

Alganssee

We are excited for a new year of programs at the Alganssee branch.

The Snowman Painting Adult Craft had overwhelming attendance. But we received a lot of positive comments about the program and our library from the attendees. We had a smaller group for the Mug Cake program due to sleet that day, but those who came had a good time.



We have been studying polar animals at Storytime. We created our own snow again, after reading how snowflakes are formed. They tested some icy water with blubber gloves to understand how fat keeps the arctic animals warm and practiced being polar bears. Then our colony of kiddos walked with shaker eggs on their feet like penguins.

It has been a much quieter month for Sneaky Squirrel due to the weather. But they have also created some adorable crafts and completed more successful missions.

Our study of the human body has been fun. The Skin You're In was a great program, where we created an edible skin displaying all the layers. The kids loved it and it was delicious.

Brains was the second most popular program with the kids creating brain hats that showed all the parts of the brain and what each portion does.



Movie night was cancelled, weather again. But our Slime Fest was a very happy mess of kids and slime. We have seen an increase on puzzle exchanges and kids coming in to color, especially on Saturdays.

I attended the Alganssee Friends meeting. We had our first visit with the bed bug sniffing dog from Orkin. I completed the training to receive my MEL Maven certification. With the beginning of the year's budget, I have been busy ordering new books and DVDs to add to our collection.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Bronson



During the cold snowy days at the end of January the library was pretty quiet. I think everyone was hibernating. Then the warmer days hit and the groundhog didn't see his shadow and then we got busy again! We had a teacher register his whole class for library cards and he plans to make library visits as the weather gets warmer.

Programs have been well attended. We had 20 kids show up and become groundhogs for our February 2 Storytime and

the next week we got the bubble machine out the kids had a blast trying to catch bubbles. Steve's Homeschool program picked up a couple families from St. Joe county and even from Indiana. Word continues to get out about his wonderful programs. Jessie's Adult Crafts continue to be in high demand. She has some great ideas coming out in the next event guide.

The new Event Guides out and we have some exciting programs coming up. It will be a busy spring but we look forward to it.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash



Coldwater

Love is in the air, the love of books! Coldwater kicked off February with; "Take Your Child To The Library Day" and "Love Local" with the Coldwater DDA. This event included candy, crafts, and window displays. Our octopus window display ties in with the book for One Book One County, "Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt; book discussions are taking place in March.

Meagan, our marketing and TikTok expert, has been engaging all of the Coldwater staff in TikToks to promote the library. The Coldwater staff has received several positive verbal acknowledgements, people love the videos on social media!

Building update: the Coldwater Branch has picked out carpet and vinyl options; as well as, received several estimates for the carpet project. This project is loosely scheduled for Spring of 2024.



Some of our beautiful displays for February are Black History and Blind Date with a Book.



The program highlights for late January and early February; story times, Romance book club, snowman building contest, Shelfie scavenger hunt, Valentines Flower Arranging, Teen Construction Zone and Homeschool Hangout. We also promoted the Adult reading challenge, "Yeti to Read." Participants who read 4 books within January and February earn a chance to win a Yeti prize basket.



It's almost that time of year for Michiganders to start seeds inside; with that said, Coldwater is continuing our Seed Library. Toni will also be applying for the, "One Seed One State," this year's seed is Heirloom Dill. Our branch is able to receive this dill seed free from the state seed library. In addition, we have asked for seeds and Peat moss pellet donations from Tractor Supply to better serve our gardening patrons.

Lastly; a few upcoming programs for the remainder of February, Story times on Tuesday and Thursday, Flashback Game Night, Morning Book Club, Get Craftin', SAT Prep, YA Book Club and many more!

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

Here is a summary of the fun things happening at the Quincy Branch -

- Quincy had their heating ducts cleaned by Breathe Free Duct Cleaning out of Jonesville this month. They were wonderful to work with - professional, quick, and explained everything in detail to make sure I didn't have any questions. 10/10 would recommend to anyone!
- We've had so many fun programs this last month from hunting a murderer, making fake snow, learning so much about our local history here in Quincy. But my favorite one was Scoop the Balloonatic! You're never too old to learn how to make animals out of balloons. Even with the terrible weather that day, our program still had 24 in attendance.
- After a few months of trying to get everything around and ready to install a story walk at the Quincy Park in the Spring - I'm in the finalizing stages of the story walk & I couldn't be more excited. Stay tuned for more information on this in the coming months!



I hope you're staying warm & soaking in all the sunshine you can get!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Union Twp.

What happened to January? February is here already!



I placed an order for new materials and moved some sections around and put up some new displays for Black History Month and a little something for Mardi Gras. January, we had a lot of kids come in for LEGO club and other crafts after school. A couple new patrons and some notary and faxing weekly as well. A lot of tax questions and printing daily have increased over the past couple weeks.

Take your Child to The Library Day was full of fun which included mini cupcakes, get to know your library scavenger hunt, color your own bookmarks, coloring sheets, eclipse glasses, Storytime and games. We had 94 patrons that came to the library that day in four hours and

15 came for the program. Andrea did a wonderful job setting all this up and making it look wonderful!



Upcoming Programs

March 6 at 6 pm Author and Shipwreck Hunter Ross Richardson will be on hand to speak about Michigan Mysteries. <https://www.michiganmysteries.com/>

March 16 Roots and Shoots Seed Library Program 9 - 1 pm. We have had over \$1400 worth of Seeds donated to Union Twp. Library from a variety of companies. Andrea is currently working on inventorying them and counting them out and putting them in individual envelopes and containers for the patrons to look through and see what Seeds they might want to take with them. We are very excited for all the new seeds and we are already getting patrons asking about the seeds and asking questions on what we currently have and what we may be getting in. Kudos to Andrea for making this program such a HUGE success!

One Book One County Book discussion is on March 26, 2024 at 5 p.m. at Union Twp. Library. Check out the dates for all the branches on our website. If you haven't already read the Book *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt defiantly check it out. I loved it and it will make you smile and laugh throughout the book.

Only 43 days until Spring.... not that I'm counting or anything!

Submitted By Maria Piper

Outreach

WinterFest had an amazing turn out with 234 people coming to visit our game room! We had a mix of different games and activities including floor Tic-Tac-Toe, Mario Kart, Just Dance, coloring pages, and more. Not many came over to the table containing library information, but many who came in had a lot of fun and got to see the library isn't just about books.

My time on the YouPer Award committee is on its way to wrapping up. Our award winner needs to be selected and submitted by mid March, so I have one or two more meetings left on the committee. During this time, I have gone through a little over 50 of the 99 nominated titles; some of which I did not finish for one reason or another, but over half of those were completely read. I still plan to read at least another small handful of the titles left on our list in the remaining weeks.

Library pop-ups are still going slowly and steadily, with a little more recent interaction at the one of the stops. I have not lately heard anything new on our bookmobile.

I do not have much happening in terms of Outreach events for at least another month or two, but I am taking the time I have to plan ahead through summer for various other things like how SRP might look for my pop-ups and planning Coldwater's teen anime club (especially the cosplay-inspired intermission activity for the anime club's marathon day).

An order for kids books will be placed either at the end of this month or early March to use up funding received from two grants that are explicitly for purchasing children's materials. More specifically, I plan to use these funds to acquire a nice phonics set like one that is already in Kids' Place and has proven to circulate often.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence