

Algansee

To stretch our programming budget this year, Linda and I had made the decision to use as many recycled materials as we could. This was the first month we struggled to come up with materials, but our patrons saved us with donations of tin cans for the Owl Wind Chime project. They turned out wonderful. I'm also proud to report that I was finally useful for a craft. I tied fishing knots and taught the ladies how to tie them too. Linda taught everyone how to make All Purpose Cleaner at the end of the month and everyone left with a jar.

I used several of our new picture books for Story Times this month. They were a bit longer than our normal books, but the kids followed the stories and we enjoyed the richer vocabulary and beautiful illustrations. We made stick puppets so the kids could retell the story *The Bird and the Worm* to their families. After we read the adventures of *Evergreen* the squirrel, they each colored their favorite soup in an acorn bowl. They created cloud art with cotton balls after we read the book *Zap, Clap, Boom*, and discussed the science of a thunderstorm. We even had a quick science experiment making a cloud rain in a jar.

Sneaky Squirrel members have been busy with flowers being the theme of their crafts this month.

We have been learning about natural disasters in STEM. We started the month eating our lesson as a twisted donut gave us the perfect example of air masses colliding and funneling into a tornado. Then they each created their own tornado out of old pop bottles. We discussed the ring of fire, and the winter without a summer as we created our own eruption with teal magma/lava. It was way cooler than regular orange.... I tested out the snow cone maker to create a shaved ice mountain. A Lego guy was the unfortunate victim of an avalanche after the table was shaken by an earthquake. We talked about avalanche facts while eating snow cones. We wrapped up the month by creating our own small scale tsunami and seeing how perfect ocean views create more danger, and how vegetation helped minimize the damage.

My favorite Lego creation this month was our little guy's. He added a periscope to his beehive so the bees could prepare when bears came to rob their honey! The Angry Birds movie got some mixed reviews from the kiddos. But the Angry Birds challenge was loved by all.





We had many teacher requests (Amish and homeschool) for older books. I went ahead and purchased some of the requested items and they are getting great circulation, so I look forward to purchasing more next month. I attended the Annual County Library Friends Meeting this month, which was hosted by our Alganssee Friends. The kids are counting down the weeks till school is out and Linda and I are ready for them with summer reading programs to keep them busy.

Submitted by Teresa Shilling

Bronson

April ended with Build a Birdhouse with Steve and a Build a Stuffie workshop. Special thank you to a former teacher who cut all the wood for our birdhouses. Everyone had a great time.

During the staff in-service day we worked on organizing our craft area so that we will be ready for a summer filled with activities.

As we near the end of May we have nine class tours scheduled so far and hope to hear from several more classes soon. Touring the library gives us the opportunity to tell the children about the library and the fun summer programs we have coming and explain the summer reading program to them. We know the art teacher at Anderson Elementary is having all the children work on the coloring contest for the summer program so we should have lots of colorful decorations to hang on the walls.

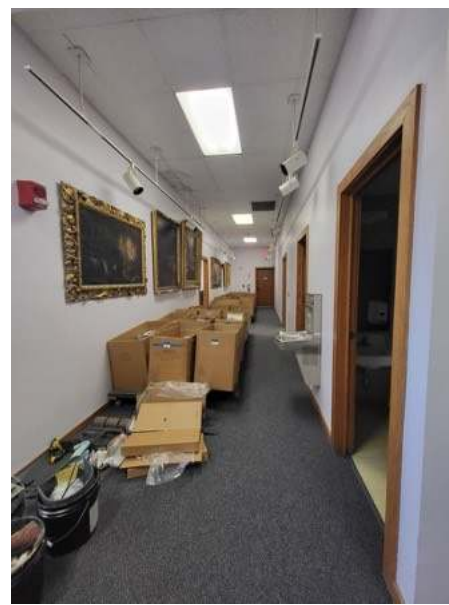


We have handed out lots of summer event guides and patrons seem excited for summer to get here. Onward to our Summer Adventures!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

