

Youth Services Board Report March 2025

February always goes by so quickly. Both library locations had a month filled with storytimes, afterschool programs, teen programs, therapy dog visits, weekly crafts and play areas.

We wrapped up our winter reading program this month. We had a good response to the changes we made to our gameboard goal sheet. This year we added in some prize stops that required participants to choose a book. Our ultimate goal with our reading programs is to encourage the love of reading. By offering participants a variety of prize books we hope to accomplish this goal. We'll implement this update with our summer reading program, as well as offering local food coupons to area restaurants.

For a number of years McDonalds would provide free food coupons to library reading programs. Recently we learned that they are cutting back and will no longer be offering these coupons. The area McDonalds gave us the last coupons they had. There are other area fast food restaurants and local restaurants that are generous in supporting our reading programs by providing us with free food and drink coupons. The collaborative summer reading theme this year is around art.

I had a meeting with someone who works for the KC Learning Center in Angola, an organization that works with youth who have autism. This staff member used to be a counselor in our area and would visit the library with their clients. We had a nice discussion about how our library could create more inclusive spaces for people on the spectrum. It's always great to see our library with fresh eyes and come up with ways we can make our services even better.

This month, one of our part time youth staff members, Bethany, put in their two weeks' notice. We are sad to see them go. Bethany was a valued member of the team and will be missed. We've had a good response to the job posting and will begin holding interviews soon. In the meantime, everyone in youth services is pulling together to cover programs and desk shifts.

There is an area youth services librarian round table that meets up every few months. My goal is to have as many of our youth staff attend as possible. It's a great way for everyone to connect with other librarians and share ideas. This month the meeting was held at the Eckhart Public Library. It was nice to see some familiar faces and see how their library has evolved.

Sincerely,
Mary Graber



Teen Program-Clay Creations-Kendallville



Play Date: Kendallville