



## **Alagansee**

We had one Young Adult program scheduled making a wreath, no show of YA. We will have YA Programs every month, sometimes we have a few attend, but everybody is busy with school activities.

All libraries are getting ready for Summer Reading programs way ahead to make sure we have exciting books and programs for all ages. The theme for 2020 is "Fairy, Mythology, and Fantasy". The Slogan is "Imagine Your Story".

We always have coloring pages and lots of books and magazines out for all ages.

Our Adult Craft was a frosted snowman, with 4 Adults attending during the week. The program went very well.

Any questions or suggestions please let us know.

We are offering different hours at our branch to make it more convenient for patrons.

Janice Clark  
Alagansee Branch Manager



## **Bronson**

Winter break programs drew quite a few kids during the second week of the break. Guess they were all getting bored at home by then. We continue January and February with a full schedule of events.

We have set up a couple different displays of books to draw attention to items not circulating as often as we would like them to. Cozy Mysteries, always a great read during cold winter months. Westerns, popular with men and teens. We have a shelf for Staff Picks and each week we display 3 books we have read. We have had some great discussions with patrons about the books and that shelf circulates all the time.

We purchased a book truck with money given in memory of Friends member Jeanne Unterkircher and now rotate picture books from the bottom shelves of the children's area. These are on the cart facing out so kids can see the covers of the books and it has helped more of those circulate too.

We are starting work with our tweens and teens to form an Advisory Board as a way for them to have a voice in what they would like to see happen at our branch. We have had some issues lately with large groups of teens getting loud and a bit unruly so rather than being the big mean library people we will work with them and try to give them a sense of responsibility of the library.

The last item is a Friends item: Our local book store, Ye Olde Book Shoppe, closed its doors this past summer and then in December the building sold. The McClish family donated their entire inventory of books to our Friends group. The new owners gave the ok for our group to hold the sale right there in the building instead of having to move over 15,000 books so for the past two weeks hundreds of books have been purchased by book addicts from all over the area. People have come from Calhoun, St Joseph, Hillsdale counties and Indiana. The McClish family have always been big time supporters of the library and we are very grateful for this wonderful donation.

Lynnell Eash  
Bronson Branch Manager

## **Coldwater**

The Coldwater Branch is forging ahead into 2020. We recently hosted several well-attended events for adults. Cheryl Lawrence, a clerk at this branch, held two sessions where she led patrons in creating Christmas cards with quilling, an art form that involves making shapes and patterns out of curled strips of paper. Cheryl's quilling programs have become so popular that she's inspired similar programs at the Burnside Center! Cheryl will be continuing with her quilling lessons in January with Valentine's cards. In addition, every Tuesday in January, Cheryl will be teaching patrons basic crochet skills and helping them create sleeping mats out of plastic shopping bags that will eventually be donated to help people in need.

Local artist/staff member Ben Lyon held a series of craft programs in which patrons of all ages made holiday ornaments out of clay. BDL's Teen Services Coordinator, Lindsay Villa, crossed over into adult programming with her introduction to the bullet journal system, a flexible organizational method that is a great option to introduce for the new year. Meanwhile, public services clerk Cheryl Graham-Machida gave a presentation on the celebration of New Year's in Japan. Cheryl's program included an educational talk, a variety of authentic snacks, and a calligraphy lesson. We're glad that Cheryl is here to share her cultural knowledge and for all of our talented staff members.

Over the next few weeks, we'll have the next Quiet Cocoa Club as well as a family-friendly board game night and a "Speed Friending" event for adults. February will bring our month-long Adult Winter Reading Challenge, during which we'll give away weekly prizes in the form of gift cards to local businesses. Also in February, we will be showing *The Public*, a movie that invites conversation about the role of libraries in society today.

Teens at Coldwater were treated to two after-hours events this month. Cocoa, Coffee, and Cram! served as a fun break from studying for finals and included a variety of snacks plus a mix-it-yourself coffee and cocoa bar. Open Mic Night invited teens to share their songs, poetry, and comedy with their peers. This week, teens will compete at a Roblox-themed video game tournament while craftier teens will express themselves with a DIY scrunchie project.

In Kids' Place, patrons celebrated the winter holidays with multiple ornament crafts as well as lovely luminary jars. Fan-favorite Jonny Hawkins also visited to share his cartooning talent with all of us. Kids got a little messy this month with the shaving cream and ping pong relay, a fun competition that also encourages teamwork. Kids' Place staff helped kids ring in the "Noon Year"

at our fun, punny New Year's party. Everyone played New-Year's-themed Bingo and pin-the-number-on-the-year, created 2020 vision boards, and released 20 balloons while they toasted each other with sparking juice during an exciting countdown to the "Noon Year."

The highlight of the winter season was our annual visit from Kris Kringle. Despite a malfunctioning elevator, Mr. and Mrs. Claus persevered, while Children's Services Coordinator Linda Dull held the floor with impromptu stories and caroling with the help of Julia Littlely. One of our young patrons even brought his own home-made cookies to share with Santa Claus.

Coming soon to Kids' Place is a tool box building session with real hammers and nails as well as a hot cocoa mix take-home craft. We're also looking forward to a busy Winter Fest on January 25th. James Wallace will be back with a Lego Build-a-Yeti story, and we'll have Make-It-and-Take-It crafts every afternoon. February will see a 29-day reading challenge for the kids.

On February 1st, Coldwater will be participating in Take Your Child to the Library Day with the other BDL branches. Each of our floors will host a different family-friendly activity. We're planning to have a slime station, a staff member teaching drawing techniques, kid-accessible ancestry activities in the Holbrook Heritage Room, board games, and a movie on our projector. We want visitors to our branch to get a taste of all that we offer here.

In other district-related news, we're happy to report that our patrons are already buzzing about the 2020 One Book One County! In fact, almost all of the Coldwater copies of *Shores Beyond Shores* have already been checked out. 2020 is off to a successful start so far.

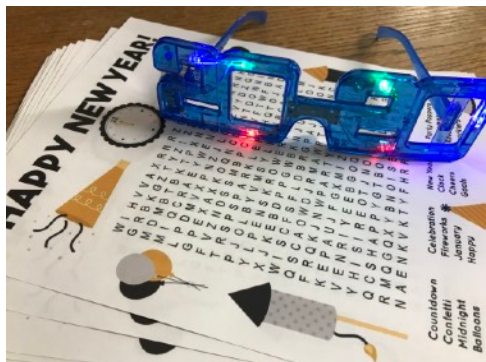
Keeley Briggs  
Coldwater Branch Manager

## Quincy

A big thank you to the Administration for the staff Christmas lunch. Their time and efforts were appreciated.

We had children, parents and grandparents enjoy our come and go craft table during the school break. New Year's 2020 glasses were also a big hit for all ages.

An adult Cookies, Coffee & Coloring session was held on a rainy, January Saturday morning.



The following Teen events are being offered this month:  
Bullet Journaling, Snowflake Art, Scrunchie Making, and Word Search Races.



Branch Managers met last week to continue Summer Reading Program planning. Events and programs are being booked and planned, so as to have them ready for each

upcoming Event Guide.

February 1 will have fun crafts and games offered for "Take Your Child to the Library Day" with Storyteller Larry Todak, retired from Quincy Schools.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Wood

## **Sherwood**

Happy New Year!

The Sherwood Branch is currently holding our "Emoji reading contest" throughout the month of January. Every book read is an entry into the contest. There is a prize for three different age groups. Our prizes were generously donated by "Solutions Of Southwest Michigan." (Thank you again, SSW!)

I'm beginning to order supplies for the upcoming 2020 Summer Reading Program. It's amazing how quickly that sneaks up on us!

It's been pretty peaceful with a smattering of programs here and there!

We're looking forward to all of the great programs and events we've planned for the new year!

Until next month -

Respectfully,

Traci Counterman  
Sherwood Branch Manager

## **Lucille E. Dearth Union Twp. Branch**

During the holiday season, the Union Township Library was busy with activities relating to the season. Throughout the month, patrons were invited to read a picture book or a chapter of a holiday chapter book for the Holiday Book Challenge. There were 181 entries for the challenge with children, teens and adults involved. Prizes included several products from the vendors at Small Business Saturday as well as donations from the Friends of the Union Township Library. Candy treats were given out to the young people who found "Jingle" (an Elf on the Shelf doll) hidden around the library including within the branches of the bookmark Christmas tree and on various shelves.



We began the month with a Grinch Escape Room event for the teens with a lot of fun and success. Other teen programs for December included a jingle bell ornament and Pokemon stress balls. Over 100 teens enjoyed the teen activities as well as Creating STEAM where they created buildings out of cranberries and toothpicks. Storytime themes were gingerbread, Christmas and toys with several children coming to the library for books, crafts, games, and snacks. A viewing of the Polar Express was presented during the school break.



Adults were introduced to Jingle Bell Swags as 10 adults made decorations for their homes and to give as gifts. We began the practice of offering Bingo to the seniors as they waited for the meal voucher distribution with great success. It will be a regular activity on that day.

We were pleased to have noted Michigan historian Larry Massie come and present at All Things Serenity Event Center. He and his wife Priscilla came from Allegan to talk about Michigan history with some emphasis on the holiday happenings of the early days of Michigan. An ice cream social was held afterward.

The bi-monthly Union Township meeting was held and they approved the installation of the new latrines in the restrooms and LED light bulbs throughout the main floor of the building.

Thank you for taking the time to read my report and support the library!

Sincerely,  
Julia Baratta

