

Alganssee

Merry Christmas to you all. Linda has the Alganssee Branch looking very festive for the holidays.

Both adult programs were filled to capacity. The pinecone turkeys and beaded Indian corn were adorable. The foaming hand wash project had more participants than we had registrations for. Luckily we had additional supplies. We had many positive comments from the program.

We began November story times with *Can I be Your Dog?* After we read the story, the kids created postcards to their parents so they could get fun mail that wasn't bills. The following week we read *Old McDonald* and sang the lines till I lost my voice. In honor of Thanksgiving we read, *There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Turkey* and *How to Catch a Turkey*. Our challenge that day was to trap a finger puppet turkey using marshmallows and toothpicks. It was sticky, but they had fun! We wrapped up the month with *Hello, Snow* and made indoor snow to play with.

Crafts with Linda started the month with marbled leaves and the kids helped Linda make marbled turkey feathers for our library board display. They created turkeys from paper plates and the following week made bird seed ornaments to share with the critters outside.



Sneaky Squirrel went out with a bang this month in his hunter orange gear that Linda crafted for him. The kids went wild when they found him hidden in the gnome's beard of fall leaves that the adults made last month. Even a few adults got far more excited than I had anticipated. So many Book Buddies were adopted this month. Which has also done great things for our juvenile book circulation. 😊

STEM had lower participation this month due to deer season stealing the show. But churning butter to explore gears was successful and our marshmallow catapults at the end of the month were a big hit.

The kids have been busy with their new Legos. Movie night did not have any youth attendance, but the adults came to watch *Chicken Run* and had a popcorn fight.

I met with the Algansee Friends group this month to update them on what we have been doing and our plans for Summer Reading Program. They had great suggestions for sourcing materials and some new story time crafts. I have also met with the Township Board several times for the monthly meeting and then for planning meetings for the new library. I attended the following webinar trainings, Library Services for Homeschoolers and Assisting Patrons with Legal Questions.

Have a very Happy Holiday Season! - Teresa Shilling

Bronson

The library is decorated for the holiday season and looks very festive. The preschoolers decorated a tree during storytime so the programs downstairs will have a Christmas feel too.

Preschoolers have heard the story of the Nutcracker, Mr Willowby's Christmas Tree and Little Blue Truck's Christmas along with songs and crafts. We inherited a couple play tunnels and the toddler's LOVE them so much during play time. Steve's Tween/Teen group and Homeschoolers recently had fun making ornaments out of twigs and yarn. Stories and More shared How the Grinch Stole Christmas and made Grinchie ornaments.

The Adult Craft in house program had to be cancelled due to illness but we turned the craft into a grab and go kit and everyone who had registered for the program picked up their craft and we had a few extras that were quickly grabbed up.

St. Mary's 4th, 5th, and 6th graders applied for library cards and each class got to visit the library and learn how to use the OPAC to find books they were looking for. One boy kept quietly saying "This is so cool, I'm gonna come back here". The teacher was helping each child sign up for HOOPLA too.

We are working on programs for the spring event guide. Looking forward to 2024!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

'Tis the season to curl up with a good book, movie or video game. The Coldwater Branch continues to receive some of the best sellers and we are happy to announce we have added Nintendo Switch Games to our library materials. They are so popular we can't keep them on our shelves! We also added several new items to our Library of Things such as; a portable air

compressor/battery starter/power inverter, a laser level and stud finder, and a party-ball disco light.



Branch District Library made a first ever appearance (or at least first in a very long time) in the Coldwater Holiday Parade. Our hard working staff decorated a large present with book- page wrapping paper and pushed on our book dolly. We enhanced the present with lights, music and gave out hundreds of lollipops.

I spy new passive programs! At the circulation desk we have a new holiday I spy board, a travel destination questionnaire and in Teens Space; a giant community coloring page.



The Coldwater Branch has several Library Pop-ups; Southwest Michigan's Unemployment, Michigan Works and housing assistance from Integrated Services. Some of our most popular programs so far in December include: Storytime in Kids Place, every Tuesday morning and Thursday night. Make a Stress Pet in Teen Space and Timepiece Tales for

Adults; over 30 people attended a presentation from a private clock collector. This program received rave reviews.



