



## **Bronson Branch**

- During April we hung a poster board up with the heading, "Why Did You Visit the Library Today?" Some of the responses we received were:
  - To get more books.
  - Homeschool group and books.
  - Computers.
  - Project and many books.
  - Wreck It Ralph and Lego Flash.
  - Drop off movies and get more!
  - To print pictures.
  - For the quietness and the relaxation of reading books.
  - Work on science projects.
  - Why? Because I enjoy it. It's a pleasure time!!
  - Puzzles and read the newspapers.
  - To send a fax.
  - We love to read!
  - To use the computers in silence before the kids arrived and interrupted my concentration.
  - Drop off a movie to use the printer! I Love the library!
  - Return books.
  - Socialization, computers, books and fun!
  - Say Hi to Steve.
  - To walk returns to the desk.
  - BOOKS!
  - Get some good books!
  - Monthly sign up for craft class.
  - To drop off money from the Friends Bake Sale.
  - It was interesting to see what people wrote on the board.
- April programs included several crafts for all ages. Polymer Bead making, Tissue paper Easter eggs, Zines, Creating Comics with Steve, Marshmallow catapults, CD case Mazes and a Butterfly Cloche. Lots of fun.
- I attended one day of Headstarts Parent/Teacher Conferences. Signed up several children for library cards. Wonderful to see new readers heading our way.
- During May our Passive Program will be, A Hunt for Hidden Literary Characters. Bulletin boards have been put up for the final month of school with the high school board featuring the "Teen Writing Contest" and Ryan School "A Universe of Stories" our Summer Reading Program.
- Bronson Advisory Board met to discuss lighting in the library. John attended the meeting to bring the group up to date on BDL happenings.

- I attended the Bronson City Council Meeting, Bronson School Board Meeting and Bronson Township Meeting to keep them apprised of happenings at the libraries.
- Friends of the Library met to clean flowerbeds and put down mulch to make the outside of the library look beautiful for the coming season.
- As of today, we have 12 tours scheduled before the end of school.

Submitted:  
Lynnell Eash

### **Coldwater Branch**

- Goal to increase circulation: After attending the March meeting highlighting statistics from BDL, the Coldwater Branch has made a concerted effort to take all opportunities to highlight the collection to our patrons. Specifically, books relating to the adult programs are being included on display in the meeting room during the events and also a small display of books on the circulation counter. We had a small selection of Michigan Notable Books that we had to fill two times. For May, we highlighted mushroom hunting and cookbooks for the popular short-lived mushroom hunting season. We are also including a small sign that “Books on display are available for checkout” to let people know to take the items home! Also, an important part of helping to increase circulation is the deselection of items. We have worked through several sections and will continue to pull items that are in poor shape or no longer used by our patrons. This will be a large part of what is sold in the upcoming Coldwater Friends book sale on June 22.
- The display case contains a collection of car memorabilia and trinkets from staff member Ben Lyon. This case was very timely with the annual Mother’s Day weekend car show. We had quite a few car show people come into the library during the week leading up the event and we thrilled to view the display.



### **Adult Programs:**

- Adult Poetry Contest: During the month of April we had 23 entries into the adult reading contest. Winners were first place John Swain with the poem titled “No Box Please” and second place John Ludy whose poem was titled “Someday May”.
- We introduced a new recurring program titled “Pokemon Role Playing Game”. We often have programs similar to this in the Teen or Kids area and adults have been asking for a grownup version. We had a small but passionate group that will be playing monthly. New people can join at any time.
- The Morrison Financial Group was back with two very popular presentations about Social Security and Medicare.

- Community Action was at Coldwater and handed out vouchers for seniors, age 60 and older, for the Senior Restaurant Meal Voucher Program.
- We also hosted staff from Census 2020, who set up on the first floor. Information about the new census process and how to apply for jobs was available. Several people took advantage of the public computers and applied on the spot with help from the Census representative. We will have them back several more times over the Summer to help keep spreading the word.

### **Kids' Place:**

- The month of April ended with a bang. The Library Loot program was a success. It was fun watching the children "spend" their money. Seashells were a big mover as well as jump ropes, small plastic balls and food. We didn't receive many poems but even the tweens had fun with our book reports. For the month of May, we're offering another book scavenger hunt. Its fun watching how excited the children get looking for the clues.
- Linda Dull attended the Coldwater Schools Kindergarten Registration. During the several day event approximately 30 new card were issued to children and adults. She highlighted BDL's teacher card and also digital library service Hoopla.
- BDL staff member, Luann Watson and our volunteer, Laurie VanDosen did a terrific job handling the large group of children/adults that showed up for "Bunny Fun" craft fun. Lu's 3-D art projects are always a hit.
- We also had good turn-out for the end of our Money Smart month activities. Erin W. of the Honor Credit Union shared several financial related stories with the children, while BDL staff member, Mary Robey helped them make a funny little piggy bank. All the children received a free copy of the book, "Earn It" along with all the goodies that Honor supplied. We are so fortunate to have a good friend in the Honor Credit Union who faithfully supports our annual Money Smart programs.
- Our Summer Reading programs are finalized and the calendar published! We have a tremendous amount of programming with plenty of neat opportunities for age groups, Infant-age 12. Next month at this time we'll be in the midst of Summer Reading! A rather terrifying thought.



- Last weekend was the roll-out of “Nailed It-Kids’ Place Style”. We had a full house with both age groups with 12 participants each. We even have a gold glittery baking cap for each age group winner. Larissa Vorce did the hard work of making the cakes, frosting, decorating the examples; along with helping run the event. Unless we run into some major snafus, we’re very optimistic regarding the June Friends fundraising version of this event.
- Our regular school year programs and events will be winding down the week of May 20. It’s always bittersweet to come to the end as many of our young patrons will be headed off to preschools or Kindergarten in the fall.
- Loren King will be sharing how he builds his own drones with our Tweens on Saturday, May 18. BDL staff members Angela and Linda enjoy these regularly scheduled Tween events. We get to interact with some really great young people. Whom we’re certain will do great things in the future and maybe even give credit to the library for their inspiration.

### Teen Services:

- Blackout Poetry: Teens joined library staff in creating original works of poetry by black out words on a book page. This lively group created some nice work that was shared with other teens and staff.
- The Best Library Program ever: If you follow BDL on Facebook you know that past Saturday, the Teen Space went to the dogs. As a way to help teens decompress, puppies from the Branch County Humane Society were brought for puppy cuddles. Teens (and staff) were very excited to participate in this program. As part of our post on Facebook several people indicated interest in the cute puppies and we were able to make connections to the Humane Society. Fingers crossed they get adopted!
- Full Steam Ahead: Teens build a catapult out of popsicle sticks and then launched food at each other. I am sure you can figure out the fun level on this one! They would like to know when the next one is.
- Teen Writing Contest: Back for its second year this contest is open to all writers ages 13 to 18. Entrants will be competing in three categories: short story, flash fiction, and poetry. Teens have until May 31<sup>st</sup> to submit their original works of art.



Submitted:  
Kimberly Feltner

**Quincy Branch**

- Great teen events are being offered, still with lower attendance
- We appreciated John making branch visits the same week he was hired as Library Director. It will be a pleasure to work with him in his new role.
- The annual Friends of the Library meeting at Union was very nice and we had seven represented from Quincy.
- The Friends of the Quincy Library have a new president and are gearing up for the summer, their June Book Sale, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pie Sale.
- We celebrated Children's Book Week last week with treats for children 12 and under
- Boxes are filling the office with goodies and crafts for the summer reading program. The "Universe of Stories" should present great fun for the children and teens. We had 40 adults participate last summer, so we look forward to what this summer will bring.
- I recently spoke at the Jennings Elementary "Kids Read Now" Kick off regarding the Summer Reading Program.
- The local Jennings Elementary principal has given me their summer reading goals for the children, so hopefully, we can all be an encouragement throughout the summer as they read and have a lot of fun at the library as well.
- Michigan Week was celebrated with treats and trivia.

Submitted:  
Lisa Wood

**Sherwood Branch**

- It's hard to believe that we're just a few weeks away from the end of the 2018-2019 school year! Preparations for the 2019 Summer Reading Program are well under way. We've just added more events to our calendar and are looking forward to hosting some really cool programs this summer!
- The kids painted terracotta pots and planted flower seeds in them for Mother's Day - It was fun to see all the excitement when seeds germinated and the fruits of their labor became visible. Next week we're creating patriotic baseball hats. They'll start out with plain white hats and use sharpies to create their designs.
- The Census Bureau held a hiring blitz here last week and we had a couple of adults attend.

Submitted:  
Traci Counterman BDL Sherwood Branch Manager

## Dearth Union Branch

- A local author, Brandy Bennett-Baker, held a book signing for her new book "*Forever My Love*," Over twenty people showed up including many friends she hasn't seen in years. Brandy was very pleased with the turnout and was glad we could promote a new author.
- During National Library Week we had patrons color a heart if they loved their library. Our front windows were covered with over 65 hearts. You can see some of the hearts in the window with the picture below.
- Our library held the annual district wide Friends Meeting with about 30 attendees. The friends had gift bags for the lucky winners in a raffle, The Grand Prize raffle was won by John Rucker who received a bottle of Union City's family maple syrup.
- This year instead of an Easter egg hunt we had a scavenger hunt throughout the library. Kids were able to pick up a sheet with pictures on them. They had to find an egg and get the letter on the back of the egg and write the letter on the sheet. When done and could tell the saying Libraries Rock they received a chocolate bunny.
- I watched two webinars pertaining to summer reading about the program Wandoo Reader the library will be using this summer.
- Once again, we had over fifty people show up for the senior meal voucher. I talked to many of them about the services the district offers.

Submitted:

Judy Gottschalk

