

Report to the Board

December, 2022

Alijah Fox, Teen and Adult Programming Librarian

After-school programs

The after-school programs for kids are going well. Historically, we get lower numbers around the holidays with busy families, so that was to be expected. Our LEGO club is always popular, and kids are always asking to have it more often! The crafts, STEAM, and movie afternoons have had steady numbers.

Teen programs

Our teen room saw 286 teenagers throughout November! That is more than Cathy or I can remember, even from before Covid. The money that the Friends of the Library donated to us has gone to great use, helping us purchase snacks, games, and necessary cleaning supplies to keep those kids returning to the library.

The numbers historically are lower during the holiday season, but we are hosting a holiday party on the 21st of December and we are hoping that they show up. We had a very successful Friendsgiving event with the teens in November, with the kids bringing in different foods to share. There were 21 teens at that event in total, and we are optimistic that we can see a similar number this month.

We are deciding how to proceed with our second Dungeons and Dragons group with the teens. We have a very steady first group, with between 5-8 attending each monthly session. The second group, however, has been a bit flakier, with a lot of missed meetings and kids dropping out. We are thinking that we may just give the first group two monthly sessions, or possibly consider teaching some of the teens how to DM (run the group) themselves to do little one-shot sessions. It will really depend on the interest in the new year.

The teens are always raving about our Jackbox Games programs. We now own all 9 “party packs”, as they are called, and the kids play using their electronic devices. It’s a great way to play with big groups of people (we typically get anywhere from 5-15 kids at these events) without all the confusion of a board game. We do always play with the family filter on, so there is never any inappropriate content from the kids.

We are also planning another hide and seek event on Friday the 13th of January. The teens are constantly asking for more of these programs, and we are always happy to plan the time to host them. The last hide and seek we hosted saw about 30 teens in attendance, so we are expecting about that many again. It’s always nice to do something for the teens during the colder months that still gets them active and playing with each other.

The Roycroft Campus from East Aurora came down last week to host a program called “The Book as a Work of Art.” This program was funded by a grant through Arts for Learning WNY and the Garman

Family Foundation. The teens were invited to learn about the history of bookmaking, as well as create their own leather-backed bound journal. It was a super interesting program, and we are hoping to work with Arts for Learning WNY more in the coming year.

Adult programs

Our craft programs have been remaining quite steady in numbers! We don't always get the exact same people coming to every craft, which is nice because it means we are reaching different demographics of the community. We've partnered with the local crafting group SerenHippity to continue offering crafts to both adults and adults with children. Their programs are always really popular, and we will be sure to work with them more in the coming year.

The Brown Bag Book Club is still running strong. We usually get between 5-6 people attending each meeting, with more hopefully soon to come. We've been trying to reach out to other past members and get them to return, so maybe after the holidays we will see an uptick in attendance.