

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
August 1, 2023

Our people counter reported that there were 5,339 visits to the library during July. Meeting rooms were used approximately 54 times during that period.. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 51 times.

Programs in July:

In June, 715 children and teens participated in 43 library programs. These programs included:

- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Unicorn Club
- Ed the Wizard at Choate
- Summer Lunch Program
 - Early childhood programming (see below)
 - Family activity
 - Teen activity
- Teen Dungeons & Dragons
- Library Book Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Pixie display with Ms Moffatt

Programs in August:

- Summer Lunch Program
 - Early childhood programming (see below)
 - Family activity
 - Teen activity
- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn

- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Teen Dungeons & Dragons
- Read the Rainbow Reimagined: Mooncakes
- Medway Area Rainbow Community & OUT MetroWest
- Pixie display with Ms Moffatt
- Library Book Group
- Oh, Shoot! Photography Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group

Youth Services and Makerspace July report

The first week of July marked our first big week of summer. Our summer reading program is going on in the background, as readers have their reading logs stamped and fill out their raffle tickets, and that will go through the 18th of August. As of the end of July, we have about 250 readers signed up. We used the summer reading kickoff to promote 1000 Books Before Kindergarten as well, and have signed up some participants for that. Materials are available at our weekly programming.

We held a Read the Rainbow book club on the 18th and had 6 participants, one of whom Zoomed in. This program was made available via Zoom at the request of some other libraries who were looking for virtual book club options. We will hold a Read the Rainbow in August, as well, as part of the Youth Out Loud Summer Series.

We co-presented a Wild Wednesday with Medway Parks and Rec on July 26, and Ed the Wizard brought in about 175 attendees, despite the heat.

Our passive programming has seen a tremendous amount of use both before and after the daily 11 AM early childhood program. This month there was a unicorn sensory bin and a dragon-themed salt writing tray and a unicorn-themed story basket, all of which were extremely popular.

The true focus of our summer is addressing a community need. The library's Summer Lunch and Fun program offers an early literacy program at 11, lunch at 12, a family activity at 1, and a teen activity at 2. The early literacy programs are held Monday through Friday, and the lunch program is Tuesday-Thursday. We have seen numerous families plan to come for the 11 program, play upstairs and select books, and then go to lunch. We have also seen families show up for lunch and stay for the family activity/go upstairs and select books, and there is not much overlap between these two groups. The teen time is not as well attended as the other activities, but the

teens who do attend seem to appreciate the down time. During July, over 11 Summer Lunch and Fun programming days, 650 lunches were served.

Our 11 AM programs are Toddler Jam (Monday and Tuesday), Toddler Story Time (Wednesday), Preschool Story Time (Thursday), and Move, Groove, and Learn (Friday). We were pleased to welcome a presenter from Stony Brook Audubon for a special turtle story time on the 20th, and we will welcome her back in August for another special preschool story time. We have benefited from teen volunteer help during our Wednesday and Friday programs.

Lunches are accompanied by passive programming materials (coloring, handouts from the Walpole CFCE, and/or Duplos) and are served by a combination of Friends volunteers and our summer teen volunteers.

After-lunch family activities are varied. A representative week includes a Tinkerlab activity with a prompt (design your ideal playground; make a Frankentoy; create a board game, etc.), a games afternoon with board and card games, and a LEGO day. We also include enrichment activities for younger children, using materials on loan from the Walpole CFCE (the favorites seem to be the colanders). We occasionally offer movie days, to counter the heat, but these are not as popular as the activities. Special activity guests this month included Icelandic sheepdog Sprite, one of our PAWS to Read therapy dogs, who came for a meet and greet session during the family activity portion. We are planning two therapy dog visits during August's family activity sessions. As with all of our summer programming, we appreciate our teen volunteers during the family activities, because there is so much hands-on programming time during these busy weeks. Teen times have included Tinkerlabs, chill afternoons with coloring, and bullet journaling.

And although the school newsletters are paused during the summer, we appreciate the assistance of Sandy Johnston, the Medway Cultural Council, and the Medway Housing Authority in getting out the word about the Summer Lunch and Fun programming initiative, in addition to our regular offerings.

The Makerspace has been heavily used this month, with a visitor count of 136 (likely undercounted; not everyone signs the guest book).

Adult Dungeons & Dragons continues to meet on Thursday evenings. The (non-library sponsored) Fiber Arts Group uses the space every other Tuesday, and is open to anyone who loves to knit, crochet, embroider, or cross stitch.

The Summer Lunch and Fun programs also make good use of the Makerspace, regularly housing both the family after-lunch activity and the teen time.

This month, one patron was certified on the 3D printer.

For equipment use, a couple of patrons are taking advantage of our Adobe Creative Cloud software for ongoing projects. On an ongoing basis, much of the equipment was used last month, including sewing machines, 3D printer, VHS converters, Large format printer, computers, laminator, DVD buffer, fabric & yarn supplies, and general craft supplies. The Epson scanner has been used to digitize photos and slides. We have welcomed a number of middle schoolers back during July in the Makerspace for 3D printing and general crafting.

On Monday the 31st, we will begin a 4-week Teen Dungeons & Dragons campaign in the Makerspace, bringing back a few more middle schoolers and previous players. Additionally, Constellation Energy (formerly Exelon) gave the Makerspace a \$750 grant for STEAM equipment.

August will look much like July, with the addition of the Monday teen D&D program. We will continue to offer consistent programming with opportunities for community building and family interaction. We will continue to promote summer reading with attractive displays of timely and new books and we will continue to feed kids' minds and bodies through the end of the summer. The summer reading program ticket deadline is August 18. Raffle winners will be notified the following week, which is the week before school starts and the week the summer lunch program ends (on August 24). All of our readers will be able to take home a book prize from the book prize selection beginning in mid-August.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane and Audrey

Meetings & Webinars in July included:

Department Managers Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
SUP Coalition Meetings
Norfolk Sheriff's Summer Safety Fest

Meetings & Webinars in August will include:

Department Managers Meeting
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts

Building and Grounds

DPW will oversee the replacement of the front door, as well as upgrades to the ventilation system.

Technology

Staff member Andy Busa has completed setting up the 11 newly purchased patron computers, as well the Deep Freeze console that will manage them. Any patron data will be cleared out upon each reboot.

Other

The lower level was open 16 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in March. Twenty-six individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 42 people attended 5 meetings and programs after 8:00 pm.

Completion of the Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS report) is underway. It is due on August 18th, followed by the Financial Report on October 6th. These reports are administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and are required in order to receive State Aid to Public Libraries.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director