

Youth Services Librarian Report

Emily McCabe

End of January

Programming: Our *Story Time!*, *Silly Scientists*, and *Lego Club* numbers remain steady (with the occasional spike depending on if the schools are closed for the day). *Game Club* attendance is dwindling, but we've seen a general increase in middle and high school-aged visitors thanks to word-of-mouth. I expect to see *Game Club* attendance rise again. Our *Family Board Game Making* program had 14 total attendees (twice as many as when we ran the program during Summer Reading), while our week-long *Game Jam* had zero participants. It seems our patrons prefer social programs rather than self-guided.

Outreach: *Books & Breakfast* tabling remains steady. We read books and talk about library resources with the children. I've been speaking with Kai Hillmann at the Youth Clubhouse about partnering for a field trip during this year's Summer Reading.

February

Programming: Our young patrons are enjoying our *Library Lover's Month* raffle, as well as our passive 'heart' program. I encourage everyone to see the kind things our community is writing! We have also started opening up the age requirements for *Lego Club*, since we have consistent requests from the tweens to attend. Christopher and I are discussing grant proposals to increase our Lego collection.

Outreach: We tabled at *Books & Breakfast* this month, though I did not do a read aloud because they invited a guest storyteller. Christopher and I are discussing ways we can elevate our partnership with the Hudson-Catskill Housing Coalition. I've also started planning programs with our other community partners in preparation for Summer Reading. I hope to work with the Beattie-Powers Place and Thomas Cole House again. I have reached out to the public middle and high school about speaking to their classes in May or June for Summer Reading. I hope to start registrations earlier than July this year.

Collections: Our Spanish language collection continues to grow through patron requests as well as my own selections. Our lendable Library of Things circulation has slowed, but our in-house items, especially the button maker, are frequently used. The button maker specifically has been used in the building 10 sessions, frequently with multiple people using it per session.

Upcoming

End of February: Closing out February is our regular programming as well as our raffle drawing. Since there is a public school break, I expect to see an increase in daily visitors during the times children are typically in school.

March: We will continue our regular programming. *Silly Scientists* ends at the end of March, at which time we're going to evaluate the program and decide what continuing it may look like. Dale and I hope to do an all-ages mystery-themed program, probably a movie night, in March.