



## **Alganssee Branch**

Hello,

We had a coloring contest for all ages with 5 participating. Top prize was a pound of chocolate covered cranberries, candy and pencils to children. All delighted with their sweets. Pictures on wall at Library.

The "Take the Winter Challenge" for Young Adults ended the 31st of January. We had 5 Young Adults participate at Alganssee. Three names were drawn and prizes given out. The prizes were furnished by new Teen Center. The few teens that come to Alganssee are big readers so a lot of books were read. Three teens were very happy with their prizes. The prizes were a Photography Drone, a Kindle Fire, and a Readers Gift Basket. Jessica did a good job with prizes!!

Planning programs and ordering books for spring and summer. I have 2 programs scheduled so far.

Respectfully Submitted  
Alganssee Branch Manager

## **Bronson Report**

We have our new full-time clerk at Bronson! Linda and Kimberly spent a portion of three days at Bronson Branch conducting interviews for the clerk position and after talking with six eager candidates, I chose Jessica Clark. With nearly ten years' experience working for BDL she brings her experience and ideas to Bronson. Looking forward to working with Jessie.

In January, Kevon Martis of Interstate Informed Citizens Coalition presented a program about Wind Energy & Zoning: Property Rights Versus Trespass Zoning. It was a standing room only crowd with 102 people attending. The big room was full, the room off to the side was full and the hallway had quite a few people standing in it. The discussion of wind turbines is a hot topic in parts of Branch County right now and I was pleased to find out that 11 of the 16 townships had someone attend the meeting to gather information. Hoping DTE will come and do a presentation so that people have that information too.

In February, we started our "Beat the Winter Blahs" reading challenge for adults. This year we are doing ours the same way Quincy has done theirs for the past few years. For each book read people get their name placed in a drawing for a basket filled with goodies. Challenge ends February 28, drawing March 1.

Winners of the Teen Winter Reading Challenge were drawn and Mr. McCrea at the high school was kind enough to announce those winners during morning school announcements. One girl said, "all day kids I didn't even know kept coming to me

and congratulating me on winning!” We told her now she knows how movie stars feel!

The first Saturday in February was once again Take Your Child to the Library day. This is the fourth year Bronson Branch has participated in this event and it was another fun year. We had invited Mr. Stan the Dinosaur Man back but he had open-heart surgery a week before the program so was unable to attend. We still had a dino display and dino coloring table for the kids with Hugh Law, our Friends Vice President, working the table. We hired Pippin Puppets to come do a show but I received a phone call first thing on Saturday that Rob the puppeteer had fallen ill during the night with the dreaded flu. Everything worked out though because Steve was going to do storytelling so he just told a few more stories. Myles Watson gave a juggling demonstration and he extended that to help fill in time. We played library bingo with nifty prizes and played extra rounds of that. Members of our Friends and volunteers handled duct tape crafts, perler bead crafts and coloring pages. Fran Fletcher watched over the refreshments table and since February 3 was also National Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast day, we had ice cream for everyone. Linda greeted people and handed out book bags, bookmarks and other information. Cheryl and Jessica came with Tess the T-Rex and gave kids a great photo op, if they were brave enough to stand next to the terrible T! Cheryl switched and became Pete the Cat for more photo opportunities. Everyone had a very fun day.

Steve and Jessica T both had the idea of doing an Anti-Valentine Party for tweens and teens and the kids had a blast! Steve’s group built Frankentoys. That means dissect toys and then glue and sew them back together using all different parts. Freaky!!! Each teen invented their very own anti-love potion using unicorn blood, sea horse spit and mermaid tears. And again, Freaky!!! The kids Loved it. Jessica’s group had a wild and crazy snowball fight downstairs and I am sure they will be talking about that party for weeks.

Steve also had a Chocolate Olympics program for tweens and teens. They competed to see who could build the tallest marshmallow tower, did a blindfolded chocolate taste test, played chocolate pudding Pictionary and had a M&M relay race.

Family STEAM night was another popular program. We got out all of our electronic toys, Dot and Dash, Snap Circuits, Makey- Makey, Little bits and Virtual Reality glasses. John and Keeley came over to help show people how to use the different devices. We plan to do a Family Night each month and next month will be a LEGO night.

I was invited to attend a teacher’s meeting at Anderson Elementary and was able to talk to teachers about some of the great books we have to offer their classrooms and about Summer Reading too.

