

**Four County Library System  
Youth Services Meeting  
9 March 2018 – Sidney Memorial Public Library**

Libraries represented: NB, OX, RS, SID, AF/BA, SM (2), GR, VE (2), NI, DE, EN (2), BCPL, SNB (2), ONA, DI, WA (2), HART, JC, FE (2), FR, GI (via GoToMeeting)

**Special recognition**

- Linda from Sidney will be retiring at the end of the summer after 20 years! Thank you for all that you've done for the families in Sidney and all of the help and support that you've offered to other member library staff.

**Quick things**

- Early Childhood Music Workshop – Pam from Andes will be presenting a workshop in Oneonta on Friday, May 11, 9am to 12pm. It will include preschool and music teachers, but Pam has offered a special discount rate for 4CLS library staff (thank you, Pam!). The flyer went out in an email, but hard copies will be sent out via 4CLS delivery, as well.
- Folkmanis – It appeared that nobody was ready to order new puppets at this time, so we'll revisit that at a later date.
- Brodart webinar - Consensus was that we're not interested in having Brodart present a webinar on Bibz, their online ordering and collection development tool.
- Sesame Street eBooks – There were not many libraries who were interested in the Sesame Street ebooks, so we will probably not pursue it as a system. However, Sarah will send out information to those who were interested so that they can look into the potential of obtaining them on their own.
- Teen services meetup – A free event focused on teen services will be taking place in East Greenbush, NY, on April 26. (Sarah sent out information about this via email in early March.) She plans to attend and is willing to carpool with anyone else who's interested in attending. More information and registration info can be found here: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/3i0N4BbeuvsHS/>
- SEFCU programs – SEFCU, a credit union based in Albany, has let us know that they have financial literacy programs that they would be interested in presenting at public libraries. There are programs that are available for early elementary children through adults, and they would be free of charge. Sarah has seen a couple of the presentations, and they were well received by the participants. Information went out via email, but Sarah can send the program descriptions again to anyone who might be interested.
- Site visits – Sarah would love to come out and visit your library, so please invite her! She can help with programs, weeding, etc., or she can just come out to chat about youth services and/or outreach.

### Digital Version of Growing Minds catalog

- Baker and Taylor has let us know that they will discontinue print catalogs as of April.
- They will still be sending us links to the digital versions, which Jaclyn forwards when she receives them.
- The catalog is visible to everyone, but the full functionality is only available to those who have a B&T login. (B&T has agreed to provide logins with no charge--if you would like to set one up, please contact Dannielle Swart in Acquisitions - [dswart@4cls.org](mailto:dswart@4cls.org))
- Sarah has created a handout with some tips for using the digital catalog, and she's happy to sit down with anyone who'd like a little more guidance.

### Children's Book Week

- Children's Book Week takes place April 30 to May 6 this year, and it's a great opportunity to focus on children's literature!
- The website has lots of printables and images for social media and activities – <http://everychildareader.net/cbw>

### Events Calendar

- Our subscription with Eventkeeper was provided through the Family Literacy Grant when it was focused on summer reading, and that funding is now focused in a different direction. Our subscription will conclude at the end of April.
- Dan in Automation helped us find something that is a no-cost alternative—a Wordpress plugin that's relatively simple to use.
- Sarah has created a handout with instructions/tips for how to use this new format, and she encourages you to add your events and give feedback.

### Summer Reading Program

- Why do we do Summer Reading?
  - o Some of it is to boost use of the library.
  - o Mostly we do it, as Wendy from Franklin said, to keep kids' brains from getting mushy! Our objective is to keep our young patrons from the "summer slide," where they lose ground during the summer and have to spend time catching up at the beginning of the school year.
  - o We looked at a couple of infographics with bad news and good news:
    - Bad news: Summer learning loss accounts for about 2/3 of ninth grade achievement gap in learning.
    - Good news: Summer learning programs can help close that achievement gap, and studies indicate that the effects of summer learning programs can last for **two years** after participation!
    - Bad news: Low-income students lose an average of 2 months of learning over the summer.
    - Good news: The number of books that a child needs to read to limit summer reading loss is 5! That's completely doable! And 92% of children say that they're more likely to finish a book that they've picked out themselves. This is what we're all about at the public library—helping kids find the books that they **want** to read!
  - o Sarah will send out the infographics with the sources of this information so that you have it as backup if anyone ever asks about the value of summer reading at the library.

- Accessing the manual
  - All should have received the USB with the manual. If anyone didn't receive it or is having trouble with it, please get in touch with Sarah.
  - A hard copy of the manual is available to be checked out from 4CLS.
  
- Tracking participation
  - Many libraries track participation by minutes read or books read, and some have counted pages and used a bingo card or a list of activities.
    - Heather in DI reminded her patrons of the reading log at every opportunity last summer, and the completion rate went way up.
    - Sara-Jo in EN shared that they changed from counting books to minutes read, as well as changing the completion date to earlier in August, and those changes increased the number of patrons who completed the reading log.
    - Michelle in NB has found that asking patrons to complete shorter reading log forms has worked well—many patrons will turn in numerous records of reading.
  - On the final SRP evaluation forms for reporting to the state, there are new questions with the hope of better reflecting what people do in each library. This is a DRAFT, but it gives a sense of what is different:
    - Questions 5 and 6 ask about “learning encouragement” activities – any activities (apart from reading) that would appear on a summer log or bingo card would be counted under this category.
    - Question 7 includes an accounting of attendance at “self-directed” programs. These would be things where you provide the materials and instructions for an activity in your library but don't directly lead the program yourself—participants would just work on the activity on their own during the timeframe that it is available.
  - Each library filled out an evaluation form at the end of last summer. There was a question about what you hoped to do the same or differently next summer, so there were copies made of how you answered that question, just to remind you of what your thoughts were at the end of last summer. (If you didn't receive yours and would like to, please get in touch with Sarah.)
  
- Die cuts
  - 4CLS has new die cuts related to this year's SRP theme: maraca, treble clef, music note, piano, tambourine, guitar (electric). If you would like to reserve any of them, please get in touch with Sarah.
  
- Program/activity ideas
  - Sarah highlighted a couple of things from the manual:
    - Readers Theater - Readers Theater allows children to practice reading aloud, and repeated reading (in practice and performance) increases comprehension of the story. This sort of program can build confidence, and it allows children to work cooperatively toward an end goal. The program could also involve an art component if you wanted to create masks, props, etc., but it's not necessary. There are some Readers Theater scripts in the manual, and 4CLS has a few books about readers

theater, as well. There are some pretty good online resources available, too.

- Graphic design/art programs for teens – The manual suggests creating album artwork or using song lyrics as the basis for artwork. This could be a collage or painting project, or it could include some graphic design on the computer. A great free online resource for graphic design is [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com)
  - Another idea suggested in the manual is hosting a karaoke program or a lip sync battle. Jess mentioned that she's hoping to have karaoke at Six on the Square in Oxford.
- South New Berlin – Robin and Michelle are starting to brainstorm—one thing that they're planning on using is the Rock Band game for Nintendo Wii.
  - BCPL – The high school's steel drum band will be offering lessons for participants. Roberson Museum will also present some programs. Musical movies will be shown with patron interaction, and retro game programs will be offered.
  - Endicott – Programs beyond just music will be offered. Johnny Only will perform. There will be maker programs and weekly programs for school-age children. For teens there will be themed programs, an escape room, podcasting, and the annual mystery night.
  - Oneonta – In the beginning stages of planning.
  - Hartwick – Since the painted rocks drew people in last year (especially teens), those opportunities will be offered again this year. Karaoke might be offered, as well as introduction to different genres of music. Sarah McGuire and John Hopper will present an interactive program to introduce children to stringed instruments.
  - Deposit – Monday programs for school-age children will be offered, since it was successful last summer. Dance Camp will be offered again, too, and the Spoon Man will perform.
  - Nineveh – Starting to brainstorm.
  - Vestal – An “adulting” series will be offered for teens to teach them some real-life skills. Process art programs will be held for preschoolers. There will be a Touch-a-Truck event and a Stranger Things themed escape room. An explorers club will be offered for different age ranges, and science kits will be offered as prizes for reaching reading goals.
  - Smyrna – A karaoke event is planned. Programming will alternate between singing/music programs and programs relating to rocks and geology.
  - Afton – Working on planning.

- Bainbridge – A dog trainer will present a program about search-and-rescue dogs. A partnership with the school summer program will allow for programming outside the library walls.
- Walton – Highlighting music from other cultures with art and music projects. The Ukulele Catskill group will present a workshop, and the library will have instruments for patrons to borrow. Other programs include Didgeridoo Down Under and painting stones for Walton Rocks.
- Franklin – Performers will provide programs once a week, and a program with staff-led activities will be held once a week. The kids baking contest (modeled after the Great British Baking Show) that was held this winter was a hit, so they might do something similar over the summer.
- Fenton – Kicking off the SRP with a karaoke program at the school. An open mic night will be held during the summer with only one rule—Be Brave! Some programs will be themed around rocks and geodes, and a summer concert series for families will be held. Most programming is aimed for the full family to participate.
- Sidney – Linda showed a few examples of things that she made using the new die cut shapes, including bookmarks and music note sponge painting. The reading log is a song with music notes left empty for participants to color in for every 15 minutes read. Performers include Lydia Adams-Davis, Robert Rivest, Tom Seiling, and the high school band. Staff-led programs include making musical instruments and a Pete the Cat party.
- Delhi – Community volunteers will present programs, including bagpipes and a ukulele jam. Flutist Aimee Backus will present a program. A pet rock program will use Chinese food containers to create a home for the rock and collect a donation for the local animal shelter. The ending event will be a sock hop, which will include a drum set on the library lawn for children to try out.
- Richfield Springs – Performers will include the Glimmerglass Opera and Emily Ellison, who will share about African music. Story time will travel to different locations, with participants meeting at different places throughout the community.
- Oxford – Rock painting will be offered, as well as Friday movies and Thursday crafts. Johnny Only will perform. Participants will work on making news videos. The ending event will be a community carnival, featuring magician Ron Cain and participation from several local organizations. Lines for a music staff will be hung up on the wall in the library, and SRP participants will put their names on musical notes and hang them on the staff. A local musician has agreed to compose a song based on the notes that the children place on the wall.
- New Berlin – Concerts will include Kindermusic, a bagpiper, a country band, an Elvis impersonator, Tom Seiling, and Nan Hoffmann. The ending concert will be Joe Lombardi, who presents an interactive musical performance, and ice cream

will be served. There will also be a craft table and an opportunity to make rock candy. There is a partnership with the summer lunch program, and the library has an article in the local newspaper each week.

- Johnson City – Plans to mix geology and music. Presenters will include Didgeridoo Down Under, Animal Adventure, and Kopernik with their fossil program. Maryse is looking for an African drummer and a bell ringing group to provide some different types of musical experiences. Rock painting will be offered, and the ending event will be an ice cream social.
- Cherry Valley - Hoping to host a drum circle and have some kind of musical instrument made out of pvc pipes on the front lawn. Rock painting will be offered, as well.

**Next meeting – Monday, May 21, 10:00am at the Richfield Springs Public Library**

(This is a change from the date that had been previously scheduled.)