

Board Report-Youth Services
for June 15th, 2017

Program numbers in May far exceeded my expectations with a total of 202 children, 64 parents, and 54 teens served. We had 16 teen volunteers too. We had one Headstart storytime cancelled due to a busing issue on their end. Our 10 week story time cycle just ended last week and the numbers have been great. Monday has been getting an average of about 8 kids per session and Friday about 3 kids per session. For the next cycle we will be moving the Friday story time to an afternoon session to try and draw in some families who may not be able to make a morning session. We will try to gauge local interest in keeping an afternoon story time come fall too. Aside from Headstart, the highest attendance for a children's program this month was the Crazy 8s Math Club which is full each week with 15+ kids, many of whom were not library regulars before the program and now have cards and come back regularly.

The most popular Teen program of the month was the Breakout Game, where we used our new BreakoutEDU box. It was a lot of fun, and even though there were only 4 teens, it went really well and they were excited to do it again next month. Come fall, we will start using the breakout box for kids programming too. It is available if anyone wants to learn how to use it and try an adult "Breakout" too. My personal goal this month for teen programs was to have someone at every single program, and we did! There were no Teen programs with zero attendance this month. At our next Teen advisory meeting we will be doing a summer volunteer information session, so I expect to have a good turnout for that too.

This month I went to Book Expo America in NYC on June 1st & 2nd. I went to a few panel discussions including one on the future of graphic novels, and another on selection and collection management given by an executive at the ALA. I was also able to meet some prominent children's books authors like Jan Brett & Brendan Wenzel (who said to thank everyone at my library for our "tireless work on the front lines of children's literacy.") I brought back about 75 ARCs and published books to use as prizes throughout the year, many of them signed by the authors. Overall, it was a great experience and I would love to go again next year.

Lately, we have had a lot of groups using the library space for tutoring. There have been times when it's been difficult to find a place to tutor, or when they are all tutoring, to find a quiet place to get work done. To remedy this, we have decided to allow use of the Children's Program Room as another "study room" when it is not in use for programs. It can be used by tutoring groups and for quiet study by children, teens, or adults and is subject to the same rules and policies as the study room. Anyone using it must sign in and out just as they would downstairs.

The computers in the children's room were used 45 times throughout the month of May, and the teen computers had 51 uses. The AWE computers were used a total of 76 times in May.

The Facebook page has 664 Likes, Twitter has 307 followers, and Instagram has 292 followers. Last month I began incorporating online registration for some programs and I am happy to report that it has been going well. I think that it helps us reach people on social media and get them registered. Often times I will post facebook posts about events in the evening to reach that crowd, but then

there is no way for them to call and register until we open the next day, so this gives those people a way to register instantly so they don't forget. I had worried that people would register and then not follow through, but requiring a phone number and email helps so that we can call and remind them. I have also been sending confirmations of their registrations. The response has been really great and I will continue to do this for some summer programs too.

Summer Reading is approaching very quickly and I am in and out doing classroom visits and community outreach to build interest a lot this month. By the next board meeting we will be well underway with summer reading and we are looking forward to that very much.

Submitted by:
Cheryl Jones
June 5th, 2017