

Youth Services Board Report March 2023

February always seems like such a short month that breezes by all too quickly. The month was full of preschool storytimes, afterschool programs and teen programs. The preschool storytime attendance has picked up quite a bit this month and we have received many compliments on the quality of the program. The creative play area was themed around pirates and was popular with our young patrons. We heard many shouts of “Arrrrggg” throughout the month. Our afterschool programs have been going well. The most popular session each month has to be when we bake something. This month we made edible pancake art by tinting pancake mix with food coloring, putting it in squeeze bottles and then creating designs on the griddle. One of the attendees suggested having an entire month of afterschool programs devoted to pancakes. Programming for teens included weekly Dungeons and Dragons meetups, as well as a cocoa and canvas and soshiko-mending programs. Beginning in May, we plan to add one other program option a week for teens, along with the regular d/d programs. The Limberlost branch also had a month filled with storytimes and afterschool programs. Each Thursday, afterschool the Limberlost branch offers a fun activity for students of all ages. This month they hosted programs on Valentine’s Day science experiments and conversation marble magnet craft.

This month we were happy to add a new staff member to our department. Bethany Minnich accepted the position of youth services assistant and will be helping us out for 20 hours each week. Her training went really well and she caught on to things quickly.

In February I attended the first meeting with area youth services librarians at the Eckhart Public Library. It was a well-attended and informative session. We discussed programming at our respective libraries and shared summer programming ideas. There are plans to meet again in April at the Garrett Public Library. I look forward to getting to know the librarians better and collaborate more in the future.

Sincerely,
Mary Graber



Storytime



Pancake Art