

## Alganssee

We had many kids and parents in for prints to prepare for the upcoming school exams. The IT department brought out a large computer monitor for our back desk. I was very thankful for that.

Our first story time this month was the requested *Three Little Pigs*. After the story we built houses and huffed and puffed them down. Since one of the boys insisted that the Big Bad Wolf should have been a badger, it became the next week's theme. I have to admit it was interesting. Then we had a request for frogs. So we learned about the journey from tadpole to frog. Read silly frog stories and sang many, many rounds of *Five Little Speckled Frogs*.

Green Garden month kicked off with a lesson in hydroponics. Each of the kids named a seed pod that they put into the Aero Garden. We have had so much fun watching them grow, even the adults. The following week we planted and dissected seeds. The highlight of the night was when the kids began giggling over seeds having belly buttons! Propagation was our next activity. The kids helped split offshoots from their parent succulents. We took cuttings off the herb garden to start new plants. This became a lesson of its own when our teen began asking what each herb could be used for. We also examined and planted a sprouting potato and onion. Aquaponics was SO much fun. Since that lesson the kids keep coming in chanting "Plants feed fish and plants eat fish poop." So at least they grasped the cycle.



Linda created many crafts with the kids and adults this month. They made rainbow spirals out of paper plates. Cute little Leprechauns from paper towel rolls. Fairies out of popsicle sticks and cardstock. Then beautiful fairy lanterns from recycled spaghetti jars. The adults made St. Patty's ribbon wreaths and porch welcome signs.



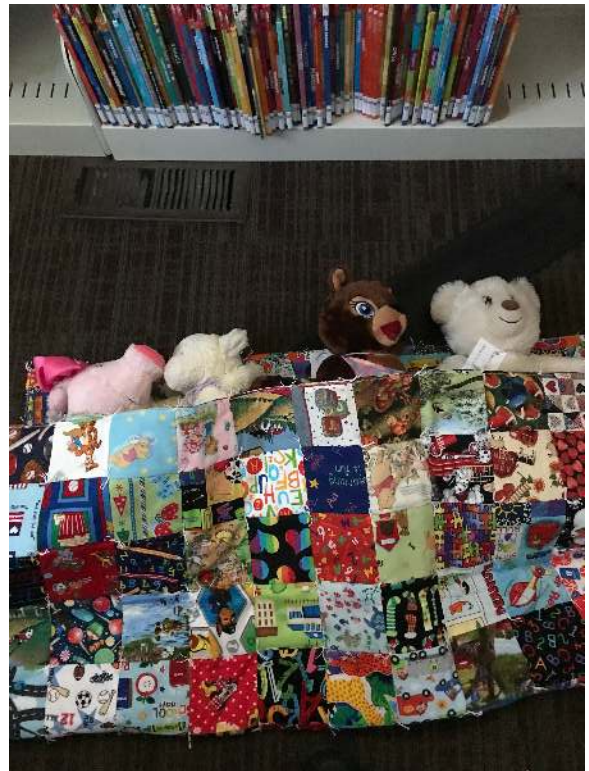
Lego Club is continuing to grow. Our family movie was *Bridge to Terabithia* and most of the kids seemed to really enjoy it. The Fairy Garden family craft had 15 participants. It was very crowded, but there were also beautiful projects that left ready to be entered at fair. The kids received instructions on how to care for the plants in each of their gardens. Some of the succulent offshoots found homes in their gardens.

Submitted by Teresa Shilling

## Bronson

At the end of March we had two weeks filled with some exceptional programs. We worked with the Bronson Area Historical Society and had author Michael Biesiada come and talk about his book *A History of Gilead Township and East Michiana*. This program was very popular and we received positive feedback from it. Another program that was very popular was Branch County Conservation District's Farm Bill Biologist, Kayla Bradford, presenting "Introducing Native Grasses and Forbs into your Garden for Pollinators". A very good program with lots of information shared. I've invited her back to do a program for children during the summer programs.

A third program we tried for the first time was a "Stuffie Sleepover". Children could bring one stuffed animal and that stuffed animal then got to spend the night at the library. As the children arrived we registered each animal. Steve was in charge of games and shenanigans, Jessie crafts and Lynnell refreshments, movie and storytime. Stephanie Davis came and helped take photos and move all the critters from one room to the next. Each one had two completed crafts to take home, played Pictionary, Jenga with the giant blocks, and jumbo checkers. A line up for the restroom then downstairs for snacks and watch the movie *Toy Story*, then storytime. We took photos of each activity and the kids received a photo booklet of the fun their stuffie had. The next day children returned for a pizza party and to pick up their stuffed friend. We had 50 people show up for the pizza party which was held upstairs in the library and it was great to have a full house once again.



Jessie attended Anderson Elementary's Kindergarten Roundup Night. She was able to talk to numerous families and register several children for library cards. I attended Head Starts Literacy Night and met with each family, handing out a goodie bag and registering children for cards.

Our OBOC program was held towards the end of the month and we had a small group attend the discussion. Jeannie Berg led the discussion and once again did a wonderful job.



We attended the staff in-service day held at the Coldwater Branch and then returned to our branch to continue spring cleaning. Space was cleared in cupboards so that summer program supplies could be stored and ready to go.

Steve will have a Family Fun Night on Friday and the program will be Shadow Puppets.

We look forward to warmer weather and all the fun activities that will happen in April and May.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## Coldwater

The flowers are blooming and April's programs are focused around the environment. This includes the seed library, the seeds are stocked and ready to sprout! On Earth Day, we will have an up-cycling program for all ages and a teen Earth Day craft. The TAC teens have agreed to volunteer with the community wide clean-up on Friday, April 21st. April is also Arab Heritage Month; our staff member Abrar, set up a beautiful book display. April 12th, is D.E.A.R (drop everything and read) participants will receive a scoop token for Culver's.



To recap; March, we celebrated March Is Reading month with a reading challenge. We had approximately 30 participants. In March we had 5,465 people visit the library and 117 kids and 21 teens participate in programs at the library. Coldwater finished scheduling a generous amount of programs and events for Summer Reading.

Upcoming events include: Story Time Monday's and Tuesday's. Earth Day Crafts and May Day door hangers.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

## Quincy

I hope everyone is doing wonderful and enjoying the beautiful weather we've been having! Quincy has had a busy month of getting things prepared for our Summer Reading programs and festivities.

Here is a quick summary of the fun things happening:

- ❖ Brittany and I got everything planned and ready to go for Summer Reading coming in just 8 short weeks - programs, branch challenge prizes, and supplies. We're VERY excited!
- ❖ We hosted a Slime Party and had a wonderful turnout. The kiddos made slime from just three ingredients and had a blast making it but especially getting to play with it and take it home.
- ❖ The NIKA Club had their mystery destination trip this month and the Library was the mystery destination that their committee chose. So Brittany and I were able to attend the NIKA meeting and were able to talk to the group of women about Library cards, this year's Summer Reading activities, Books by Mail, and a lot of discussion on Hoopla. It was a very nice time. We were glad they chose us to come visit the Library this year.
- ❖ We did a scavenger hunt in the library with the kiddos and had a good turnout. All the kiddos that completed the hunt got a pudding cup and a piece of candy & they were thrilled.



Stay tuned to see what other fun things we have happening this next month! I'm hopeful that warmer days are here to stay!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

## Sherwood

Sherwood is doing great! Programs are going well. We don't have massive numbers, but patrons are showing up for them!

Materials ordering is in progress. New items are rolling in on a weekly basis.

I've gotten a lot of cleaning and weeding done this week.

Hopefully when we get a new clerk here I'll be able to get back to the school for story time. In the meantime, I'll still be doing storytime here on Thursday mornings.

We're making Easter egg wreaths for crafts this afternoon.

I don't have a whole lot this month, so until next month,

Respectfully,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



## Union Twp.

My name is Maria Piper and I am the new Branch Manager at Union Twp. Library. I have been working as a Clerk at the Sherwood Branch the last five years and I am very thrilled for this new opportunity.

Since starting I have been working on several projects and have lots planned for the next couple months. A couple of the things I have currently been working on is planning programs for the summer months. Lots planned, such as Mr. Jim, a Magic Show, Pint Size Polkas, Edward Jones, Bobbie Mathis, family, kids, and teen programs.



We had one patron for the String Art and several kids these past couple weeks for Story Time and the Easter craft we had ongoing every day this week. Cheryl will be coming over on April 25 for Crochet Old Time Crafts. This month we have Spine Poetry Challenge and hope to have patrons using the spines of our books to display the lines of their beautiful poems. Next month we will have fun with a bookmark Scavenger Hunt!

At the end of March Andrea got a head start on Spring with the official opening of the Roots and Shoots Seed Library. Library guests can "check out" up to 10 seed packets per household - no more than 2 of the same kind. Come check out all the new seeds we have in stock!

I am looking forward to connecting with the Friends of the Library and a meeting has been planned within the next couple weeks.

Andrea has been a huge help with organization and planning! We have been sorting, labeling and brainstorming. Lots of great projects we are working on such reorganizing the children's area, rearranging books to other areas, creating new ideas for the bulletin boards and some major spring cleaning. I have training days scheduled with John, Kimberly and Jessica in the next couple weeks. Looking forward to getting to know the patrons, Friends of Library, and community members!

Submitted by Maria Piper

