

Youth Services Librarian Report

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End of October

Outreach: We were able to pick up visiting the HCHC's *Books & Breakfast* again after two months off. The intention with *Books & Breakfast* is to check out/in items, similar to our arrangement at the senior center and Home Sweet Home. However, our visits tend to be more general information tabling and occasional readalouds (I read stories with about 12 children this day). Given this tendency, I am going to cut back on the amount of books I bring with me to the event and focus more on flyers and brochures. My visit with the 8th graders at Catskill Middle School went very well, and we've seen a notable increase in middle schoolers since the visits.

Silly Scientists: We had 8 registrations, with 4 walk-ins for 10-25-2023's session (see pictures, courtesy of Joan). Our plan is to continue twice a month as possible through March. If the momentum continues we may make it a regular 6-month program.

'Library of Things': The collection officially went live on 10-25-2023. We checked out two ukulele kits immediately. We've received positive feedback on the objects we have out so far, as well as suggestions for other objects to add. With the remaining 'LoT' budget, we plan on purchasing STEM/STEAM kits and possibly following Palenville's idea of a 'Tonie' kit.

Monster Mash: Our second and third *Monster Mash* sessions had 3 and 5 attendees respectively. We received a lot of positive feedback from the attendees, and the winner (Dracula) got to take home a trophy. I hope to make this program a tradition (with some adjustments).

Trick or Treating: Catskill was visited by 26 kids and teens, and 22 adults on Halloween. Most of our visitors were regulars who made a point to make us their first trick-or-treating spot! We also had a handful of families new to the area, who took our calendar of events, flyers, and visited us the next day!

November

Young Writers Program: This is our second year trying out this program. Our first meeting had 5 teenagers, our second meeting had 6 (some returning, some brand new). We handed out 'writing kits' (notebooks, stickers, calendar) and talked about the stories we want to write. We'll be meeting every Thursday except Thanksgiving.

Silly Scientists: Due to early closures at the end of the month, we only have one *Silly Scientists* in November. We had 10 out of 12 attendees, including some walk-ins!

Upcoming:

November: Our last special program is *No Thank You, Evil!* Which will run the week of November 13th. We'll be resuming *Lego Club* on 11/28, which was canceled twice to make room for other programs. We have *Game Club* and *Books & Breakfast* scheduled as normal.

December: Another slower month as we wrap up the year. We're planning a 'stuffed animal sleepover' for the younger children, *Silly Scientists*, and possibly a cozy movie day. Our goal going into January is to wrap up collection development projects and get ready for the new year's programming.