

## **Alganssee**

We finally had a Kid's Craft program with attendees! Five children and four parents showed up for our "Snowman Painting" class and the kids had a blast and so did I. I think this is a good demonstration of not giving up on an idea, just keep working it until it fits. When we first started we had it listed as 4:00 on Wednesdays then noticed buses still going by a little before 4:00. In the fall of 2021 we changed it to 5:00 on Wednesdays then had someone point out that a lot of children in the area attend a church program on Wednesday evenings. 2022 changed it again to Tuesdays at 5:00 and BINGO! we had a great turnout. Keep in mind we limit the number of attendees to eight due to the small space so five children were perfect.

Preschool storytime themes for January will be Winter, Snowmen, Kindness and Groundhogs day.

We have had requests to have an evening Adult Craft class and we are more than willing to do that if people are interested. We already have one at 1:00 but people working couldn't come but have found out about it and now want an evening class. We could have a total of 15 programs in February at the Alganssee branch plus our Grab n Go kits! How awesome is that?!

Linda and I both completed the Beginner Workshop and are hard at work to complete the MelCat Maven program.

My critter of the month I thought was a mouse running around the library but it turned out to be a shrew. Still close enough to a mouse to gross me out. We tamed the shrew and had a discussion with the local cats.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## **Bronson**

A couple building maintenance issues have come to light over this past month with one being solved quickly and the other we are still waiting for an answer. The steps to the basement from the front entrance and that hallway downstairs have been without lights since the floor repair. Ludwick Electric was called and installed motion sensor lights, problem solved. Since the last time McNally elevator guys were here we have noticed the elevator doors opening when there's no one around. In the past week they will just open and close repeatedly which is nerve wracking when you are in the building alone after closing. McNally's has been called and will be sending a technician soon.

Steve's Tween n Teen programs for January: Pizza Mania and Stop Motion Animation. His homeschool programs: Sock puppet theater, Air Dry Clay Jewelry and Stop Motion Animation. Jessie's Adult Craft: Heart Tote Bag. Kid's Craft: a painting of a cold snowy evening and then they placed a cutout picture of themselves in the painting. We will have our first Family Fun Night featuring Legos.

More tweens and teens are visiting the computer room after school again which is great to see.

We are preparing for our Take Your Child To The Library Day in February. So excited to see all the programs back on the calendar!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## **Coldwater**

Despite being a traditionally slow time of year, the holiday season has kept us busy at the Coldwater Branch!

Our recurring programs carry on into the new year. Emergency Preparedness for Everyone from the Branch-Hillsdale-St.-Joseph Community Health Agency will be held the first Monday of the month through March. Toddler Time on Tuesdays with Kids' Place superstar Angie Richards has restarted, and her brand-new Movin' and Groovin' Preschool Storytime will be held every Thursday afternoon. Ben Lyon's all-ages Art Club is gaining steam while Cheryl Lawrence will be passing along Teen Anime Club to our newest public services clerk, Haila Omar, in the near future as Cheryl moves into her new position managing BDL's outreach services.

We are easing into in-person programming for kids and families with a series of drop-in programs. Patrons are welcome to join us any time during drop-in programs, reducing the number of people who are present in the space at one time. Drop-in programming has become popular enough that we are continuing with a series of drop-in STEM building activities in January and February. Every other week, we will feature a new building material with two opportunities to attend on Wednesday night and Saturday morning. In early January, we held two sessions of building with Lego, and this coming week, we will be building structures out of sugar cubes and icing. Attendees' sugar cube creations will be on display for Winter Fest on January 22nd during which the library will also be open as a warming center with free tea and cocoa.

Grab-and-go kits for January include a snowflake décor craft for adults and cookie cutter bird feeders for teens. Younger children enjoyed a faux snow sensory kit this week, and later in the month we will feature a Sesame Street activity kit to accompany the release of the new movie as well as a winter slime craft kit for slightly older kids.

Our new district-wide Children's Services Coordinator, Valerie Albright, joined the team officially this month, and we are currently interviewing for two new public services clerks here at Coldwater.

In a final piece of news, I have accepted a position at the Michigan Library Association and will be leaving BDL at the end of the month. I can't adequately express my gratitude for all the opportunities I've had here over the last four years. I hope to stay in touch with everyone, and make sure to keep an eye out for me at MLA events in the future!

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

## **Quincy**

Our ongoing craft table during the school Christmas break brought in some families, and the Grab 'n Go bags were popular with the parents, as it gave children crafts to do while they were home from school.

The library was a little busier before the forecast of inclement weather the last couple weeks. Patrons stocked up for the long weekends we were closed over the holidays also.

Story Hour has a few new children. The new Event Guide is being offered to patrons and will hopefully enlighten them to see programming options county wide.

The new Teen Services Coordinator, Sandi Polodan and Children's Services Coordinator, Valerie Albright, have each visited and we are looking forward to the supplemental programming they will bring to our branch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Wood

## **Sherwood**

I don't have a lot to report this month -

Our programs thru May are on the calendar of events!

Last month we had our Noah's Ark Babies program. It went great. We had 15 kids show up and they were all excited to stuff and name their babies. We had Shiny Reindeer, Snow Leopards and Baby Owls, to choose from.

Today we're making fancy 3-D snowflakes with our teen group and later this month we're having a luau party with the littles, complete with lei's, sunglasses and Hawaiian punch!

I'll be getting some book and movie orders in this week.

I'm looking forward to a better year than the last one was!

Until next month,

Respectfully,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

## Union Twp.

### Union Township Branch Board Report- December 2021



We here at the Union Township Branch hope you all had a happy holiday season...

We provided several holiday-themed Grab 'n Go kits for our patrons with Grinch Jars for Creating STEAM (12/6), Lace Up Stockings (12/13), Christmas Apples made with rolls of toilet paper (12/20), Melted Snowman Tea Lights (12/27) and Old Time Crafts' Iris Paper Folding (12/27). A special Christmas Snowman craft was offered during winter break. The Spice Club selection was



Spearmint and the Lit Kit was the Gingerbread Boy with a paper Gingerbread House Ornament to color and hang.

Now that winter is upon us and the gardens are put to bed for the season, the Roots and Shoots Seed Library is getting ready to open this spring. Thanks to generous patrons, we have some new seeds to offer for the 2022 growing season. An inventory of our current stock has been completed and we are excited about the coming year!



The "So this is Quizmas..." activity was a hit with a number of families participating in the holiday picture books quiz and receiving packets of hot chocolate and new books. The purpose of the activity was to expose the children to ten of our holiday picture book titles by asking them a question about each one. The themes for the books ranged from general Christmas to the

various religious celebrations. A bookmark was taped in the books as a "clue" to the answer for the corresponding question. They were also introduced to an Icelandic tradition called Jolabokaflokkur, which translates roughly to "**Christmas book flood**" in English. They would exchange books on Christmas Eve and then spend the evening reading and enjoying chocolate. It sounded like a neat holiday tradition so I shared it with our patrons. I am planning on the entire activity to be an annual offering.



Now that the holidays are over and the New Year upon us, we are looking ahead to sharing more book-themed traditions with our patrons throughout 2022...

Thanks for your work on the board!

Julia Baratta, Union Twp Branch Manager