

Algansee

It has been a busy month of summer fun. We currently have 93 kids and 30 adults participating in our summer reading program. I am so happy with how this program has grown in the past three years.

We kicked off Summer Reading with axe throwing, archery and jousting with foam swords on stick ponies. The library was transformed into an art museum to enjoy viewing famous paintings before the kids stole the Mona Lisa at the great art heist. Cave Art was also popular. They used our collection of boxes and we mixed our own mineral and berry paints to create cave art.



Polymath Art Guild gave the kids a history and vocabulary lesson before exploring all the different methods of art. Popsicles on the Porch has been struggling against the weather, but we have had some very sweet moments, despite the lower attendance.



Each week we read a story and have an art project at Tuesday Tales.

I attended the Algansee Township meeting. There were a few inconsistencies with the new quote for the library remodel. John and I attended a special meeting and walk through with the contractor and township board to assure that all needed jobs were included in the contract. It was approved and the project start date is July 28th for the remodel.

I met with the Algansee Friends group, who are again donating school supplies to our kids who complete summer reading. We are thankful for them!

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Bronson

Our summer has been busy and the weeks are flying by! We continued with the art theme and projects included string art, ping pong lanterns, circle art, weaving, patriotic streamers and shrinky dinks. The BIG art project we did with kids and teens was our Messy Art day. Everyone had to wear protective eye glasses because the paint was flying! We had a drying tent and finished works were hung up to dry. Eight stations were set up where kids could try various painting forms. Marble art - drop a marble in paint then let it roll around on paper, Flyswatter painting - dip the flyswatter in paint then hit the paper like you are swatting flies, Bath Sponge painting - dip a bath sponge in paint and see the textures it makes on paper, Bubble Wrap painting - dip the wrap and dot the paper, Sidewalk Chalk, Finger Painting Wall Mural, Spray Bottle painting and the most popular was the Paint Brush Splatter painting on canvas. We all ended up dotted with paint but the kids had a blast and had some awesome art to take home.

Carl Winters, the Kalimba King, was here and presented a very energetic and entertaining program about the kalimba - finger piano. The Friends of the Bronson Library sponsored Joel Tacey and his Nerf Games, which we held at Douglas Park. Twenty-five children got to play in the rain and enjoy the many Nerf games.



Adult Programs - Little Hands Garden came and talked about Rainbow of Colors from the Garden. Attendees were able to make their own salads to take home. Adults really liked this event. The June Adult craft was String Painting and it is amazing what you can do with a canvas, paint and a piece of string!

One of our local patrons, Madison Hetrick, was a district winner in the 2025 coloring contest.



Summer Reading challenges are being completed and mini prizes are being picked up weekly. Only 1 week left!

We had a tornado warning during library hours and were able to follow our "take shelter plan". We had a couple patrons in the building and they were glad to go to the basement with the staff. We lock the inside library doors only, leaving the outside doors unlocked so that anyone needing to take cover can still come in and get to the basement.

A couple more weeks of summer programs but we are already preparing for our Fall events.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

We are about halfway through summer but our patrons still have time to sign up for the Summer Reading Program and complete the challenges! We have 245 registrations and 85 people completed all the challenges.

Our most recent program was author and herbalist Bevin Cohen. Bevin provided the seeds for the One Seed One State at participating seed libraries. Bevin hosted a workshop and demonstration making medicinal salves. The program received great feedback and was well attended. Everyone that attended got to take home a sample herbal salve of their choice.



The kids and all age programs were colorful and vibrant with "Tiny Canvas Art, Spray Painting with Ben and Fluid Art." You can find some of these fine works of art displayed at the library in the kids' area.



We had a "Wicked Watch Party." Patrons of all ages joined together to make wands, enjoy movie snacks and watch the new movie "Wicked."



The kids and tweens had a video game trailer stop in June. The game trailer had the latest games for that age group and provided a lounge style atmosphere to keep the kids entertained.

The events mentioned are just a few of the entertaining things that have been going on at the Coldwater Branch. We will take a break from book clubs and programs in August and then we will be right back to the fun in September. We have many never-been-done-before programs that will happen this fall.

The soffit repair work has been completed, our new rock bed gives a slick look to the East side and our new parking lot signs have arrived. The bookmobile has a special parking sign that looks so refreshing!

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Union Twp.

We're Halfway Through Summer Reading!

Summer is flying by, and our Summer Reading Program has been packed with fun and creativity! So far, we've hosted a variety of exciting events and activities—including awesome prizes, scavenger hunts, a visit from Marvel Comics Illustrator Jerry DeCaire, LEGO Club, Storytime, Canvas Painting, Animal Collages, Squeegee Painting—and so much more.



Current Summer Reading Participation Totals

Total Sign-Ups by Age Group

- Adults: 40
- Teens: 34
- Kids: 58
- E.L.: 17

Completed Challenges

28 participants have completed all of the challenges and received their blue "Color Our World" book bag and our entered into to win the BIG prizes!



In addition to our busy summer schedule, I recently attended a Township meeting and provided a brief report on our Summer Events. Looking ahead, all Fall Programming for September, October, and November has been submitted for the Fall Event Guide. One exciting program to look forward to is Herbalist Bevin Cohen will be presenting a workshop in October.

Upcoming Events

- Rainsticks
- LEGO Club
- Ancient Egyptian Papyrus
- Modeling Clay Creations
- Visit from Leila Arboretum
- Rock Painting

Summer Reading Coloring Contest Winner

Abigail Yockey

Way to go!!! Abigail was so excited to get her prizes that she was dragging her dad inside because she couldn't wait any longer.



Library of Things Spotlight: Josie Hiday's Sweet Creation! 🍰

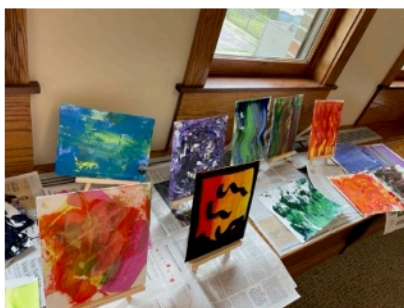
We're thrilled to showcase one of our creative patrons, Josie Hiday, who recently explored the possibilities of our Library of Things. Josie checked out a Bundt cake pan and paired it with a recipe book from our collection to create a stunning dessert for her family.

The result? A mouthwatering treat that looked like it came straight from a high-end restaurant!

Josie's story is a perfect example of the endless creations you can make by combining items from our Library of Things with the wealth of resources available at the library.

Get inspired. Get creative. Keep borrowing!

Stay tuned for even more exciting events as we wrap up a fantastic summer of reading and discovery! The library will be closed Friday, July 4th. I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing Independence Day!



Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

Summer continues to be busy with events and regular bookmobile stops. We went to new stop locations for the first time at Potawatomie campground, a stop which will be seasonal, and the Allen Antique Barn. The campground did not see much attendance, but the Antique Barn had nearly immediate excitement and enthusiasm by a couple of regular library patrons. In the coming month, I hope to add a new stop more centralized in Allen township and at a local assisted living facility, Thurston Woods. I also hope to change up our stop at Butler township, as we have yet to see any attendance there.

We were invited to attend Hops on Monroe this year, so we chose to attend only 2 of the days. Our first was at the end of June, and we did see a handful of people come onboard to look, ask questions, and renew library cards. Our next Hops on Monroe will be later this month, where I will have Sherwood's Nintendo Switch set up for some of the older kids in attendance to play. How our stats look after this one will determine if we attend this event again in the future. If we do, I anticipate only doing so once per year.



We took the bookmobile to this year's pancake breakfast event at the Coldwater Lake Association building and had a great amount of interaction. This event is very well attended, and my goal was to take that advantage and inform other lake residents and attendees who didn't already know that we make regular stops at the lake. It was very successful, resulting in over 120 visitors on board and a handful of newly made library cards.



Upcoming events for the bookmobile: Hops on Monroe, July 17th (unless the event is rained out); Polish Festival, July 19th; Union City School Carnival and Quincy Kids Day in the Park, July 25th; Fair Week, August 3-9.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence