

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
March 1, 2024

The people counter reported that there were 4,760 visits to the library during February. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 42 times.

The MBLC Legislative Breakfast will be held in the Cole Room at 8:00 am on March 8th. Senate President Karen Spilka and Representative Michael Sotor, as well as an MBLC Commissioner and staff and representatives from MLS, and Minuteman Library Network are expected to speak. Many Town officials and residents have also signed up for this event.

We had 63 people participate in our adult programming in February. The Fiber Arts Group and the Medway Library Book Discussion Group have a strong following and continue to be well attended every time a session is held. A very appreciative group of patrons participate in the The Mahan Circle Senior Housing Outreach program, borrowing 19 books. We started a new Adult Game Night in February which drew 11 participants. This will become a monthly program at the request of those who attended. Our Morning Mend program also had its first session in February. This took place in the Makerspace to give patrons access to the sewing machines and other sewing items to mend their clothing. Several patrons were extremely grateful for the workshop. As a result, it will also become a monthly event. Lastly, the Adult Dungeons & Dragons group is still going strong.

The next month will continue to be packed with Adult programs, both continuing and new. On Friday, March 8, the library will be hosting a MBLC Legislative Breakfast which the staff is currently preparing for. All are welcome to attend and many have already registered. The library will also be hosting *Irish in America* on March 12 at 7pm. Mary King and her colleagues create a spectacular show by sharing stories and performing songs; she also teaches a jig to the audience. To round out the month, on Tuesday, March 26, we will be introducing *Myths & Miracles of Victorian Medicine* where fictional Victorian lady Miss Myrtle Mills, portrayed by Janet Parnes, will escort guests on a journey through the head-scratching yet surprisingly advanced state of late-Victorian medicine.

Programs in February & March:

- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime

- Move, Groove and Learn
- Dance Party Playgroup
- Stay and Play
- Sensory Bin
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

- Unicorn Club
- Homeschool Hangout
- Read the Rainbow
- Family Yoga
- Puzzle It Out
- PAWS to Read
- Crafternoon
- STEAM/4-H Catapults
- STEAM/4-H Eclipses and Shadows

- Introduction to Robotics Using Arduino
- Middle School Hangout
- Fandom Forward
- Teen Dungeons and Dragons
- TeenConnect Hangout
- Medway Area Rainbow Community and OUT MetroWest

- Adult Game Night
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Library Book Group
- Mahan Circle
- Young Adult Dungeons & Dragons (18-20)
- The Morning Mend
- Making Twine Mats workshop
- The Real Score: Unraveling Myths About Trans People in Sports w/ Erin Reed
(appropriate for teens as well)
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Myths and Miracles of Victorian Medicine
- The Irish in America (music & stories for adults and teens)
- Exhibit in the Conference Room featuring photography of Mary Weafer

February 2024 Youth Services Report

Weekly programs

Our early childhood programs (weekdays at 11 AM) continue to be popular despite having fewer programs during vacation week. It is common practice to run early childhood programs as a series and then take a multi-week break between sessions. Instead, we run them all year as drop-in programs with the exception of school vacation weeks.

Wednesday storytimes are evolving, and we are looking forward to a more exploratory play-based activity after a shorter book component. March will see the addition of Family Yoga on Saturday mornings.

The middle school program continues to create community and a sense of ownership among our middle school patrons.

Monthly programs

Unicorn Club continues to draw a large group and PAWS to Read is also consistently full. Read the Rainbow picked up a few new participants this month. We did not have a gaming meetup this month due to the snow day, and we are going to put our energy into pulling together a Minecraft program to begin this summer. For March, we will have a repeat puzzle program in the gaming slot.

Passive programs

The passive programs are immensely popular all month long, and there is heavy usage of the entire children's space before and after the morning programs.

Displays and sprucing up

The YA area now has a satellite office for me to use when teens are here in the afternoon. In addition to cleaning out the old reference desk area, a computer has been brought up and installed to make a secondary work space.

The Children's and YA displays in February were focused on Black History Month. The story walk was also refreshed and has brightened up the downstairs space for the spring. Due to popular interest, the photography exhibit in the conference room will remain up until after the legislative breakfast.

Collection development

In February, I purchased 22 adult titles, 25 YA titles, and 92 children's books.

