

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
April 4, 2023

In March, patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 59 times.

Programs in March:

- Storyhours (twice a week)
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- PAWS to Read
- Cosplay Club
- Middle School Hangout
- Read the Rainbow book club
- STEAM up your Wednesday at the Medway Library
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- Teen & Tweens Dungeons & Dragons
- Oh Shoot: Photo Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- 50+ Job Seeking Networking Group (online)
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Yarn Dyeing
- Franklin Senior Players rehearsals
- Stephen Lewis: International Women's Day Poster Exhibition (funded by Medway Cultural Council)
- Franklin Senior Players rehearsals (due to flood in Franklin Senior Center)
- The Art of Container Gardening
- Fungi Frenzy: A Beginner's Guide to Outdoor Mushroom Growing
- Irish in America
- Visit with Iditarod Sled Dog, Noggin

Programs in April include:

- Storyhours (twice a week)
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Move, Groove and Learn
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- PAWS to Read
- Cosplay Club

- Middle School Hangout
- Read the Rainbow Book Club
- STEAM up your Wednesday at the Medway Library
- Arduino Coding & Robotics
- Unicorn Club
- After School Art Class Oil Pastel Flowers
- Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee
- Teen & Tween Dungeons & Dragons
- Teen Acrylic Painting
- Oh Shoot: Photo Group
- Library Book Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- 50+ Job Seeking Networking Group (online)
- Franklin Senior Players play for Medway staff and patrons
- SpeakOUT
- Our Wild Neighbors & How to Coexist With Them - Medway's ACO, Mallette
- Frances Perkins Program

Children's/YA Librarian Report:

Back in October, I set up a brand-new program and then left for five months (as one does). During that time, Diane Busa, Jennifer Kendall, Amanda Busa, and Jill Roberson (with help from volunteers Aurelia Mello and Jeanette Mezoff) did a ton of hard work and kept our programming and collection development humming along. And that new program took off! I came back to find a partnership with the middle school in which a school bus drops kids here on Wednesdays, and the students decompress with crafts and games and anime and food. (The Lions Club has generously funded this part through the end of the school year.) As far as I'm concerned, that's the big news: a core group of 15-18 teens and tweens come here to hang out and get in some library time each week. We are able to show anime because Crunchyroll has granted us a (free) library license. Diane maintains the documentation on this license, which unlike our regular motion picture license, expires every three months.

Pam Francis presented our now monthly Dungeons and Dragons program for tweens and teens on March 13, and a number of familiar faces were present. (She also leads the adult D&D group that meets here on Thursday evenings.)

Read the Rainbow, which we began last summer, was scheduled to continue (it has been conducted by Amanda and Aurelia in my absence) on March 14, but was canceled due to inclement weather.

PAWS to Read continued with a full slate of readers on March 15 for friendly therapy dog Sprite. I am sad to report that veteran therapy dog Charlie passed away a few days before the session. His owner Pat Gipps reported that Charlie did his first therapy dog visit here at the Medway Library, and his last one, as well. We will miss him. The PAWS to Read program has been filling up, so Pat reached out on our behalf to fellow therapy dog owner Karen Terry. Karen has worked with us before (she brought her dog Harlow to the library table at Medway Pride Day last year). She will step in as of the April session.

Miss Amy continues to present the very popular Toddler Jam on Mondays and Tuesdays, which has relocated to library premises for the winter months. It is one of the most soothing and enjoyable programs imaginable, and is a wonderful introduction to library programs for our youngest patrons.

It's Story Time! is rolling along. For the past few months, Miss Jill has been presenting the Wednesday sessions, and Miss Jennifer and Miss Jeanette have presented Thursdays (Miss Jeanette was an excellent helper, who volunteered her expertise as an educator while I was gone). Because each day's session has evolved a very different composition and feel, we will be differentiating storytimes in April and going forward. Wednesday will be geared to toddlers, and will continue to be helmed by Miss Jill, and Thursday (Miss Jennifer and Miss Audrey) will be geared to preschoolers.

April will also see a new program called Move, Groove, and Learn! which is a preschool music and movement program. The program was suggested to us, and will be presented with help from, Yvette Sammarco of Walpole CFCE. Yvette invited me to attend an instance of the program at the Walpole Library, where she co-leads the program with Kara Dean. It was lovely! Miss Yvette will be here for our first program, and she will visit monthly to be a guest presenter. By the end of April, we will have a program at 11 AM each weekday morning: music and movement for toddlers (M, T), storytime for toddlers (W), storytime for preschoolers (Th), and music and movement for preschoolers (F).

Although I haven't usually covered passive programming, Jennifer has been putting in some strong work in this area. In March, the children's department had a bug-themed sensory bin, a rainbow writing tray, and a STEAM story basket. She has been changing out the sensory bin, writing tray, and story basket each month. She also loaned us a stacking activity and a flower building toy. In the middle-grade room, she had a tangrams activity and a science exploration table. In the YA area, she has had art materials available for tweens and teens to make snowflakes or leaves to add to the large cutout tree downstairs in the makerspace. These stations have been seeing a huge amount of use.

In addition to handling collection development in my absence, Amanda Busa curated a women's history display in the YA section in March. Amanda has embraced collection development and will continue to assist with these responsibilities.

April brings us a few new programs (Move, Groove, and Learn! and also Unicorn Club), which I look forward to telling you about in next month's report; also, school vacation is the week of the 17th, and Diane has arranged some vacation-week specials. Additionally, it's poetry month, so we will feature novels in verse in the YA section (along with a magnetic poetry activity), and a selection of poetry in the middle-grade room, along with an ongoing display of "what should I read next?" middle-grade fiction.

We are fortunate to have such a talented and driven makerspace coordinator and such creative and hardworking library assistant substitutes. They have leveraged their strengths not only to keep services going during a stressful time, but to improve those services. I am grateful for their efforts.

Submitted respectfully,
Audrey Snowden

Makerspace Report (Diane Busa):

Makerspace visitor count March: 150 (not everyone signs the guest book)

Workshops & Classes:

Arduino Coding and Robotics - Mondays (March 6,13,20) - 6 children / 4 mentors. (ongoing)

Adult Dungeons & Dragons - Thursdays - 6 participants (ongoing)

Cosplay Club - (March 25) - 1 participants

Teen & Tween Dungeons & Dragons - (March 13) - 4 participants

Middle School Drop off - Wednesday afternoons (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) - 17, 17, 20, 19, 14 participants (ongoing)

STEAM Wednesday - March 15 - 7 participants

Yarn Dyeing - March 11 & March18 - 9 participants

Groups & Classes Using the Makerspace:

Fiber Art Group - meets every other Tuesday (open to anyone who love to knit, crochet, embroider, etc)

Read the Rainbow Book Club - Our YA book club that focusing on LGBTQ+ themed books

Certifications

3D printer - 5 people

knitting machine - 1 person

Equipment Use:

Noticed people using 3D printer, 8mm converter, VHS converters (both to DVD & to MP3 file), Epson scanner, Large format printer, computers, Photoshop, laminator, sewing machines, knitting machine, fabric & yarn supply and general craft supplies. The projector and screen is used weekly during Arduino & the Middle School program.

Upcoming April Programs in the Makerspace:

Afterschool Art Class Oil Pastel Flowers - April 4th

Special Teen and Tween Dungeons & Dragons

- April

18 - 1pm

Teen Acrylic Painting - April 19 - 1pm

Middle School Drop off - April 5, 12, 26 from 2:30-4pm

Read the Rainbow Book Club - April 11 - 4pm

STEAM Wednesday - April 12 - 4pm

Tween & Teen D&D - April 24 - 4pm

Adult Dungeons & Dragons - Thursdays

Arduino Coding & Robotics (Monday nights)

Thanks,

Diane Busa

Meetings & Webinars in March included:

Department Head Meeting

Minuteman Library Network Membership (Directors') Committee

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Fix-It Clinic webinar

SUP Medway Coalition Meetings - Policy Work Group

Homeless De-escalation: Pennies in the Cup

Mental Health Supports and Libraries Series: Young Adults

Access to Justice Library Initiative webinar

Meetings & Webinars in April will include:

Department Head Meeting

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

SUP Medway Coalition Meeting

Opioid Overdose Rescue and Prevention Training (sponsored by Medway Board of Health)

Building and Grounds

DPW has painted the lower level and the adult and young adult sections of the upper level. Now that spring is here, we expect that the small areas that need touch up will be painted, but the

children's areas will wait until next winter, when the Building Maintenance staff are less busy outdoors. We are very grateful for Building Maintenance's many hours of painting.

Three new dehumidifiers were installed. One was vented outside, to avoid too much hot air entering the Cole Room. There is a backup dehumidifier in the attic. Front and rear door replacements went out to bid.

Other

The Library closed at 7:00 pm on March 14th due to weather conditions.

Fentanyl test strips are now available at Town Hall, the Police Station, and the Library.

The lower level was open 16 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in March. Twenty-one individuals use computers and the Makerspace. A total of 121 people attended 12 meetings and programs after 8:00 pm.

Our recently purchased people counter reported that approximately 4,994 people used the library during March. This number is an approximation because we do not have data for the first 8 days of March, and the upstairs people counter's battery was not working one day in March.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director