

Children's Board Report – October 2021

Our library welcomes 96 new cardholders this month as part of our First Grade Round-Up with the School District of Waupaca. Staff created a short welcome video, complete with magic trick and tour of our children's department. This video was shown to all first graders. "Good Library Fairies" were on hand at the school to make the event a real celebration! The school district's facebook page shared images of the fun event. Interesting to note, 47% of the new card holders were City of Waupaca residents, and 44% were from the four surrounding townships. I am working with the City GIS mapping staff to plot these new cardholders so we can use this data in ways that will be impactful as we plan future outreach programming.

October 28th was another fun day when we tried something new. We held two live events and invited people to join us to help break a record for the number of people reading the same book on the same day. Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon by Kat Zhang was this year's Jumpstart selection. Thanks to the Title I staff at the WLC for helping us coordinate this successful event. We tallied 552 people engaged in this activity with us. We also gained confidence in this type of virtual programming presence. We are discussing reading a picture book live a couple times a day on one day of the week to see how it goes.

Outreach programs at Sunny Day have ceased for the time being. It is just too cold to ask the children to be outdoors with us. Library personnel are not all comfortable being indoors and we have been unable to establish whether or not any virtual options are available to us.

Celebration on Main St featuring a rare appearance from Mo Willem's Gerald and Piggie was a huge community endeavor and a big success. We estimate over 1000 people in attendance during the 2-hour event. It was fun to hear kids explaining to their parents who these loveable book characters were. A recent debriefing meeting by organizers was unanimous.... The event will occur again. Mark your calendars for Friday, October 28, 2022.

My work on the American Library Services to Children (ALSC) toolkit about summer learning and out-of-school time learning has changed from production to promotion. Our toolkit is completed. ALSC has run it through their graphic design department and produced a polished product. I suspect our task forces new work will be in promoting it to librarians across the country. If you are interested in seeing the finished product, I can see that you get a copy.

Serving on the School District of Waupaca's 4K Advisory Committee and participating in their Child Find events has provided our library the opportunity to support other early learning professionals as we all struggle to locate the very youngest of our audience to give them the very best start in what we hope will be a lifelong curiosity and love for learning. The most recent Child Find event provided evaluations of almost 20 children, many of whom were identified as needed early services in speech and language, and other special services. Another impactful collaboration is through attending the Parent Teacher Group meetings at the Waupaca Learning Center. I am able to share with families the great work we are doing together. I am proud of the work we do together and am always seeking new partnerships with these outcomes in mind.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Abrahamson, Children's Librarian