Upcoming Programs include: Anime Club and Ninja Turtle Night for Teens. For Kid's Place; The Holiday Party and New Years Eve Party and introducing Romance Book Club for Adults.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

Here is a summary of the fun things happening at the Quincy Branch -

- The Quincy Community has been overflowing my heart with gratitude by how supportive they have been with helping me raise funds to install the permanent story walk. I appreciate their help very much and I'm super grateful!
- We have been doing a lot of training in library land with Cortni & it's going wonderful! I'm so thankful to have her be a part of our team!
- We've have had many Thanksgiving and Christmas programs recently & they all went over wonderfully. The kiddos loved playing the Thanksgiving bingo. They had so much fun playing that we played until we ran out of bingo sheets!
- John and I attended the Allen Township Board meeting so we could introduce ourselves, remind them their residents can use the Branch District Library for free, let them know a little bit about what we do at the library, and some our services that we offer.
- Santa and Mrs. Clause made an appearance at the Quincy Library. All the kiddos got to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas, got their picture taken with Santa, enjoyed a craft while they waited their turn, & got to have milk and cookies with him. It was a very busy program but SO MUCH FUN! A special shout out to Charlene Rucker for being our photographer - we appreciate your help and service!

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! I hope you stay safe, healthy, & warm this holiday season.

Submitted by Sarah Strong



Sherwood

All is well, but no report this month.

Union Twp.

Summary of all the fun and festive programs and events at Union Twp. Library. December 2023!

- Andrea and I visited Union City High School during their lunch hour and signed 25 students up for Library1 Cards! Hoping to go back in the Spring for another visit.



- Adult DIY Wreath Making was AMAZING! New patrons came and checked out the programs and Union Twp. Library for the first time Eight out nine of those patrons had never been here before. Everyone had a great time and wants to come back for a Spring Wreath program in April.



- December 9th (Saturday) The Friends Group sponsored the event Breakfast with Santa at the UC First Congregational Church from 9 - 11 am. Goody Bags was offered to kids, pictures with Santa and a delicious pancake breakfast. Preregistration included 100 kids and 75 Adults. Total for the day we had over 200 participants along with the Friends Group and 12 volunteers on hand to make the Breakfast. A big shoutout to all the volunteers - the breakfast was delicious! Several patrons came down to the library afterwards to print out their family pictures with Santa. Andrea was quite busy with printing that morning!



- We have a lot of fun and festive crafts coming up such as Snowflake craft, Holiday Cards, Scrabble Tile Ornaments and the Movie Polar Express. Passive programs are planned for the last week of December which include 5 Minute Christmas Tree Craft, Chess Club, Board Games, and Snowman Tea Light Craft. Also, if you have a favorite Ugly Sweater show your spirit on December 22nd for Ugly Sweater Day!



- Attended the CSLP's 2023 Virtual Summer Symposium on December 7th. A lot of great ideas and resources to bring to the table for Summer 2024.
- Notarizing has increased in the last two weeks - Notary Bunch Video really got the word out!
- Upcoming for January Scam Prevention 101 for Adults January 16th Registration Required. Program provided by Southern Michigan Bank and Trust.

Storytime fun!



Excited for a fun and amazing New Year! Here's to 2024!

Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday with family and friends!

Submitted by Maria Piper

Outreach

- I had one last event invitation for 2023. The Branch County Fairgrounds hosted a Santa's Village event for the first time early this month. Kids could come to meet Santa and Mrs. Clause, decorate cookies, and do other activities. Erica and I provided a simple craft activity of glueing pieces of wrapping paper and a bow to a blank Christmas present coloring page. For a first-time event, the fairgrounds had a great attendance, and we had a decent amount of interaction from the families who came to the event. We estimated about 150 to 200 total people who attended the event, 72 of which participated in our activity.
- Library pop-ups are still slow, but steady. Despite a Covid outbreak at Maple Lawn (it seemed to be contained in one of the facility's wings), I did not want to cancel our visit

there for a 3rd month in a row (the last two had been cancelled for different reasons). I had already bought materials and made 10 holiday craft kits to give to any of my visiting residents who would like to make one, and I knew they could use a fresh batch of books to read over the holiday. I had fewer visitors, as expected, but still had a good number of items get checked out and all 10 craft kits were claimed either by visitors or the activity staff member to hand out.

- Unfortunately, I still have not heard much in the way of an update on our bookmobile. I made contact inquiring for an update, as it has been a few months since I'd last heard anything. Matthews Specialty Vehicles has yet to receive our bookmobile from Morgan Olson, but they will be reaching out to see where the vehicle is in the lineup with hopes that Matthews will see it in-hand by the end of the year.
- John put me in charge of onboarding a new digital service for BDL: ComicsPlus by Library Pass. The process was pretty easy, and it looks like everything is ready for us to test and to roll out to our patrons!
- I am about 6 months in on this year's MLA YouPer award committee, and we have slowly been crossing nominated titles off our list. This annual award is given by the Michigan Library Association to a children's chapter book. Of the almost 100 nominated titles, I have read through 28 so far in my spare time at home. I have recommended a few of my favorites to Erica for Coldwater's Kids collection.



Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence