

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
May 1, 2023

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

Our people counter reported that approximately 4,468 people used the library during March.

Meeting rooms were used 111 times in April. Approximately half of the usage was for library programs, and half by Town committees and other local groups.

Programs in April:

- 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 rehearsal
- SpeakOUT
- Our Wild Neighbors & How to Coexist With Them - Medway's ACO, Mallette
- Frances Perkins Program

Programs in May include:

- North Sea Gas (Scottish band)
- 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
- Spring Painted Stones - Adult Acrylic Painting
- 4-H and Medway Embryology Program
- Teen & Tween Dungeons & Dragons
- 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

Children's/YA Librarian Report:

Regular programs:

We have achieved one of our "be more user-friendly" goals: programming consistency. Starting the week of April 10, families with small children could drop in any weekday at 11 for a program. Because we always have one. While Toddler Jam (Monday, Tuesday) is geared for...toddlers, Move, Groove, and Learn! (Friday) is meant for preschoolers ages 3 and up. We also split up our It's Story Time! groups into It's Toddler Story Time! (Wednesday) and It's Preschool Story Time! (Thursday). The weekly theme for both groups is the same, as is the pool of books, although each day may feature different selections from that pool. Wednesday's session involves stories and a coloring sheet (with the occasional fun activity--like Earth Day seed planting--thrown in). Thursday's session usually involves a nonfiction introduction to the theme followed by stories, songs, felt board activities, and a craft encouraging creativity and targeted fine motor skills.

This is a serendipitous development resulting from splitting the storytime duties over the winter while I was gone, and the groups settled out beautifully based on the different styles of the staff presenters. Miss Jill (Wednesdays) thrills the littles with exuberant storytelling, and Miss Jennifer captivates the preschoolers with sensory trays, interactivity, and extension activities. I am thrilled both Miss Jill and Miss Jennifer want to continue with their respective sessions and am grateful to team with Miss Jennifer to offer a program that is elevated far above what I would be able to offer by myself.

We also team up on Fridays for Move, Groove, and Learn!, the slightly louder and more prop-laden music program that hopes to pick up the graduates of Miss Amy's Toddler Jam. Our first three sessions went well, with small (select!) groups. The program is seasonally based, so the song and story rotation changes quarterly. Miss Jennifer and I are already looking forward to the summer session and changing some of the songs, but we've been very happy with the paddle props that Diane Busa made for us using the Silhouette cutter.

Toddler Jam has been steady, and Miss Amy is excited to take the program back into the park (Cassidy Field) beginning May 1. (That is, she is excited about the concept. She reports an 80% chance of rain on Monday, but if that happens, we will simply test our inclement weather announcement plan and welcome the program back into the library for the day.)

The middle schoolers on Wednesday afternoon have turned out to be big Bingo fans. Go figure. We've had a few lively student-called sessions, and will haul that out again before the end of the year. In May we will try Switch gaming tournaments with this group, as Diane, Jennifer, and I finally piloted one and were able to hook up the gaming system to the projector, pair all the controllers to the correct console, and have a successful split-screen Mario Kart race against each other ALL WITHOUT CALLING OUR KIDS TO TROUBLESHOOT.

The first instance of Unicorn Club was serene and lovely. Miss Jennifer and I will be moving this club to a Monday in May, because scheduling it on a Saturday was sub-optimal. PAWS to Read resumed with Sprite and Harlow and was well-received. Read the Rainbow was held outside, but neither the theme nor the weather were sufficient incentive for participation. Amanda and I are taking the next few months off from this program, and will hold a revamped version in July and August to fit in with Translate Gender's slate of summer programming.

Special Programs:

Diane put together a planting activity for Earth Day, so all participants in Earth Day week storytimes planted either peas or beans in containers they decorated and labeled. She also prepared 24 grab-and-go planting kits for the downstairs lobby. They went quickly!

Jennifer's sensory bins and investigation tables continue to serve as great visit extenders, as children come to the department to find books or play, and end up cycling through the various stations (sometimes more than once). Some kids make a beeline for the stations, now. They look for them, have grown to expect them, and seem to find them an integral part of an enriched library experience.

Our poetry month passive programming saw a nice bit of participation, and a number of patrons (kids and adults both!) walked away with coupons for a free book from the Friends' book sale in exchange for a haiku or a poem. May will focus on art and nature.

Amanda helped (enormously) in weeding the children's and YA collections this past month. We're almost done with this round. At her suggestion, we added a pull-out Magic School Bus collection to the themed mini-collections in the children's area. Previously, those titles were shelved separately by call number--they lived very far apart and would require catalog searching to be found. Their primary users do not yet conduct catalog searches, and seem to appreciate having these materials collated.

In May we'll be doing lots of planning for summer reading, and our collection development goal is to increase ease of use/findability of early chapter books. We will start separating them into their own section in the J room, because they are currently shelved among the middle-grade material.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Snowden

Makerspace visitor count April: 208 (not everyone signs the guest book)

Workshops & Classes:

Arduino Coding and Robotics - Mondays (April 3, 10, 24) - 6 children / 4 mentors. (ongoing)

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

Cosplay Club - April 29 - 5 participants

Teen & Tween Dungeons & Dragons - April 24 - 5 participants

Middle School Drop off - Wednesday afternoons (April 5, 12, 26) - 16, 12, 15 participants (ongoing)

STEAM Wednesday - April 12 - 6 participants

Special Teen & Tween Dungeons & Dragons - April 18 - 5 participants

Teen Acrylic Painting - April 19 - 6 participants

Afterschool Art Class Oil Pastel Flowers - April 4 - 13 participants - 3 helpers

4H & Medway Library Embryology program - 5 week program on Tuesday afternoons (April 25 thru May 23) - 7 participants

Other library programs using the space:

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

Unicorn Club

Groups & Classes Using the Makerspace:

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

Medway Garden Club

Private Birthday Party

Certifications

none

Equipment Use:

Assisted several people with using the large format printer. Middle schoolers are enjoying learning about 3D printing.

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

Upcoming May Programs in the Makerspace:

Embryology program - May 2, 9, 16, 23

Adult Acrylic Rock Painting - May 9 - 11am

Middle School Drop off - May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 from 2:30-4pm

Unicorn Club - May 15

STEAM Wednesday - May 17 - 4pm

Tween & Teen D&D - May 22 - 4pm

Adult Dungeons & Dragons - Thursdays

Arduino Coding & Robotics (Monday nights - session ends May 22)

Thanks,

Diane Busa

Makerspace Coordinator

Meetings & Webinars in April included:

SUP Coalition Meetings

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Fix-It Clinic webinar

Public Records and Open Meeting Law

Meetings & Webinars in May will include:

Department Head Meeting

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

SUP Medway Coalition Meetings

Elected Officials are People Too: Advocacy Tips for Library Trustees, Friends, Foundations and Staff

Minuteman Library Network Membership (Directors') Committee

Building and Grounds

Met with DPW and vendor to discuss planned replacements of front and back library doors. Due to unexpectedly high bids, the back door will not be replaced. Final decisions about front door and adjacent windows have not been finalized.

Met with contractors to discuss improvements in ventilation systems in the Story Hour and Technical Services room.

Other

The lower level was open 14 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in March. Fifteen individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 115 people attended 13 meetings and programs after 8:00 pm.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director