Deposit Collection/Schools

Sarah Doyle and I were not able to connect this month in person, but she was able to circulate a number of titles from this month's deposit collections, and we're getting ready to accumulate another batch of books for March.

Notes for Trustees

I've listened to/viewed recent meetings and want to provide clarity on a few report items.

Collection Development:

My collection development responsibilities include all children's and young adult items. I solicit a younger staff member's assistance in young adult buying and in graphic novels/manga. I also purchase adult horror, fantasy, and science fiction because these are my subject areas of expertise. The bulk of the adult buying falls to Margaret.

There have been a few mentions of the new book selection. One trustee mentioned it would be fine if the books were in the collection, but were currently borrowed--great, more circulation!--but that it did not seem the books were in the collection. Please, this is communication time! Anytime you think the library is missing something, let us know.

Everything that we add is emailed out on a weekly basis in the Wowbrary newsletter, which allows for easy placing of holds and the ability to drill down into a category to get all the new additions, not just the featured ones pictured in the newsletter. If you are expecting to see a slew of new book club fiction, for example, in the weekly Wowbrary FB post or newsletter, and it's not there, please get in touch.

Another trustee noted we might be missing good leads for forthcoming titles. Please send along your favorite sources. We would like to be responsive to your concerns.

Finally, I know years ago we featured some of Nutan's book reviews in the weekly newsletter, before she was a trustee. Would that be something we could do again, on a semi-regular basis at least? I really enjoyed reading them and think they would be a welcome and worthy addition.

Buying Format:

Mostly print. Juvenile or YA Playaways or middle-grade Wonderbooks are not popular. However: when school summer reading lists come out, we purchase some list titles in these formats. Teachers have indicated it is useful to have more than print options available and to have platform-independent audio options. Playaways are a good option for a self-contained audiobook for a reluctant reader, so that is when we purchase Playaways: to support Medway curricular needs.

Adult Programming:

Not my wheelhouse, but putting together the monthly paper/downloadable calendar is! We have amended our calendar to have youth services programming on one side and adult programming on the other. You can download a copy [here](#) or pick one up at the desk.

Homeschool Hangout:

This program was instituted far after homeschooling families had gotten their plans in place for the current school year. We took September to plan after the busy summer and consequently we were late getting started. As a result, this program has not been well attended but we are holding it in place to continue advertising it for the next school year in hopes there will be interest.

Sincerely,
Audrey

February Makerspace Trustees Report

We had a very busy February in the Makerspace. **508** people either used the Makerspace equipment or wanted a tour to see what we offered. The sewing machines were used by the middle schoolers and our adult patrons. Nine patrons were certified on the 3D printers, which were also utilized by both children and adults. The paper craft supplies were a big draw for several families wanting to spend time working on projects together.

Our Monday night Robotics group finished prototyping their robotic vehicle chassis and added code to make them move. They are now working on creating a controller using bluetooth technology and will continue building towards having a fully functional robotic rover by the end of the school year.

The children had fun during February's STEAM session building two different types of catapults and then testing them out in the Cole room using safe projectiles like marshmallows, ping pong balls, and pom poms. March's STEAM session will focus on the upcoming solar eclipse.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons and Adult Dungeon & Dragons groups continued to meet in the space. March will see the start of an older teen group for ages 18 to 21, created because of growing interest for a group within that age range. Three older teens have already registered.

Throughout the month, we held craft sessions where children were able to make valentine crafts and then use them to decorate the Makerspace. In March, we will hold two craft sessions where children can make Spring crafts using recycled items.

We had our first Morning Mend program in the Makerspace where patrons brought articles of clothing that needed to be repaired. They were taught how to mend unraveled seams and holes in beloved clothing and were encouraged to try it themselves while in the room. This program will continue to be held on the fourth Saturday of the month.

Other library programs have continued to utilize the Makerspace since it is an area where kids can be “messy”. The middle schoolers also enjoyed using the computers and 3D printers during the weekly Wednesday program. The Fiber Arts group continued to meet twice per month as well, and the significant others of the Fiber Arts participants have started a gaming group on the tech side of the Makerspace.

For a more detailed look into the usage of the space: Patrons used the large format printer to create various size prints. Several patrons took advantage of the Epson scanner to convert slides and photos to digital images. Other patrons used the VHS to digital converter and VHS to DVD converter machines. The 8mm converter, computers, DVD buffer, laminator, laser printer, and 3D printers were also used. On the craft side, patrons used the glue gun, paper crafts, and children activity supplies. Several used the sewing machines throughout the month, and patrons have also stopped by to use the fabric and yarn.

In March, we will hold two crafting sessions as well as STEAM. Morning Mend will be held on March 23, and all three Dungeons & Dragons groups will be meeting over the next couple weeks. Also on March 16, we plan to have a new adult workshop where patrons will be taught how to make twine mats.

Sincerely

Diane Busa, Makerspace Coordinator

Meetings & Webinars in February included:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Department Managers Meeting

FinCom meeting

Newsbank vendor meeting

Aspen Search Tips

NELA IT group meeting

Minuteman Library Network Keyusers Meeting

Minuteman Library Network Reference Meeting

Generative AI program

Massachusetts Library System AI Community Chat

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Meeting

SUP Policy Work Group Meeting
 SUP Alcohol program
 NARCAN Training (Margaret & Audrey)

Meetings & Webinars in March will include:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
 Department Managers Meeting
 SUP Policy Work Group Meeting
 Staff Meeting

Other

The lower level was open 15 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in February. Two individuals used computers. A total of 70 people attended 7 meetings and programs after 8:00 pm.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director

Programs	Date	Attendance	Audience
It's Preschool Story Time!	2/1/24	24	Child (0-5)
Move, Groove, and Learn!	2/2/24	12	Child (0-5)
Dance Party Playgroup	2/2/24	10	Child (0-5)
OUT MetroWest Satellite Night	2/2/24	7	Teen (12-18)
Toddler Jam	2/5/24	19	Child (0-5)
Homeschool Hangout	2/5/24	2	Child (6-11)
Unicorn Club	2/5/24	13	Child (6-11)
Arduino	2/5/24	7	Teen (12-18)
Toddler Jam	2/6/24	10	Child (0-5)
Puzzle It Out	2/6/24	3	General Audience (All ages)
It's Toddler Story Time!	2/7/24	18	Child (0-5)
Crafternoon	2/7/24	11	Teen (12-18)
It's Preschool Story Time!	2/8/24	20	Child (0-5)
Move, Groove, and Learn!	2/9/24	14	Child (0-5)
Dance Party Playgroup	2/9/24	10	Child (0-5)
Toddler Jam	2/12/24	25	Child (0-5)
Homeschool Hangout	2/12/24	0	Child (6-11)
Arduino	2/12/24	7	Teen (12-18)

It's Toddler Story Time!	2/14/24	20	Child (0-5)
Middle School Hangout	2/14/24	14	Teen (12-18)
Fandom Forward	2/14/24	1	Teen (12-18)
Crafternoon	2/14/24	2	Child (6-11)
PAWS to Read	2/14/24	8	Child (6-11)
It's Preschool Story Time!	2/15/24	23	Child (0-5)
Move, Groove, and Learn!	2/16/24	15	Child (0-5)
Dance Party Playgroup	2/16/24	11	Child (0-5)
Toddler Jam	2/20/24	16	Child (0-5)
Teen DnD	2/21/24	3	Teen (12-18)
Toddler Jam	2/26/24	22	Child (0-5)
Homeschool Hangout	2/26/24	0	Child (6-11)
Arduino	2/26/24	7	Teen (12-18)
Toddler Jam	2/27/24	8	Child (0-5)
Read the Rainbow: Check, Please! Vol. 2	2/27/24	3	Teen (12-18)
TeenConnect Hangout	2/27/24	2	Teen (12-18)
It's Toddler Story Time!	2/28/24	16	Child (0-5)
Middle School Hangout	2/28/24	18	Teen (12-18)
Fandom Forward	2/28/24	12	Teen (12-18)
STEAM	2/28/24	12	Child (6-11)
It's Preschool Story Time!	2/29/24	16	Child (0-5)
	total	441	
Adult Programs			
Fiber Arts Group	2/6/24	9	Adult
Book Club	2/8/24	13	Adult
Mahan Circle	2/15/24	5	Adult
Fiber Arts Group	2/20/24	15	Adult
Adult Game Night	2/22/24	11	Adult
The Morning Mend	2/24/24	4	Adult
Adult D&D	2/29/24	6	Adult
	total	63	