

Alganssee

Summer Reading 2024 is a wrap. We had many great adventures at the Alganssee branch. I had a goal of getting 75 kids enrolled in SRP and we had 73. We also had 31 adults. ☺ The Alganssee Friends group provided school supplies to every child who completed. I greatly appreciate their support for our library. They also judged the coloring contest. We had 19 entries, with Martin Eicher, Lavina Eicher and Anna Eicher winning their divisions.

Our Adults created suncatchers from recycled lids. Then they gathered the next week for coffee/tea and chatting with each other. The last adult craft was making Skin Balm. I was told that the lemon grass oil some added had helped ward off the mosquitos. I'm ready to try it.

We read under blanket forts with flashlights and had a Bubble Party at Storytime this month.



Adventure Club kiddos had a water balloon launch and played darts in the back yard with paint filled balloons. They created glitter slime, where one boy exclaimed that he had made sparkly boogers. (His slime was green.) We ended our summer by making s'mores mix in bags, after getting camping themed tattoos.



Popsicles on the Porch was a success this summer. The last few weeks we had moms driving buggy loads of kids over for stories and sweet treats. I love having all of our kids playing and laughing together! Most weeks I had many volunteer readers. Their teachers can be proud that they didn't slack off this summer.

The kids had to solve riddles to find all the keys to escape the campsite. Then we followed up our Where the Wild Things Are story by becoming just that. We had creatures that looked like unicorns, dragons, butterflies, dinosaurs and other creative combinations. Our collection of boxes were put to good use as the children turned them into trucks, jeeps and cars for the Alganssee Grand Prix. One jeep even had a ducky duct taped to the front. They raced the grass track to a bubble finish line.

I attended the Alganssee Twp and the Friends of Alganssee meetings. Books have been ordered to keep our bookworms reading. I was excited to finally have DVDs to order that our patrons have been requesting. Have a wonderful month everyone!

Respectfully Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Coldwater

In July, the branch finished out the Summer Reading Program with bikes and bubbles. On Friday, July 26 at Heritage Park the Community Foundation sponsored an event for the library called, "Wonder Wheels." At this event two very talented and brave individuals performed a BMX stunt show and talked to youth about healthy eating choices. We had over 250 people attend. It was an amazing show to watch! We had two gift baskets as a drawing for those who took time to fill out event surveys.



On July 31st we had the Foam Party at Heritage Park. Our district staff united to see over 400 participants at that single event. It was a great way to wrap up summer reading.

Adults had 68 registrations for the Summer Reading Program. Some of the adult programs included Dried Flower Suncatcher and Wax Candle Painting. We are receiving only positive feedback from the program surveys; people are expressing appreciation for providing quality, free programs to the public. The adults in Coldwater love to craft!



The July all age program put the new meeting room flooring to test. Due to the rain our Tie Dye Beach Towel program was held in the meeting room. Over 20 participants and their parents attended to create a personalized tie dye beach towel. The floor cleaned up with ease; the vinyl was a perfect choice for that space.

Teens had 32 registrations for the Summer Reading Program. Some of the teen programs included a Live Action Oregon Trail, Break in Box, Matinee Movies and Anime Marathon.

Children and early literacy had 250 registrations for Summer Reading. Some of the programs for children included a special storytime with Tibbits featuring Winnie the Pooh, Toad Houses and Stuffie Sleepover.

Coldwater has a new staff member Alisha Morris. Alisha is a new member to the circulation staff and shares a wealth of book knowledge and experience with education as a former substitute teacher. Alisha is a great addition to BDL.

Coldwater staff will be attending open houses at Pansophia and St. Charles. We will be dropping off library promotional materials to KCC and Coldwater Schools.

The Coldwater Branch is taking a break from programming in August aside from a few passive programs like the scavenger hunt, coloring station and puzzles, things are pretty quiet.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

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

- This past month has been a big one for the Quincy branch - we made many positive changes to the adult side of our library:
 - We did a deep-dive weeding of all the adult DVD's and we were able to get rid of many items that haven't left the building with a BDL patron in 5 years or more. Our shelves have a little breathing room now and it feels great!
 - While we were going through the DVD's, we relocated them around the corner from where they were at and was able to remove two large shelves. That made so much more walking space in the adult area.
 - We got a new shelf for the YA graphic novels, so they're no longer on a cart. It looks SO wonderful!
- I helped at the Foam Party again this year and boy, that was so much fun! All the kiddos had a blast, even though it was a very warm day!
- We have finished the 2024 Summer Reading Program! This year was much, much busier than my past experiences and so much fun was had! Here are the final stats for Quincy:
 - Adults- Registered: 14 Completed: 6
 - Teens- Registered: 6 Completed: 3
 - Kiddos- Registered: 61 Completed: 38
 - Early Literacy- Registered: 23 Completed: 5
 - Totals: Registered: 104 Completed: 52
- Kids Day in the Park was so busy and so fun. We put temporary tattoos and gave out slime to over 500 kiddos in 2 hours! Every kiddo walked away with a smile on their face and had a wonderful time. It's such a great event for them!
- Our front doors have been refinished (brought back to life) and look so stunning! The outside of them were very weathered so it took a lot of grunt work to get them beautiful again but I'm so glad he put in the hard work. Very big thank you to Randy Podoll!



Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

It's hard to believe Summer has reached its end! We have had the best Summer since pre-covid. Our programs were all well attended and our numbers are definitely on the rise.

Our SRP numbers also improved this year. We had twenty adults register, with seven finishing, twelve teens with three finishing, forty two juveniles with eleven finishing, and eleven early literature readers with two finishing.

We have some really great programs coming for the Fall months. Be sure to check out the event guide!

Be on the lookout for our event coming up on Sunday September 8th, at 2pm in the Sherwood park. We're hosting a pretty well known local band that is sure to play something for everyone! We'd love to have as many people as possible to join us. It's guaranteed to be a lot of fun.

I'll be attending the Elementary Open House in Union City later this month. I'm excited to have been invited back to read to multiple classes every week throughout the school year. I have done this for several years and every year brings me much joy being in the classrooms.

The month of August has been dedicated to weeding materials, cleaning and preparing for the rest of the year.

Until next month,

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



Union Twp.

Hello August! Summer Reading is officially over with and we had an amazing Summer!

We had a lot of great and fun programs this Summer which included Mr. Jim Balloon Sculpting, Duct Tape Workshop, Mad Scientist, Friendship Bracelets, Tie Dying Creations, weekly story times, Minute to Win Games, Chair Exercises with Paula, and Lego Club. We had 144 patrons sign up for Summer Reading and half completed the challenges. A lot of kids returned their passports which was filled with their Adventures throughout their Summer and all the passport stamps we gave them. Prizes were given out for this and all the kids loved their prizes which included a free ice cream cone provided by Union Station. We have heard great comments about the Foam Party and all the wonderful programs that were provided at all the branches. Great Adventures were had by all this Summer!



Meghan and I loved hearing about all their Adventures which included hiking, showing at Fair week, swimming, biking, staying over at a Friends House, going to the beach, attending the Foam Party and so much more. We encouraged all our patrons to "Keep Adventuring this Fall!"

The Friends of the Library is providing Back to School Backpacks and school supplies again this year which will be on August 14th, 1- 3 pm.

Upcoming

I will be attending Union City Middle School Open House on August 22 and I am looking forward to having a table there and passing out information and talking to kids and families.

September 28 the Friends Group will be sponsoring a Book Sale to coincide with Farm to Fork Day in Union City.

Can't wait for all our Fall Programs to begin - here's to keeping the adventure going. One season at a time!

Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

Fair week was busy and exciting! Staff at the booth talked to over 1400 attendees and passed out sensory stickers. My Kids Day activity was well attended, seeing 128 kids coming in to play the games Erica and I brought in.

Van Buren District Library is looking to implement a homebound delivery service of their own. They called a couple of months back to ask some questions about ours and our Library by Mail program. Recently, they have reached out again to set up a visit so they can see our setup and how we run these services at BDL. I will be getting into contact with VBDL within the next week to get this visit scheduled.

Fall events are starting to ramp up! I will be planning for Apple fest in the coming weeks. I will also be signing up for the Community Baby Shower again this year (also in September). Community members are hoping to restart the Senior Health Fair this year, and I have been asked if the library would be willing to set up a booth there to talk about any services we may have for senior citizens. I've added this event to my October calendar, and look forward to attending.

I received an initial art proof from Matthews Specialty Vehicles for the bookmobile's exterior wrap. The admin team and I have some mixed feelings about the artwork, and we will be meeting to discuss some changes we'd like to suggest to Matthews.

Aside from that, there is a major and exciting update on the bookmobile! Matthews Specialty Vehicles says interior work on our vehicle is active at this time, and completion is estimated to be around the end of September. This would put the delivery of the BDL bookmobile in this coming October. They also included pictures of the current progress (see next page). Shelving will be installed once the cabinetry is finished.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence

