

Youth Services Librarian Report
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Programs

Our end-of-October programs (the family movie night in the park and our trick-or-treating) were not well attended compared to last year. After speaking with our community members, we believe part of the lower attendance is due to the conflicting community programs happening around the same time. It seems that families were split between visiting the libraries, churches, schools, and Main Street businesses. Next year we hope to work with the Village to be part of their holiday planning so we aren't in competition.

There has been an increase in regular program attendance in November. In particular, *Silly Scientists* has consistently had full registration lists, day-of walk-ins, and registrations weeks out. Due to the holidays we only have one *Silly Scientists* in November and December, and our patrons have given us lots of positive feedback for the sessions so far. Our new teen program, *Teen Time*, has gotten a lot of enthusiasm from our teens, who feel comfortable advertising the program to their friends and giving us direct feedback about what they'd like to see. New families have started attending *Lego Club* and *Story Time*; it seems they are finding us by word of mouth as well as searching for children's activities online.

Outreach/Networking

The beginning of November was spent at the 2024 NYLA Conference. I'd like to thank the Board for their continued support of staff attending these conferences. Thanks to the hours I received at this conference, I have now reached the required amount to renew my NYS Public Librarian Certification. The most meaningful part of the conference for me was the insight into how other youth services departments address program issues like Summer Reading management and appealing to teens. I am excited to add the techniques I've learned to my programming.

Website

Our website now links to a Catskill and Palenville-specific catalog, rather than the general MHLS catalog. Users can now automatically filter by CPL holdings, and the catalog links lead to CPL digital resources. This branded catalog is easily customized and will help us better advertise our many different collections.

On our main website, Christopher, Dale, and I continue to collaborate on updating and streamlining our navigation and contents. Christopher and I are exploring a project to host a community calendar of events, which will boost our outreach efforts with other community organizations. Dale, Christopher, and I are also building new web pages and sections of the website to clarify library services; a list of materials borrowing information, a list of adult and senior-oriented services, etc.

Other

Thanks to Dale's efforts, we were granted a non-grant from MHLS to increase our Spanish-language collections across the library. We finished purchasing on November 15th, and I am pleased to report that we have added middle grade books to our Spanish-language collection. This is in part due to direct patron feedback of wanting books their children can grow into.