

Youth Services Librarian Report

11/17/2021

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Wrapping up October: 'Story Time!' programming was officially restarted onsite at the Catskill Public Library. We had our first two programs on October 22nd and October 29th, during which we had a consistent group of 9 children, ages 1 to 4, join us for twenty minutes of reading. Afterward, treat bags were given out and children/guardians spent time socializing with others and choosing books. The first two programs were somewhat chaotic and short. It was decided we would move into a more traditional, structured 'Story Time!' with time blocks for playing with (sanitized) toys, reading, and songs/felt board, and that the children will receive smaller take-home crafts. The first session of the more-normal program was November 5th, and I'm told it went well!

We also had many Halloween treat bags and some October Crafts left over by the end of the month. The remaining treat bags with toys for younger children and youth craft kits were donated to Community Action.

Into November: We started this month off with our National Novel Writing Month programming, which involves handing out 'Writing Starter Kits' and our month-long Friday 'Write Nights'. The first Write Night was held in-person and on Zoom and was attended by three patrons, myself, and two other staff. I anticipate at least one more patron joining us for the upcoming Write Night.

I stopped by the Catskill Public High School to speak with Tom McAlister, the Library Media Specialist, about possible programming as far as interest groups (to do with Write Night) and instructing students on library resources/the new 'Libby' apps. He introduced me to Heather Bradt, the high school's Assistant Principal, and later he connected me to Ms. Overbaugh from the middle school and Mr. Shah from the high school. I told them both I'd love to speak with them about classroom visits (or bringing classes here).

Our website is almost complete! Last week I reached out to the Mid-Hudson Library System about releasing our domain name so that we can continue to be found at 'catskillpubliclibrary.org'. There had to be a brief pause in conversation while I attended NYLA, but I was able to connect tech support and our web designer, so they can get the process going. We were told by Mid-Hudson that the domain transfer can take 5-7 days, and by our web designer that making the website go live would take 24 hours. Bathsheba, Gabriel, and I have now all received website maintenance and editing training and have administrative access to the website so we can edit and add content as-needed.

I attended the 2021 New York Library Association (NYLA) Conference & Tradeshow. Thank you to the Board for supporting my attendance! It was such a great experience. The bulk of my time at NYLA was spent attending Youth Services-specific panels. I networked with some great people from all over the state (from rural and urban libraries), and got great ideas for programming. My favorite panels talked about reaching out to the Girl Scouts for a programming partnership and about how to make read-along(s) more accessible. I look forward to putting what I learned at NYLA into action here.