

Library Report 11/18/2024

Another month has quickly passed and we're getting ready to wrap up 2024. T Henderson's Book Club enthusiastically planned 2 books and a potluck for November's meeting. Attendance continues to grow and they have an active group chat in between meetings. B Brabon and M McGarvey are discussing another *Learn to Crochet* day after the holidays. They are tweaking the event details due to the overwhelming response of last year's program. November's Lego Club had a record number of attendees: 22 children and 11 adults. We attribute this to C Russo's outreach at the Families R Us Trick or Treat for Books event in October. A large bag of candy was also donated to resident L Hayes who organized the local business Trunk or Treat held at the Malone Fairgrounds on Halloween night.

This month the library's community collaboration continued with a basket donation to the House of History's Christmas Tea raffle. A wicker basket filled with adult and children's christmas books, hot chocolate, mug, reading glasses, fuzzy socks, and a few Christmas decorations along with a "Merry Christmas from the Wead Library" card was donated. The library is also included in Malone's Santa in the Park event with a donation of candy canes attached to Wead Library flyers to be included in 200 children's gift bags. C Russo designed the colored flyer to promote children's programs and services offered by the library.

The part-time staff is continuing to maintain the front desk while we await the November civil service test to generate a new eligible list for the clerk position. Their flexibility and cooperation has been essential and is much appreciated. We had a handful of new public enquiries about the position after posting the opening on facebook. The full-time staff resumed weekly meetings. The extra communication time has been productive.

With the help of R Poirier, MCSD treasurer, the four critical issues on the 2023 Comptroller's report have been reduced to one. I am still working to resolve the last issue as soon as possible so the 2024 report can be started. The annual payroll reporting form has been submitted to Civil Service.

MCSD confirmed that lift inspections have not yet been scheduled. Keating's Electric replaced the broken light over the ramp door on the main floor. The new LED lighting is brighter and more energy efficient. R Keating noticed the light over the fire escape stairs by the parking was also going bad. He is researching a new light for that area as well.

Respectfully,
Mary McDonald, Principal Library Clerk

Librarian Report
November 18, 2024

I attended the Bridges out of Poverty/ALICE Families training workshop at the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (CEFLS) office in Plattsburgh. This training focused on empowering those in need to build a better future, one step at a time. The training was part of the Community Care Initiative which was funded by the Adirondack Foundation's Generous Acts program. In addition to this training, each participating library received essential hygiene kits for distribution and a copy of the book "Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities" by Dr. Ruby K. Payne. The morning session on Bridges Out of Poverty was presented by Starr Burke and Rich Holcomb. Bridges Out of Poverty is a comprehensive approach to understanding the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty, from the individual to the systemic level. Bridges uses the lens of economic class and provides concrete tools and strategies for a community to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty. The afternoon session was provided by United Way of the Adirondack Region. Presenters John C. Bernardi and Bryan Hartman introduced the United Way ALICE program. ALICE — an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE represents the growing number of households in our communities that earn enough to be considered above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but do not earn enough to afford basic necessities. The United Way of the Adirondack Region works with local community partners to bridge the gap for these families. I recommend visiting www.unitedforalice.org/ to learn more and www.unitedwayadk.org to learn how to help locally.

For the Sustainable Fall Clothing Swap: A Great Give Back Event, we collected 290 items with an estimate of 58 contributors. The event on 10/26 had 16 attendees with 36 additional people participating over the next week. I will be bringing two medium sized garbage bags of clothing to Rescued Treasures at 22 Finney Blvd. M. McDonald saved a few winter jackets to give to the "Take a Coat, Leave a Coat" event hosted by Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. I believe this year's Great Give Back was a success.

At the "Trick or Treat for Books" event on Monday, October 28th, I passed out bookmarks and informational flyers to 281 children. I spoke to many families about Story Hour, Stories & STEAM, and Lego Club. I saw many patrons (specifically Story Hour families) at the event.

Thank you.

Chelsie Russo
Librarian II