

Youth Services Librarian Report

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End of March

Programming: Our final *Silly Scientists* of the season was on March 27th! It had the highest attendance with 13 children and 13 adults. We asked attendees of the March program sessions to evaluate how the program went for them and the results were overwhelmingly positive. Attendees specifically wrote about their appreciation of the staff. We will continue to provide *Silly Scientists* twice a month during the Fall and Winter seasons.

April

The first week of April brought a significant increase in lended materials (particularly books, which jumped from 125 a week to 206) and website new user visits (431 to 603). Our youth program attendance dropped during this week (17 children at *Story Time!* to just 4). We suspect the combination of spring break for the CCSD and lead-up to the solar eclipse encouraged our patrons to borrow and check the website more frequently while they prepared for their vacations.

On the topic of the website: Christopher, Dale and I are reevaluating the website's current design and resources. We are in the process of integrating the MHLS catalog as a digital display for the website as per the Board's suggestion. We have also started developing a plan for other improvements, such as an easier-to-navigate resource page, newsletter sign-up form, and an improved 'Children & Teens' section.

Upcoming

End of April: Dale and I are partnering with the Beattie-Powers Place once again to put on an Earth Day-themed program. Like in 2023, it will be two program sessions and open to all ages.

May: We will be celebrating the 105th anniversary of Children's Book Week with a collaborative storytelling program in Catskill. May is when the Youth Services focus turns more solidly toward Summer Reading (and in June, we will have no 'special' programming as we prepare for the summer). I have reached out to the CCSD middle and high school teachers about classroom visits in June, and May is when we will set dates for the visits.