

Youth Services Board Report

January 2024

The end of 2023 flew by. We had a month full of afterschool programs, storytimes, teen programming and family programming. Working with the adult department, we hosted a holiday event with crafts and a visit from Santa, CR Ryan a magician came and held a magic show at both libraries and Marks Ark came to the libraries with animals. We wrapped up the year with a countdown to noon that included themed crafts and a light snack.

This year we timed our winter reading program to begin during our area schools winter break. We thought this would be a great way to reach more readers. Our theme is "Don't Flurry, Be Happy." For the youth we are trialing a new reading form in lieu of the bookmarks we have used before. This winter readers can pick up a game board, set reading goals for stops along the way, and after setting and achieving five goals, they reach a stop that tells them to go to the library for a prize. Once they come to the library, each reader can pick out a small prize, that includes a book option and then be entered into a grand prize drawing of their choice. Once readers complete this first game board they can pick up another game board where they can continue setting goals and earning additional entries into the grand prize drawings. With this new format, our goal is to encourage reading while also being better able to budget for prizes in a way that reaches the most people. Winter reading continues to the end of January.

Our library reports database introduced a great new report called Collection IQ Maintenance-Balance. With this report, we can see what areas of our collection could use additional materials and which areas could use some weeding. We are able to look at how the collection as a whole is doing, as well as dialing in on specific topic areas. From there the report will generate a list of titles that have not circulated in the past 3 years, missing titles, aged low circulating titles, ideal collection size number, and recommended increase or decrease of the collection area. This has been a fascinating report to look at it. For example, I can see that board books are doing really well and that we could use more titles. I can see that the playaway collection in the teen area is not as popular as it once was and could use some weeding. Going forward this will be another helpful tool in creating a collection that is poised to meet the needs of our community.

Sincerely,
Mary Graber

Smiling Faces at the Magic Show



Holiday Party Santa Visit



Homeschool Adventure- Holiday Painting