In March, we will be setting up tables during Parent/Teacher conferences at Ryan, Anderson and the high school. These will just be tables with lots of information for parents to pick up if they choose to. Steve and I will attend Literacy nights at both Anderson and Ryan and Kindergarten registration at Anderson. We hope to be able to register children for library cards at the same time they register for school. The District has been invited to set-up during the countywide Science Olympiad, which

is held at Bronson High School. Great opportunity since this brings in students and parents from all over Branch County.

March 9<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Middle Name Day! Stay tuned for next month's board report to find out all the exciting details regarding that day.

## Coldwater Report

The Coldwater Branch took advantage of a typically slow month and occupied our library visitors in a variety of Passive Programs. Passive Programs are often things set up by the staff that require little or no effort on the library's part. The pay off is that we are able to keep library visitors happy and engaged with us! Visitors to the second floor were able to partake in a puzzle. The community put together 3 festive and Michigan based puzzles. Teen Space has been hosting a Positivity Wall. Visitors are asked to fill out a short phrase on a colorful post it to pass along kindness and positivity. Kids' Place does a variety of passive programs. First is a monthly Question Board and also Guessing Game. The February Guessing Game was won by Mollie Weaver, Charlotte Huntley, and Erik Wentz with the correct guess of 2.5lbs of birdseed. They each received a PB/Suet feeder compliments of Gene Wasserman.



### Adults:

Programming for the last month included a love inspired Valentine's Day Decoration. A full room was able to make a Valentine's Day Tree. As always this program was free to all who attended and many left very happy with their new holiday decoration. Next up is a popular workshop with Cartoonist Jonny Hawkins. Jonny is a frequent presenter for Kids' Place and Adults have wanted a chance to try their artistic hand. This looks to be a promising fun event with a full registration!

Back for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year is the Adult Blind Date with a Book Contest. Participants select a title, that is wrapped with only a few key statements. They then take their date home, unwrap it, and hopefully enjoy it. Upon return to the library, they can "Rate their Date" and be entered into a contest for a cash prize.

Denise Yennie, Adult Programmer, has been in the works of applying for an author visit from the Michigan Notable Author Program. Every year the Library of Michigan selects up to 20 books of noteworthy interest, either written by a Michigan Resident, or about Michigan or the Great Lakes. Keep your fingers crossed for the chance to host one of these honored authors!



### **Kids' Place:**

Even though the weather hasn't been very cooperating, lots of fun has been had the last month in Kids' Place. The Bling Party held on January 13 was well attended. Many thanks to our local Girl Scouts and Modern Woodmen Financial Group for all their help with this popular event. The following week, Ben Miller of the Branch Area Career Center, presented Ozobots to the Tween Group. Lastly, during Ice Fest a mob of 57 Pirates rained down on the library for a fun and festive time!

Adding to the regular programming is an afternoon playgroup titled "Sensation Stations". The target age for this group is 18 months to 3 years. Caregivers and children will have the opportunity to pour, sort, move, and enjoy a variety of tactile and kinesthetic stations. There will be a six-week trail run to see how well this received.

Linda Dull, Children Services Coordinator, attended several webinars and applied for a variety of grants. She is also working on Summer Reading Program sponsorships. These sponsorships are a crucial element for programming and other elements of Summer Reading. Kids' Place is especially grateful for the Coldwater Friends of the Branch District Library for their generous donation which paid for all our SRP book bags and some other prizes.

Upcoming events and programs include March is Reading Month. This year we're trying something new with a variety of reading leveled Bingo Cards. Also is the Tween Club – Not for the Squeamish including a Fake Blood Contest. Other events include the ever popular Traveling Tales visits Argentina and a Stuffed Animal Sleepover.

### **Teens:**

February is Teen Dating Awareness Month and Teen Services staff highlighted this by providing information. This event is targeted to teens and 20 something adults to raise awareness about emotional and physical abuse in relationships. Staff put together a display to highlight the signs and how to get help.

Programming for the last month has a core group of Teens coming to the library and engaging with staff! A popular program has been the STEAM Power (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), that highlights a variety of hands on activities from slime to ocean bottles that will teach about density. Staff try to combine an element of art but also sneak in some education at the same time! Due to the Winter weather, the Anti-Valentines Day party was rescheduled for after the holiday but still was very well received. Attendance was great with 16 teens who snacked on pizza and engaged in an indoor Snowball Fight!

Looking forward, the Teens will be able to participate in the Teen District Wide Writing Contest. Teens have been very receptive to the monthly Writing Club and this is a great way to tap into their natural talent. The contest is for writers ages 13-18 and in the categories of short story, flash Fiction, and poetry. The contest will run until March 31<sup>st</sup> and one lucky winner will get a gift card in each category.

Submitted:  
Kimberly Feltner

## Quincy Report

- 17 teens participated in the Winter Reading Challenge and each winner was thrilled with their prize.
- Mulders Moving & Storage has been a great company to work with these past four weeks, as well as Brad Beck from Beck Construction. His workers were exceptionally polite and cleaned up well after their jobs.
- Mulders took two days and two semi-trucks full to pack us up; and two and a half days to put us back together. Our belongings were kept in a climate-controlled warehouse in Kalamazoo (due to the climate this time of year).
- The needed wall repairs were done by some exceptional plaster men in only three days.
- Paint and carpet installation was completed a week ahead of schedule.
- Tri-State Cleaning cleaned up all our beautiful woodwork after all the plaster dust; Friends of the Library generously offered to cover this cleaning bill.
- Patrons have continued to steadily use the library throughout our repairs.
- Lisa completed two webinars on Summer Reading (Libraries Rock! Programming Ideas & Tips for 2018) by the Libraries of Michigan and the Wondoo Reader Boot Camp suggested by Kimberly/John

- Quincy appreciated the extra delivery day that was put in place during our time working out of the lower level. MANY thanks to John and the tech department for all the work needed to move us to the lower level, reconfiguring, and moving us back up. A lot of wires needed to be dealt with and we were glad to hear that this actually made John's work better by having the opportunity to re-work what was needed at Quincy.







## Sherwood Report

Greetings from the Arctic Branch of Sherwood ~

This month has not only been a Winter-Wonderland of sorts, it's also been packed full of programs, crafts and lots of reading. We finished up the "Teen Winter Reading Challenge" on February 1st and were happy to see the excited faces on our winners (pics included) -

We have the pleasure of hosting Kathy Barnes and her Art classes on the second and fourth Tuesday's of the month at 4pm (although February threw us off) we will be back to that schedule beginning in March.

Tween Crafts are every Thursday at 3:30 pm. Teen Paint, Teen Fandom, Teen Crafternoon, Teen STEAM and Teen Book to Movie Clubs are on our calendars and we're gradually getting more kids involved. YAY!

We initially had our "Anti-Valentine's Day" party scheduled for February 9th, but sadly, Mother Nature had other plans and snowed on our party parade. However, it has since been rescheduled for February 23 @ 5:30pm.

Summer Reading supplies have been ordered and we fully intend to "Rock our Library" this summer. There are a few programs on the calendar of events and hopefully more will be added as we go.

I'm looking forward to Spring Institute in March. Each year I come back with many new ideas and an inspiring wealth of knowledge.



I've written and submitted a grant request in hopes of attending the 2018 ALA Convention that's being held in New Orleans this year. Since a vast majority of our patrons are the tweens and teens, the opportunity to attend this event would definitely be beneficial.

Until next month ~ Stay warm and think Spring!

Sincerely,

Traci Counterman - BDL Sherwood Branch Manager



## Union Report

This month I have been spending a lot of time checking our collection of board books, easy, beginners, juvenile, young adult books and DVD'S. I am checking the collection against a print out to make sure everything on the print out is on the shelves. Any discrepancy with an item has been sent over to Laura who has done a great job making sure the item is cataloged correctly. I am now concentrating on our adult fiction, adult non-fiction, genealogy and adult DVD's collection.

We had five teen programs this month including the Winter Reading Challenge. Six teens signed up for the reading challenge with four teens completing the challenge. The winner of the Kindle Fire is Ian Hollingsworth, the Books & Bookish Things Gift Basket was Azalya Gillies, and the winner of the Drone was Hunter Gillies.

I have visited the preschool four times this month and I have to say their favorite book this month was The Day the Crayons Quit. I also visited Community

Unlimited's after school program and read the book *The Night before a Snow Day* and the kids were so excited the next day as they did get a snow day.

This month I am happy to say I joined a webinar on the summer reading program. The webinar was about programming ideas and tips for our 2018 Libraries Rock program. The program was offered by the Library of Michigan and many presenters talked about their ideas for the summer program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Gottschalk



Ian Hollingsworth



Azalya Gillies

Hunter Gillies

### Union's Teen Take the Winter Reading Challenge Winners