

Report to the Board
Kathy O'Malley Children's Department
January 2024

Programs:

All story times and children's programs begin the week of January 22.

Registrations are going well.

Due to health issues, one of our therapy dog teams will be unable to continue doing the Reading can Be Ruff program. We still have one team continuing to come weekly. There are 7 new therapy dog teams just being certified in the area and I'm confident that one or more of these new teams will be able to assist us with the evening program.

The Safe Kids Staying Safe collaboration with Southern Tier Healthcare Systems kicks off on Thursday, January 18th. The Olean Fire Department will read to kids, do an activity and let kids check out an emergency vehicle.

Next month will feature a rep from OGH conducting a safe medicine/ poison prevention initiative.

Also, in February we will offer a Teddy Bunny Workshop and Ice Cream Social. Kids will stuff a cute bunny, do some fun activities and have ice cream. This is a registration required event in response to the large numbers of kids who couldn't get into either of the Breakfast with Santa /Teddy Bear workshops in December. We are asking that if people have participated in the past that they hold off and let other kids sign up so that everyone gets a chance. We will offer similar programs again in the future.

We plan on participating in the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service to celebrate Smokey's 80th birthday and learn about fire safety and the environment. Kids can read, take action and receive prizes.

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten push we started last year has taken off. There are currently 6 kids almost to 1000 books and many more participating.