

## Board Report-Youth Services

### February 15th, 2018

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In January, we hosted 31 children's programs that served 60 parents, 114 children and 1 teen. We hosted 12 teen programs with only 13 teens in attendance. We had 6 teen volunteers this month that worked 21 shifts, helping us out for a total of 30 hours. Aside from our Headstart, our weekly Stories & More programs have been most popular and they are growing steadily. There were 12 programs cancelled due to weather or illness. As I looked back at program numbers for last year, it seems consistent that January has low program numbers. I can only assume this is due to the cold weather and darker days. Attendance at programs has picked up significantly in the final week of January and early February and I hope to continue that trend moving forward.

This month our Winter Story Time cycle began as well as the second cycle of Baby Brain Time. Both programs are growing steadily, mostly via word of mouth. Parents have been mentioning it their friends and taking extra calendars with them to hand out. I have been covering Peggy's Monday Story Time while she's been out and Chelsea does the session on Fridays. Both regularly have around 8 children for each session now and it's even starting to get a little tight with all the kids and parents in the program room.

I am happy to update that I have been in touch with the new librarian at RJK Middle School and she is excited to pick up where the last librarian left off with planning our Teen-led Literary Magazine, which I have written about in previous reports. We are hashing out the details of meeting times now and hope to have our first meeting in March.

We are in the midst of planning for Spring Break now, Chelsea and Emily have really stepped up to help plan a great bunch of programs for that time, as I will be out of town. I am really happy with the leadership that they have both taken and the creativity and effort that goes into every program & display they create. This month I attended the Mock Caldecott/Newbery discussions and got to be involved in picking our winners. Like last year, there are some incredible books to evaluate and I have no idea how the real committee can possibly make a choice. If you want to see some of our favorites, stop in the children's room—we'd be happy to show them off.

The Friends held their seasonal program on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and attendance was amazing. We have over 65 people (35 children + families & volunteers) come out to read winter stories, share snacks and make pinecone birdfeeders. It was a great time and we are already looking forward to the spring time Friends event.

The computers in the children's room were used 38 times throughout the month of January, and the teen computers were used 42 times. The AWE computers were used a total of 80 times this month. The WiiU was used by 16 teens. The lower numbers are in keeping with the lower numbers of attendance overall in January. I am hoping it is just a minor blip due to cold/snowy January weather.

The Facebook page has 783 Likes, Twitter has 305 followers, and Instagram has 329 followers. There has been much more interaction with our Instagram page recently, and while I am not quite sure why, I am trying to post more often there to take advantage of it.

Submitted by:

Cheryl Jones

January 2nd, 2018