

## Report to the Board

February, 2023

Alijah Fox, Programming Librarian

### After-school programs:

Attendance has begun to increase at the after-school programs. I've seen a lot of new faces in the past couple of weeks! It seems like we are actually reaching our target demographic, which is ages 7-12. A lot of the kids are coming to every activity. They are very excited about the prospect of starting Pokemon Club back up, so hopefully a lot will attend and we can keep that going.

### Teen programs:

We hosted our first gaming club meeting this month and saw 13 teens! They have a lot of ideas going forward for the club as well. Hopefully this will continue being a lucrative option for our teens. We have had very steady numbers for our two Dungeons & Dragons clubs as well.

Our Teen Advisory Board group is a very dedicated group of teens. They have told me their plans for the next few months, including ideas for the gaming club, a Valentine's Day party, and a potential craft to host for smaller kids. A lot of them are interested in getting volunteer hours, which is a great incentive to host bigger programs, as they can definitely help.

### Adult programs:

We started a monthly program with a local meditation expert this month. There was a lot of interest in that, and I believe she will get a core group of meditators going inside the library. This program will continue for the foreseeable future, but won't interfere with any of the Olean Meditation Center's ongoing classes.

Crafts are still reporting very good numbers. We had a write-up in TAP Into about Amy's latest craft, which was the book nooks. It was very positive and talked up our future crafts as well! We always have a full registration sign-up sheet for crafts. We're trying to work together to use up supplies that we've already purchased while also utilizing the Francis Bean O'Connell grant money to the best of our ability. So far this year, it seems to be going very well!

We've had lots of interest in our Adult D&D session as well, so I am assuming the first information session will be packed. Brian Kelly, formerly of Boundless Connections, will be hosting that session for us. He offered, and that works out well because we don't currently have anyone available to be the DM (dungeon master) for that group. He would be able to use our current subscriptions that we have for teen D&D, so it would work out very well. It would bring in a totally new demographic into the library!

The book talk with Friar Dan Riley went very well in January, with about 30 people in attendance for that event. His talk was very informative, with a lot of references to the book as well as personal anecdotes. Patrons asked questions and it was overall a great experience.

We also were approached by a professor at St. Bonaventure about hosting a famous poet in March through a grant. This event will be completely free for us, and will probably bring in a lot of patrons to hear what the poet has to say! We've purchased some of his books, so hopefully it will be a lovely program.

Overall, it's been a busy month for programs! We're hoping to keep up the energy throughout the spring!