

## Alganssee

We have been learning about the first Thanksgiving this month and the importance of being thankful during our Tuesday and Wednesday story times. The kids have sat in the square footage that the pilgrims had on the Mayflower. They built a wigwam out of strips of cardboard and old newspapers. Then created turkeys from their handprints and colored leaves with what they were thankful for.

Our Thursday group had a lot of fun with the turkey party. They raced sweet potatoes, moving them with a spoon. Created edible turkey themed snacks and designed turkey hats. The Detective week was also a hit. They lifted fingerprints off glasses and used Play-Doh to understand casting tracks and prints, and then enjoyed a game of Clue.

Tuesday crafts have been utilizing books that our Friends Group has been unable to sell. Linda has been helping the kids turn them into adorable hedgehogs, angels, trees and even a chicken. Many of the kids are planning to take these recycled art projects to the fair next year.

The adult crafts this month were an acrylic canvas painting and a decoupage turkey plaque.

We have a new toilet, vanity and flooring in the bathroom. It looks very nice and I am most appreciative to have a fully functioning restroom. We also have a bit more room to move in the back craft room. Mr. and Mrs. Toth removed the old wall heater unit from the room.

I have submitted paperwork to become a Notary. We have had a few request these past few months and I am happy to be able to offer another service here.

Respectfully Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

## Bronson

Winter programs have arrived!

Cardboard creatures, game night, ghost stories, duct tape creations, a winter celebration, gingerbread man and favorite holiday stories. These are just some of the programs that have taken place or are coming up yet in December.



Steve had a wonderful tabletop puppet show for our December Family Fun Night and everyone got to make their own puppets to take home. He performed Dickens', *A Christmas Carol*, and even had sound effects to go along with the performance.

Kids Craft hour made snowmen ornaments from old DVDs and the Adult Craft hour made cute snowmen from paint sticks. Both programs had excellent attendance.

A sheet of music cut in a triangle and folded, a skewer and a round wood piece. This was our adult grab and go kit for the month and it inspired a teacher to make the same kit for her students and she said they had so much fun doing them. She sent pictures of her students holding up their projects and everyone had a big smile.



*Sound Effects for A Christmas Carol*

We haven't had any issues letting people know they will need a library card to use the computers. People have been ok with taking the time to fill out their information or update what we already have. Kids were thrilled to learn about the Library1 program and we had several sign up for those cards too.

Glad to have the Canva program to make posters and calendars again. Easy to use once you get the hang of it and nice to be able to make a quick call to Kimberly for "how to" help.

We have started planning for the next event guide which will cover March, April and May. What to keep, add or cease. Also working on programs for the summer reading months and looking so far ahead sure makes the weeks fly by.

With winter weather coming we encourage patrons to take an extra book or two so they don't get stuck at home with nothing to read!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## **Coldwater**

It's beginning to look a lot like winter around the Coldwater Branch. We have several winter themed and chilling book displays! Our library guests have been busy with making: holiday cards, clay ornaments, wreaths, and we have an upcoming gift wrapping class.

Our staff in Kids Place have been cleaning and taking inventory of craft supplies. We have moved most of the craft supplies in the basement craft room. This allows craft materials to be more serviceable for all staff.

We have received a second estimate for the interior painting and look forward to putting on a fresh coat of paint within the next few months. We still have several job openings in Coldwater; 2-full time and 1-part time. In Coldwater; 4,124 people were in attendance at the library in November; that is 20% increase from last year's attendance. The Heritage Room had 32 visitors and we purchased \$1,232.86 in new books in November.

Coldwater Kiwanis club has donated money so we could purchase books and bookmarks to give to families at our "Letters to Santa" event on December 17th. At this event the first 50 families will receive a book; we will have cookie decorating and children can send a letter to Santa. In addition, we have started a new Night Time Story Time; this is weekly, Monday's at 6 PM.



Upcoming events include: Book End Painting, Letters to Santa, Gift Wrapping and Caterpillar Sock Animals.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

## Quincy

We were very thankful at the Quincy Branch this November. We had so many fun programs and story times but we're ready to host our fun Christmas programs that we have planned!

Here is a quick summary of the fun things happening:

- We're adding video games into the material collection at the Quincy branch! I'm very excited to see how it goes over in the County.
- We got a new and much improved fridge and new shelving\cart for story time\program snacks. We're very grateful for these new items!

- In years past, the Quincy Friends group has done letters to Santa in the basement of the Library for Quincy Lights. This year I decided to add fun activities upstairs too. Brittany and I did popcorn stringing and Christmas crafts and it was a very nice turnout. We had 110 people come through in 2 hours. Very busy & very fun!
- The whole 3rd grade class that I read to at Jennings all wrote me 'Thank You' notes for coming to read to them. It was a very wonderful feeling knowing that they love that I come and read to them.

As crazy as it may seem, we're already working on getting our programs ready for the spring and the start of summer. Stay tuned for the fun activities we are planning!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Everyone! 😊

Submitted by Sarah Strong

## **Sherwood**

Greetings from Sherwood,

Hard to believe we are at the end of another year!

We've got some programs coming up later this month. We've got some crafts and game days coming up. We're watching *The Polar Express* on the 23rd with snacks.

I've been working on orders for next year and looking into Summer Reading Programs, as well.

I don't have a lot to report this month, so, until next year...

Best regards and Happy Holidays,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

## **Union Twp.**

With the holiday season looming, Union Twp Branch is ready to promote resources to help patrons plan for "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!" We have had A LOT of positive feedback concerning the shelf changes. With the Non Fiction in its new place, it has been appreciated more and we expect increased usage of that collection especially crafts and cookbooks!



November's Grab 'n Go craft kits celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday with a Fabric Pumpkin for Teens (10/7), Children's Handprint Turkey Headbands (10/14), Paper Plate Whirligigs (10/14), and Tassel Making for Old Time Crafts (10/21). The Spice Club featured Rosemary and the Lit Kit selection was *Who will Carve the Turkey This Thanksgiving?* by Jerry Pallotta.

Our in-person programming included Storytimes on Wednesday, Creating STEAM on Thursdays as well as Taking Time to Stitch at noon, and Small Business Saturday where we had six vendors!

We have also been adding to the book sale with donations including a large number of DVDs. There will be a LARGE book sale held during the week before Christmas and we expect to move a large number of items then. After the new year, we will be taking advantage of the Sustainable Shelves program through Baker & Taylor. We appreciate B&T for much of our material purchasing and with this program, we will be able to send our discards to the company where either we will receive a credit for future purchases or they will recycle the materials. They pay for the shipping of the books to their warehouse so it is a win/win for us!

I did leave the Fiber Art/Textiles display up through the month of November as well as the StoryWalk so more patrons could appreciate them. Currently, we are running the "So This is Quizmas..." with several participants collecting their packets of hot chocolate. This is a way to share our holiday collection with the children and a number of them are looking forward to checking out the titles after the quiz is over!

We will be having Art Challenges through the two weeks of Winter Break where we will provide the supplies and the challenges, and the participants will show their creativity!

On the virtual side, I attended a seminar called "Nature as Your Teaching Partner" (11/02) and the Mary Calletto Rife Youth Literature Seminar from Kalamazoo Public Library (11/04) which included several breakout sessions.



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2023!

Julia Baratta

Union Township Branch Manager