

Report to the Board

September 2023

Alijah Fox, Teen and Adult Programming Librarian

The last half of August saw some great numbers in programming. Our plant swap had 35 people in attendance, Brown Bag Book Club had 12 people, and the Bob Ross painting class had 10 people attend! It was a successful month for programs.

After-school programs only just started back up, but our first LEGO club of the school year had 17 kids attend! I imagine the numbers will fall a little bit as we get back into our routines, but it was so nice to see so many kids I had seen before, and a number I hadn't!

Teen programs are still doing well and will probably increase in attendance as school continues. Summer numbers are always lower, so we are anticipating a large group to come to our next few planned programs.

A couple members of the OTAB (Olean Teen Advisory Board) asked if they could host some programs in the next few months. Oliver has requested to host a pride alliance-sort of club, where he will run the ice breakers and activities that he thinks will be best for the teens of the area once per month. He thinks he can get the school's GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) to become a part of it as well. Ellie, another teen, has offered to run a teen-led art program once a month. She wants to get fellow teens to unleash their creativity through the use of prompts and simple art supplies. I think both of these will be very successful.

Our Star Trek Day was a great success this year. We weren't sure how many people would attend with the late notice, but we got around 25-30 people to check it out! Chad was dressed up, which was amazing, and we had lots of snacks and activities people could complete. Chad helped me run this program, and I am very grateful! It seemed to go super well.

Our Night Owls book club will probably take a hiatus for a while, seeing as I have had a total of 1 participant over four months. It's possible that it can come back later on, but for now I think our efforts are better spent elsewhere.

As you all know, I am currently in the process of transitioning out of this role and moving on to another career. I've been working with lots of my colleagues to make the transition as smooth as possible for both them and the general population we serve. Everything that we deem necessary will continue with someone else leading, such as the after-school programs, and I am certain that Olean will be seeing some great new programs from these folks. Thank you to the Board for everything you've done to help me in this career! The Library does great work because of you.