gone!

It was a great month of programs, both adult and kids. We had the pleasure of hosting Bobbie Mathis here for an evening of canvas painting and we've had lots of kids back for our in house programs. Our numbers weren't as high as we would have liked to have seen them for the adult program but three people canceled at the last minute due to a family emergency - so we understand things happen. Life happens! The attendees that were here inquired about doing more routine painting programs and we're certainly willing to entertain this suggestion if we can get our local artist to jump on board! (I think we can talk her into it.)

All program materials, books and movies have been purchased through the end of the year.

All programs through April have been added to the event calendar so check it out, we've got more great stuff coming after the new year!

We're currently holding an adult passive program throughout the week - come in and check out a book (or 10) and take home a mug of hot chocolate and peppermint stir spoon.

Until next month - Happy Holidays!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



## Union Twp.

Passive programming and kits were a hit in the month of November! Very popular with the holiday themed activities!



Our Grab 'n Go kits included Thanksgiving Turkey (11/1) made with clothespin legs, Thanksgiving Thankful Pie (11/22), Gratitude Notebooks for the Teens (11/22), Cinnamon Stick Tree Ornament for Old Time Crafts (11/22), and Woven CD Case Coasters for Creating STEAM (11/29).



Our Spice Club selection was Sage and Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson was the Lit Kit celebrating Thanksgiving.



We had a slight incident in the library as several of the character toys ran away from the Children's area and were hiding throughout the library building!



We had the children find them in the Children's Book Week Scavenger Hunt which was held during the month of November. A number of families participated and have requested more activities like that!



On the virtual side, I attended the three sessions of "Storytimes for Everyone" presented by the Library of Michigan (11/9, 16, and 23), "Winter Arts and Crafts Book Preview" (11/16), and "Applying Loose Parts in Learning Environments" (11/18).

I would like to share with you the fact that we carry Farmers' Advance and Farm World newspapers here at the Union Twp Branch. These weekly papers are available to be read and are located in the magazine section of the library. We also receive a number of copies of Equine Times which have been used for the Horsey Lit Kits.

Lastly, we donated two gift baskets to the Factoryville School Auction and Fundraiser with both including books and activities. They appreciated the donation!!

Thank you for reading my report!

Julia Baratta, Union Twp Branch Manager