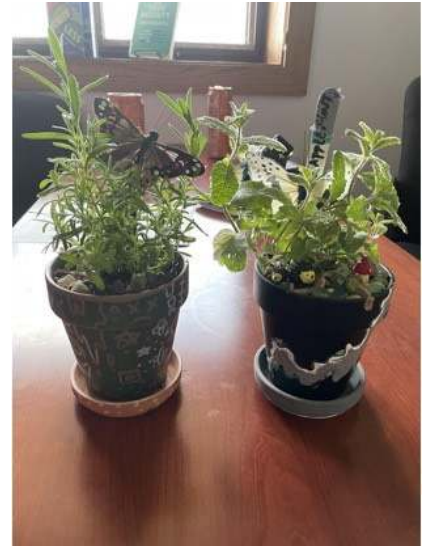
April 1st started our carpeting project, the floors look sparkly and new! With our staff in-service day we tossed out a lot of trash, organized DVD's and did so much cleaning. We have a rock star staff in Coldwater. The carpeting project is nearly complete but we are still in recovery mode with reshelving and alphabetizing the books moved. We closed one day for the carpeting project and our attendance was not impacted. Coldwater had 6030 visitors in April and the Holibrook Heritage Room had 73. We gave out 410 free prints for school or work and sent 334 fax pages.



May has been all about gearing up for the summer reading program. Nicky, the Teen Service Coordinator has visited Coldwater High School, Legg Middle School, Pansophia Academy, and St. Charles to hand out our new event guides, coloring contest sheets and promote our Summer Reading Program. Nicky's feedback includes, "students seem really excited about the upcoming programs and the summer reading prizes." Nicky is also hosting a de-stress fest for the week of final exams. De-stress Fest this is a 3 day event that focuses on self care during the stress of end of the year exams. De-stress Fest will include baby animals: goats, bunnies and kitties, a beach simulation room, calm coloring, root beer floats, Yoga and breathing techniques.

Erica, our Children's Service Coordinator visited Pansophia Academy for kindergarten registration and Max Larsen for their celebration of learning event. At these events she handed out promotional materials and coloring sheets for the Summer Reading program.

The May programs have been well attended with our Spring Wildflower walk, Crafternoon, Garden Zen Craft and Mother's Day flower baskets (not pictured). Some of our upcoming and ongoing programs include four separate book clubs, story time on Tuesdays and Thursdays, De-Stress Fest and Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary.



Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

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

- We had Richard Bell from Kalamazoo Astronomical Society come and give a presentation about solar eclipses. We all learned something from his presentation and it made viewing the eclipse even more exciting than it already was! I hope you all were able to safely view the eclipse on 4/8/2024!
- I was fortunate enough to be able to read for 'United We Read' to Mrs. Suever's 3rd grade class at Jennings Elementary. It was such a heartwarming experience. To top it off - this was the class that won the coin war for the money that was raised for the Storywalk! We discussed what the Storywalk would be\look like, they asked many great questions about how to get prizes for Summer Reading, and all about our wonderful programs!
- For our Staff in-service day, we got SO much stuff cleaned out and organized at the branch. We tackled the much-needed task of going through all our items in the storage room & organized supplies to have us better prepared for the busy season right around

the corner! I'm so thankful to have had the whole day to accomplish these tasks! THANK YOU!

- Quincy Branch staffing update - Cortni Hull resigned from the library due to personal reasons. With that sad change, we were able to successfully on-board Lynn Marshall from permanent-sub to the new Quincy Clerk. Welcome to the Quincy Branch, Lynn. We're thrilled to have you here!
- Storywalk supplies have ARRIVED and are put together! **BIG happy dance*** : be on the lookout for our installation & grand opening coming soon!
- I had the pleasure of attending a Book Repair workshop this month at JDL-Meijer Branch and learned so many new tools! I have already been putting my new knowledge to use with simple repairs for items that came back with minimal damage. So grateful to take that class and be able to put my new knowledge to use!
- The cameras that are currently on the outside of our building are Township owned & are no longer functional. The Quincy Advisory Board has approved for the library to purchase new cameras for the outside and integrate them with our internal cameras. I'm excited for this positive change!
- We were apart of the annual 'Spring Fling' again this year - we had 10 teens in the branch to help us get Spring ready. They helped us dust our shelves, wash our lower windows with finger prints on them, clean up and sanitize the Lego table, and clean out the drop box area. It was a nice time getting things cleaned up!
- Lynn & I have been getting things ready to kick off the Summer Reading Program - even with a few coloring contest sheets already turned in. Be sure to stop by all the branches to see the cute and creative coloring sheets!

I hope you're soaking in all the sunshine you can get! Definitely have been loving the change of pace with this better weather that we've been having!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

The Sherwood area was hit with an EF-2 tornado on Tuesday, May 7th. Thankfully, the library was not harmed (well, the sign came off, but was easily fixed!). Unfortunately, some properties in the village sustained major damage. Traci and Casey report an amazing outpouring of good will as the community and their neighbors work hard to clean up and offer aid where needed.



Union Twp.



This month we are gearing up for Summer Reading Registration which will begin Mid-May. All of the weekly prizes have been packaged up as well as all the registration packets. Inside the Registration packets for SRP include fun items for the kids which include a coloring sheet, activity sheet, mini-adventure coloring book, an adventure keychain, and a passport. The passport will be a summer adventure where the kids can come in and visit us and tell us about an adventure they have recently gone on. They can share their adventure with us by telling us, drawing a picture or reading something out of their passports. Each time they share an adventure with Meghan and I we will stamp their passports. At the end of the Summer, they will be entered in for prizes. Each passport stamp in their passports give them an entry to win prizes.



All of the bulletin boards and displays have been switched over for all the wonderful themes this month.



Meghan did an AMAZING job putting this display together! Now the patrons can learn about the Dewey Decimal System. Check out all the new signage throughout the library that Meghan did as well. Way to go Meghan. (Oh the things you can create on CANVA!)



Staff In-Service was amazing. Meghan and I did a lot of cleaning, purging, sorting, and bringing items to the storage unit. The Staff bathroom is all organized, all the tops on bottoms of shelves have been cleaned, all board games have been sorted and placed out by age group. All cabinets, drawers, benches have been organized as well. Our carpets have been cleaned and after the winter months we needed it. Spring cleaning was a huge success!

Storytime has been so much fun and we learned about Dragons and how they LOVE tacos but hate anything spicy. You might have to read Dragons Loves Tacos to find out why!



Special Note -

Meghan has been with BDL for one year on 5/19/24!!! Let's hear it for Meghan!!! Speaking of work anniversaries 5/20/24 is my 6th year with BDL! Wow how time flies! We have a lot to celebrate over here!

Submitted by Maria Piper

Outreach

We've received an exciting update on the bookmobile! Matthews' engineering team has finalized their drawings of the vehicle, and now it's time to work on the graphic design for the vehicle wrap! I will be meeting with a few select individuals as an art committee to create a couple of different concepts of how our vehicle may look. These will then be passed on to our design contact at Matthews. My first meeting with the art committee is on Friday the 17th.

I have officially been doing pop-up stops at Maple Lawn for one year! While only a few residents stop by on a regular basis, it is one of the highlights of my outreach days!

Summer reading is right around the corner, which means I've been working on some fun graphic design for bookmarks and the summer reading paper logs. As of now, these are all ready for summer!

Along with summer also comes lots of public outreach event opportunities. Coming up is the Healthy Family Fun Day at the end of this month, where Erica and I will provide library information as well as a couple of fun games for the attending children. In June will be the Strawberry Festival, where I'll have the prize wheel and some fun prizes. I am already thinking about Fair Week and planning a few games for Kids' Day (Tuesday of Fair), as I have been invited back to that. Last year was well attended and the activity we brought for it went well, but there was a lot of empty space in the barn we were stationed in. This year, I am planning to bring two prize-based games (a sort of Claw game and a Fishing game) as well as two more passive games to help fill the space as needed. Erica will be helping me run these games again this year. Also for Fair, I would like to try giving out activity kits for 4-H'ers again this year. This time, I will be reaching out to club leaders to ask their members about how many would be interested in the kits. I should be receiving a list of club leaders soon.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence