

Alganssee

Both of the Adult Crafts were filled to capacity this month. We have seen many new faces in addition to our regulars.

I've been using a new series of board books for our story time groups. We've been studying nature with hands on activities. We had a bear's breakfast of honey on toast. They built a beaver dam with play dough, sticks and pebbles. Then we ate worms (gummy) like a badger and made our nests. We also learned how crickets make noise and used egg shakers to do the same.

We have been using tracing and cutting activities for Crafts with Linda to help a young man who has been struggling a bit with fine motor skills at school. This way he can get extra practice in a fun way with his friends.



The Discovering Green Energy theme was fun and we learned a lot of history and even some geography with it. Hydro Power was their favorite. I brought in mortar and pestles for the kids to grind some corn by hand. I wanted them to understand how much work was originally involved in grinding grain and why water powered mills became so popular. From the porch, I could point out where the mill had been in Alganssee. Then we discussed how the technology progressed into hydro power. When the kids proudly showed me their cornmeal and asked if it was enough for cornbread, I replied that it was half of what I needed and they would have to grind some wheat too. Then milk the cow, gather eggs and churn some butter for the rest of the ingredients. One boy's face was priceless and the Amish man was laughing so hard.



We have seen another increase for Lego Club. The Mario Party was a success. I was pleased with how it turned out and the kids went wild. We had a table of Mario snacks inside and each of them got to choose a character tattoo. While one group made grape and strawberry piranhas the others got their tattoos on. Since there was an argument over steering wheels, I made them close their eyes for a blind draw (and no one got Peach). We got a quick picture, went over the rules and they were off! They screeched when they rounded the corner

into the bubbles. Then parents were hiding in the bushes ahead to ambush them with silly

string. They had to duck and dodge the floating ghosts at the next corner. Then passed through toadstool village as they raced uphill to the finish line. It was great. Then they all checked to see what was in the mystery boxes they picked up along the race (gold coins that they were adding up - Happy Math dance!). We had great attendance. I'm honestly not sure we could have handled many more with all the energy they had. They stopped to power themselves up with firepower (cheeseballs) and were off again for a rematch. Then I sent them all home with another round of tattoos. My two tattletales were leaking info they overheard about future party plans. It made me happy that they were received with much enthusiasm.

I underestimated the power of the book buddies. We have several kids who aren't our usual super readers, but are now reading more to collect the critters for their backpacks. One grandma volunteered to buy us another set of them if we run short because she was so impressed to see her grandkids reading more. Sneaky Squirrel has also been a popular addition. He has read a book, traveled the library in a Barbie jeep, parachuted from the sky and was a pirate with a chest of treasure.

Submitted by Teresa Shilling

Bronson

Fall has arrived and with it some super fun storytime sessions. Newest favorite song among the 2-5 year olds is a harvest song/fingerplay titled Fruits and Veggies Unite! Lots of movement and giggles go along with it. Steve's Homeschool Escapades has had an incredible attendance so far which is great to see and new families keep showing up. Jessie's Adult Crafts continue to fill and the next one will be a floating witch head.

We held our first Book Lovers R' Us and one lady almost couldn't write fast enough to get all the titles that were shared. The doughnuts were delicious and more people have shown an interest in coming next month.

Programs for the Dec-Feb event guide were turned in and we added a couple more activities to our winter list.

We have been registering lots of students for Library1 cards.

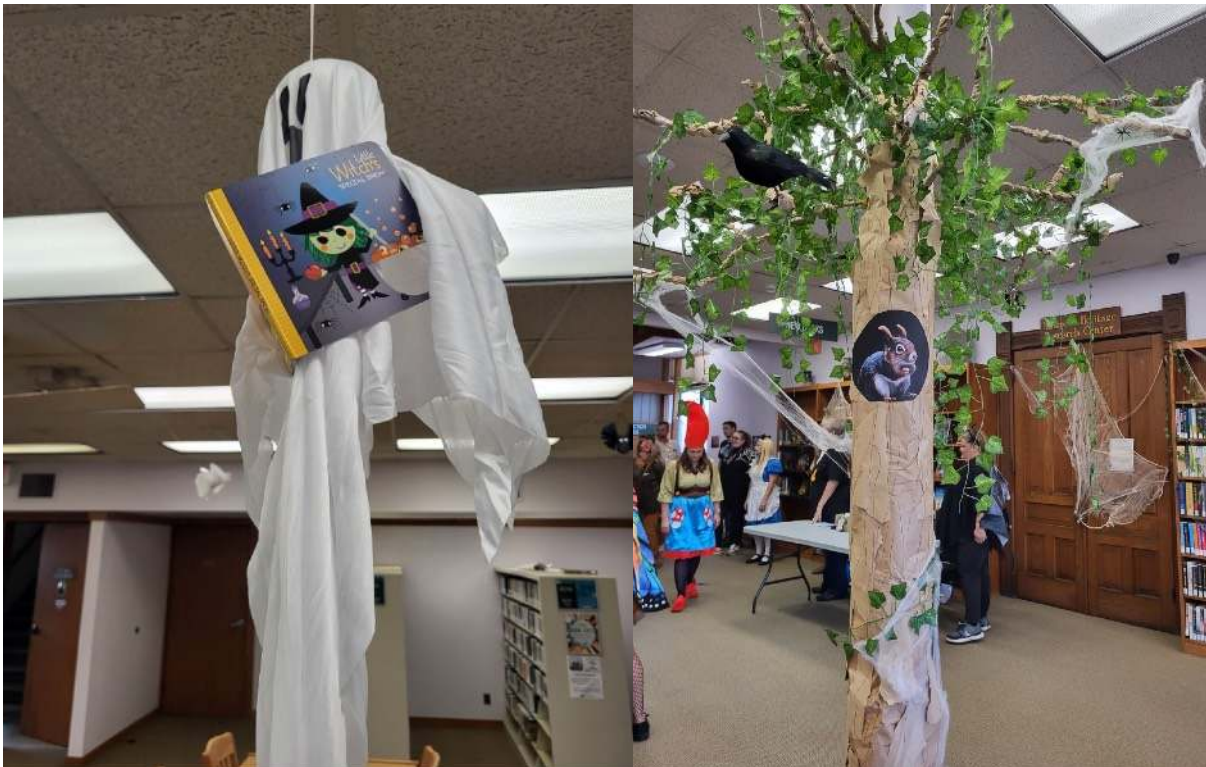
Staff attended the Fall Staff Training day in October. Very interesting and gave us all something to think about. Staff helped at Family Fright Night. Steve told spooky stories and Jessie and I had a "create a mummy" craft table.

The shades ordered back in the spring have finally been installed. A mixup at the company led to the delay but they are in now and look great.



Coldwater

October is off to a Spooktacular start. Our staff is definitely in the spirit of fall and our library has transformed with trees, ivy and book-reading ghosts! We are keeping up the spooky momentum after kicking off October with the annual Family Fright Night. Family Fright Night, filled candy buckets of over 435 library guests.



A few of the many upcoming programs for Teens in October include the; TeenTober Reading Challenge, Scary Movie Trivia Night, Zombie Barbies, Spooky, SENSE-ational Storytime, Book Club and a Hocus Pocus Movie Night. Upcoming programs in Kids Place include; Tie Dye Fun, Tuesday and Thursday's Storytime, Homeschool Hangout, Mommy and

Me Yoga, and Builders Club. For Adults events we have, The Morning Book Club and a Spooky Painted Board craft.

September was a busy month for the Coldwater Branch. Some of our highest attended programs in September were: Now and Then; A Far Out 70's experience. This event had a slideshow with historical highlights of the decade, 70's candy, a record player from our Library of Things and a tie dye craft.



At the always-popular Henna Art Program, 35 guests received a henna tattoo and learned about Middle Eastern Culture. The quirky but fun, Bad Art Night with an even worse trophy; guests had one hour to use at least 4 different supplies to make the ugliest piece of art. Lastly, we had a Jump Back into School Event. At this event we had a bounce house and gave out school supplies for over 100 people in the community.



In September, we purchased \$4,587 in materials for the library. We had 5,037 people visit the library and 24 visitors in the Holbrook Heritage Room.

Our Teen Space Coordinator, Nicky and Outreach Manager, Cheryl will be at a career fair later this month to talk about resources the library has to offer.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

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

- I would love to put a permanent story walk in the Quincy Park, much like they did at Heritage Park in Coldwater. I have started my community conversations to get funding for this project & I have presented this idea to the Village Council. The Village Council will vote on the project soon and I'll start getting out more in the community for fundraising. More to come on this exciting project!
- The Quincy Clerk, Brittany Gemmill, accepted a position as the Heritage Room Coordinator at the Coldwater Library. I will miss working closely with Brittany at the Quincy branch but am excited to welcome a new face into the library.
- Brittany and I played games with all the kiddos during the district wide event, Family Fright Night, and they were a BIG hit. Brittany did fairy tale races and I did a gum drop toss. We both had lots of kiddos coming back to play a second time because they had so much fun. This is one of my favorite events that we do - so much spooky fun 😊
- All our winter programs have been planned and I'm excited to get creative with kiddos and teens during the cold wintery months. Please check out what fun we have planned!
- We had a SUPER fun program that kiddos and adults are still raving about to this day. We had a Stuffy Sleepover at the Quincy library. The kiddos dropped their stuffies off to us on Friday night and got into some crazy shenanigans while they spent this night here - scanning their butts on the copier, being silly on the elevator, drinking from our drinking fountain, listened to some stories, and then they all finally fell asleep watching Toy Story). The kiddos came and picked up their stuffies on Saturday morning and had a binder with



pictures of what their stuffy did overnight. While they looked through their binders they ate donuts and had chocolate milk. It was so much fun - I'm hopeful to make this an annual program here at Quincy.



I hope you're all staying warm and have fun things planned during this wonderful fall season!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Hello from Sherwood and Happy Fall!

I'm excited to say I've hired a new clerk, Casey Sybesma! She started at the beginning of October and I'm so happy to have her on board over here.

I signed up a few new library cards during the month of September.

I have a new family attending story time on Thursdays.

I'm working to wrap up materials ordering for the 2023 year.

Casey and I both worked in Coldwater for FFN. We both had

a great time! I was a witch in the basement while Casey worked her magic crafting with the little kids on the second floor.

Programs are going well. We have had attendees for every program (super exciting)!

We'll be working on weeding books to make room for the new ones needing homes on the shelves.

Lots of training for the next few weeks -

Until next month,

Best regards!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



Union Twp.

September has flown by and we have been busy prepping for October. This month was hectic with personal time off and Andrea on vacation as well. Thank you to everyone that was able to sub in over at Union during this time. I appreciate you all!

Some September programs were cancelled due to staffing shortage but we had Storytime on Wednesday's mornings, giant twister, Granny Squares, Family Game time, Talk like a Pirate Day, Pirate Scavenger Hunt, Adult Book Discussions and DIY Buttons.



I attended and presented to the Board last week and also attended a meeting with the Union City Auxiliary to discuss the upcoming Fire Safety Day. The Friends Group will be buying and passing out donuts on Fire Safety Day (October 14th) and I will be there as well passing out goody bags. Andrea, myself and my volunteer Dusty have put together over 300 crafts kits for the upcoming Family Fright Night Event coming up at the Coldwater Branch on October 7th.

Next week we will be decorating for Halloween since October is right around the corner! All the bulletin boards are changed up as well as the front table. Also updated all the STEM kits and put the new logo on the STEM kit labels. All of the kits are now out and already had a home school mother check one out already. The October calendar is finished and has been sent to all the principal's and the calendars will be sent home in the Friday folders.



Andrea has put together wonderful Halloween/Fall passive crafts for the kids and the kids really look forward to them when they come with their grandparents or parents. I have been working on my final order for materials and will place that order the end of October. Some of our fun programs coming up include Fall DIY Gnome Ornaments, Lego Club, DIY Pumpkin Design, Granny Squares, and Fire Safety Day.

Submitted by Maria Piper



Outreach

A small update from Matthews Specialty Vehicles: there has been a delay at Morgan Olson on body construction, but they are hoping to receive the vehicle by the end of October.

Pop-up stops have been going steadily. With the bookmobile's delay, I may ask a couple of my pop-up contacts about the possibility of allowing staff to set up inside the buildings as the season carries on and weather gets colder. If the need arises, I can instead plan to place a couple of these stops on hold for the cold season, but I am optimistic it may not come to that for a couple of these stops.

Coming up this month for Outreach is a Trunk or Treat hosted by Great Start Collaborative on the 14th. The 9th Grade Career Day is also coming up on the 19th.

So far, during my involvement with this year's YouPer Award committee, I have read 12 out of the (currently) 83 nominated titles. With the cooler weather rolling in, I am looking forward to having more opportunities to read more of these in my personal time. Our next meeting will be towards the end of this month.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence