

Youth Services Board Report December 2024

The month of November always breezes by so quickly. Here at the Kendallville location, we had a month filled with storytimes, afterschool programs, teen programs, therapy dog visit, homeschool program, crafts, and creative play. This month for our homeschool program we had a photographer visit to take school photos for families. We hosted this program last year and it was so well received we decided to repeat it for this year. The photographer is also a part of the homeschool community, which makes it even better. Families were able to choose from one digital photo per child and then they could purchase more photos if they chose.

The Rome City branch had a month filled with storytimes, creative play, crafts, a therapy dog visit and afterschool programs. This month they held a unique program where they used pretzel rods to create turkey shaped snacks. The staff do a great job of facilitating youth programs and engaging with the community.

The Youth Services Department staff attended two area library round tables this month. A Youth Services specific meeting was held at the Garrett Public Library and an All Ages Programming meeting was held at the Peabody Public Library. It's always helpful to meet with other librarians to share ideas and resources.

Planning for the Kleiman Creative Writing Contest is well underway. Our marketing department created a promotional video about the contest that will be shared with the community here in December. The date for the awards ceremony will be Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at the Community Learning Center. We've reached out to a local author about speaking at the ceremony and are waiting to hear back confirming the date.

Our winter reading program will take place from December 30-February 8. The theme this year is "Get Your Mitts on a Good Book." The youth will have a winter themed game board they can use to set reading goals and earn prizes along the way. This year we're adding a few stops that say, "Go to the library for a book." The other stops will say "Go to the library for a prize." We have leftover coupons for local restaurants that participants can choose from along with a few smaller prize leftovers from the summer reading. At each stop point participants will also be able to enter a grand prize drawing of their choice. After participants have completed one game board, they can pick up another which they can use to earn more entries into the grand prize drawing of their choice.

Sincerely,
Mary Graber



New youth board games for checkout: Kendallville



Turkey themed snack: Limberlost