

Algansee

We had a lot of fun activities during the month of December.

- Santa came to our library to visit with everyone and enjoyed the cookies that our Algansee Friends supplied. We had over seventy kids come in to meet with Santa.
- We had a mailbox for North Pole Express Mail. Many families took advantage of our stationary to write letters to Santa and picked up candy canes and books.
- Our Adults enjoyed creating pinecone swag arrangements with Linda and exchanged cookies and recipes just before Christmas.



- The kids learned about Christmas past with American Girls for the month of December. They made ornaments from the different eras, baked a war cake and created gingerbread houses.
- The story time kids had a blast pinning the nose on Rudolph and racing ornaments as they blew them across the floor.
- Lego creations were engineered. A lot of popcorn was eaten while watching The Santa Clause for family movie night.

I've been busy ordering books this month and we are wrapping up plans for our summer activities. We hope to see you at the library. ☺ - Teresa Shilling

Bronson

Once all the Christmas decorations came down the library looked a bit bare so during January we are focusing on snowflakes and snowmen. Jessie made some beautiful giant paper snowflakes to display, our showcase is filled with a great snowman collection and our adult craft this month will be making snowflakes out of plastic hangers. Storytime themes are running along the snow line too. We even had a wild and crazy snowball fight inside during Preschool storytime last week. (plush snowballs just right for little hands)



Over winter break we had a movie afternoon, game day and a day to make Shrinky Dinks. Right around 30 participants at each one.

Our quiet pod has been getting a lot more use lately which is nice to see. One day we had three different groups use the pod. They are all very appreciative that we have it.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Happy New Year! 2025 is off to a busy start. We ended December and began January with the Coloring Book Workshop program for all ages. The library hosted the event for the Downtown Development Authority. Each one of the workshops had attendees and student volunteers assisted patrons as needed. Kids' Place was a busy spot in December with holiday programs and they rang in the New Year with a New Year's Eve celebration! Teen space saw tons of young people using the computers for Roblox. The Teen Advisory Council has been working and is nearing completion of the hygiene locker. The hygiene locker will provide patrons of all ages with everyday items such as hair ties, deodorant, hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene products, diapers and more.



The adult events for December were DIY Holiday Crafts. A variety of craft items and materials were taken out for crafters to use and go wild with. The idea of this event was to use older materials and make homemade holiday gifts.

Our most popular programs continue to be the Homeschool Hangout for children and recently started a Homeschool Power Hour for Young Adults. The adult programs that are popular are the board and card games.

The Coldwater staff has a full calendar of events for the Spring program cycle including ceramics at the Chameleon, Owl Pellets and TikTok crafts!

New Developments include: new book drop box, bathroom remodel project to start at the end of January, library tours and the bookmobile.



Quincy

I hope you all had a magical Christmas and a happy New Year, and got to have tons of laughs with your families!

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

- We participated in the annual community event: Quincy Lights! We did 4 crafts and 2 games upstairs. Downstairs my Quincy Friends Group gave away snow man soup, wrote letters to Santa, and had many coloring sheets get colored. We had almost 300 people come through our doors in two hours. It was very busy and very fun!
- Since last month we've made snow globes, twine Christmas trees, did a 'tallest snowman' challenge, painted glow-in-the-dark rocks, made fake snow & we've had a blast! Check out the calendar to see what fun things you'd like to join!
- The month of January has been pretty slow so far - been getting things caught up in the branch & ready for the New Year!
- I regret to inform you all that Kia will be moving out of state at the end of January. So, we are on the hunt for a new Quincy Clerk!

I hope you are all staying warm and cozy!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greeting from Sherwood!

We've had great programs and great attendance throughout the past month! We did snow volcanoes, story times and adult crafts.

We had a good attendance at our cardio drumming program last night. I was notified that two people had to work late and were unable to attend, but hoping next Monday works out better.



It's been a fairly slow start to the new year but that allows time for putting more great ideas together. We've got more great programs coming up, check our event calendar!

Until next month,

Best regards,

Traci Counterman, Sherwood Branch Manager



Union Twp.

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends.

Wrapped up 2024 with a series of festive events including scavenger hunts, Book Folding Art, Macrame Snowflake Ornaments, Holiday BINGO, and DIY holiday buttons. Both the Book Folding Art and Macrame Ornaments events were especially popular, each drawing in 8 patrons. One patron even returned the following day with additional questions about the Macrame project. Meghan was more than happy to offer assistance and guide her through completing the project. One of the attendees from this program has kindly offered to donate her time teaching youth how to sew. We're excited to announce that we'll be hosting a Beginner's Sewing Class in April for ages 13-18, and we're thrilled to see such community involvement and outreach!



Looking ahead, we have several exciting upcoming events, including Game Day for All, LEGO Club: Builder Challenges, Storytimes, Art Club for Teens, and the No Pressure Book Club. Additionally, Meghan has been working hard on seed donations, sending letters to over a dozen companies. We've already received more than 1,400 packets of seeds, representing 188 different types! Seed preparations are underway for our March Roots and Shoots Celebration. The fun part now is organizing and prepping all the seeds for the event. Meghan has done an outstanding job reaching out to vendors, and more donations continue to arrive.

In addition, I'll be placing my first order for books and DVDs this week, along with materials for future programs. I'm also excited for the training "Find Inclusive Reads for Every Reader" webinar later this month. We're already working on booking summer reading presenters and preparing crafts for all ages. With the colder months upon us, we're planning ahead for the spring and summer programs. It's hard to believe, but Spring will be here before we know it! (About 80 days but's who's counting)

Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

Happy New Year! There hasn't been too much going on in outreach land aside from further preparation for the bookmobile's arrival. The opening day collection is slowly being ordered, and books have already started to arrive. As they are being cataloged, I am checking them off my order lists and finding space to stash them until they can be placed on the bookmobile's shelves. I am still working on my last two selection lists. More lists are ready for submission, but I am giving some space in between the orders in hopes of not overwhelming the cataloging staff and area with new materials.

Our bookmobile has not arrived yet. Matthews is doing their due diligence in finding minor things that need fixing or adjusting before delivery. Most recently, there was a slight

vibration in the vehicle that they were resolving, and they were doing some more test driving the week prior to this writing. It sounds like we are still just at the tipping edge of receiving our much-awaited delivery call.

In the meantime, I am working on the bookmobile's stop schedule, and preparing for upcoming events. The next outreach event is Winterfest on January 25th, where I will once again be hosting a game and activity room.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence