

Report to the Board

May, 2023

Alijah Fox, Adult and Teen Programming Librarian

The after-school programs I host each week continue to do very well. I typically get between 10-15 kids coming to each activity. They love our LEGO and Pokemon clubs! This month, I switched it up and hosted a board game day where kids could come and play our games or bring their own. It was an awesome success, with 12 kids showing up to play!

Bingo is still going great as well. It's nice to have programs for this age group to be able to socialize outside of school. They always get so excited for what the next week will bring.

In June, I am hosting two LEGO clubs and two Pokemon clubs, as well as one Bingo session. These seem to be the most popular, and I don't want to start anything new while the kids are gearing up for the end of the year. Hopefully turnout will continue to increase!

I had two teens volunteer on budget vote day (May 2nd) to help with the Harry Potter activities and Kathy's crafts with Percy the Pony. The teens did a great job helping out and they earned a couple hours of community service.

We also hosted a Star Wars party on May 5th (Revenge of the Fifth!) for the teens to hang out, eat snacks, and play with foam "light sabers". It was a blast; 15 teens came out to celebrate! We watched *Revenge of the Sith* and had a light saber battle.

Wayne Wellburn returned in May to host another sword fighting lesson. We hadn't settled on a day until after the newsletter went out, so there was virtually no publicity about this event, and still 8 teens showed up to practice with Wayne. We are hoping to continue these sword fighting lessons throughout the summer to get the teens engaged with the community and playing outside.

Our Wednesday night teen programs are still going very well. Both of Cherish's Dungeons and Dragons teams are either filled up or near-filled up. She typically gets about 10 teens at each event

The teens will be helping me pick prizes for Summer Reading at the next OTAB meeting.

Adult programs are going quite well also. Amy's craft on budget vote day had 32 people attend over two separate classes! Over three weeks, our coffee programs have seen 12 people in attendance. Meditation for Community Well-Being hosted by Elaine Snyder only had one participant in May, but we will keep at it and hopefully more people will attend throughout the summer months.

The Night Owls Book Club had no attendants because everyone had scheduling conflicts. Going forward, I will make sure that we are all on the same page about dates and times so people can actually attend! Brown Bag Book Club had 7 people in attendance. They all very much enjoyed our most recent book, *True Biz*. Each month, I ask the members to rate the book on a scale from 1-5. This book received a 4.56!

Summer Reading planning is well underway. I have the reading trackers made up, and I recently received the prize that adults will receive when they sign up for the program. They are gorgeous maroon leather bookmarks with our logo debossed in the side. I have a theme for each of the five weeks planned out, with some sort of craft or activity to go with each one. This applies to both the teens and the adults. All that's left to do now is purchase the prizes for the teens (we typically do a small prize for reading 10 hours and then a big raffle) and the final raffle prize for adults.

I worked with Kathy recently to write a little article about the Summer Reading Program that will be sent to the Olean Times Herald in June, as a little advertisement for all the hard work we will be doing. We think it's going to be a great summer!