

**Four County Library System
Youth Services Meeting
3 March 2017 – Sidney Memorial Public Library**

Libraries represented: BCPL, GR, DE (2), VE, WP, SP, HART, SID (2), BA (2), NI, JC, SH, FE (2), SM, WA, DI, ONA

Guest Presenters

- Drew Deskur from the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center came to share about the different programs that they can present at libraries during the summer. They are as follows: The Great American Eclipse, The Space Program and Air Rockets, Volcanoes, Rocks and Minerals, and the Kopernik Portable Planetarium. Costs for these programs are very reasonable, but there is a mileage charge for libraries outside Broome County. Sarah has a handout with more information about each program that she can email or send through the delivery to those who would like a copy.
- Lou Ferraro from the Binghamton Rumble Ponies baseball team shared about some of the programs that are offered to schools and educational institutions to give kids incentives to read. He said that the Rumble Ponies mascot can make appearances free of charge, and although players can make occasional appearances, the scheduling is often difficult. If you're interested in having the mascot, you can contact Lou at lou@bingrp.com or John Bayne at jb@bingrp.com.

Quick Things

- Eventkeeper – We will be renewing our subscription for this coming year, but we hope to have something a little different (although with the same functionality) in place for the following year. (Here's a link to the Upper Hudson Library System's version of what we hope to use in the future: <http://events-ys.uhls.org:8080/cal/main/showMainEnd.rdo>)
- Performer information sharing – Please continue to add information to the SurveyMonkey form (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z22NBNC>) or send it to Sarah to add to the spreadsheet of recommended performers (<http://tinyurl.com/4clsperformerssharing>). Please only include performers that you've already seen—that way, others can get a sense of whether the performance would fit a library audience.
- Growing Minds vs. Ingram Advance – Libraries should have received the Ingram Advance Children's catalog in the delivery. If you have some time to take a look at it, please do so—Sarah will be soliciting feedback about whether people prefer Growing Minds or this Ingram catalog as the basis for the Youth Services recommendations lists.
- Folkmanis Puppets – We'll do another consolidated puppet order from Folkmanis in the near future, hopefully by April. Information about that will come out in the delivery in the next week or two.
- Vox Books – Sarah interacted with this vendor at the ALA conference, and they have an interesting product—a book with an audio player built right in. Their catalog is pretty

small right now, but they've got Mo Willems titles, so that's a promising sign! More information can be found at their website (<http://www.vox-books.com/>), and Sarah can email information to anyone who might be interested.

- Articles – Sarah passed around the following—if anyone would like a copy, let her know:
 - o Marketing to Teens – Selected portions of chapters from *Teen Services Today: A Practical Guide For Librarians*. (The whole book can also be borrowed from 4CLS's professional collection.)
 - o SRP Teen Manual Webinar Q&A – This includes several good tidbits about starting new teen programs and getting the word out. It can also be found online here:
http://shopcslp.com/pdf/cslp/020217_webinar/BuildaBetterWorldTeenQ&A.pdf
 - o Reading Without Walls Activity Guide – An initiative of Gene Luen Yang, the National Ambassador of Young People's Literature. This can also be found here:
http://www.mackidsbooks.com/assets/rww_activityguide_5.pdf
 - o STEAM Programming Toolkit – This toolkit, put out by YALSA, has a lot of ideas for teen programming. It's too long to print out (40 pages), but you can access it online here: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/steam-toolkit>

Summer Reading Program

Die cuts

- The following Accucut die cuts were purchased to fit in with this summer's theme: Dump Truck #1, Empire State Building, House #4, Hard Hat, Schoolhouse #2, Puzzle House (Jumbo), Shovel (Jumbo).
- The Community Helper set also includes a construction worker outfit for the people, which could be used for a craft.
- 4CLS can lend the die cuts and the smaller machines through the delivery—just email or call Sarah to let her know what you need.

Accessing the SRP manual

- Instructions for accessing the online version of the Summer Reading Program manual were sent out with the incentive catalogs a couple of months ago. If you need another copy of the instructions, or if you are having trouble logging in to download the manual files, please get in touch with Sarah.
- The NYS Department of Library Development made the decision about going digital with the manual, but Sarah will look into the possibility of flash drives for next summer so that we can avoid the issues with getting registered and logging in.

Tracking participation

- The SRP manual includes ideas for tracking participation that include Parents As Reading Partners (parents agree to read aloud to their children and list books read), a Reading Contract (where participants set an individual goal in books or minutes), a Time Log, and a kind of reading/activity bingo card.

- Stephanie (WP) shared that she gives prizes for library visits—getting people in the door often means that they’ll check out books and read, too!
- EN, GR, DI and DE have participants set their own reading goals. Becky (DE) said that participants receive prizes for reading their goals, and some surpass their goals and set new ones. Ken (EN) said that participants who meet their goals receive tickets to enter into a raffle for prize baskets. Heather (DI) said that having participants set their own goals really encourages reluctant readers to participate.
- At SP and GR, one of the prizes for participants is to add a decoration to the wall. Echo (SP) said that this summer, they’ll be adding buildings to the wall. Stacey (GR) said that last summer the kids enjoyed this so much that she had to expand the decorated area onto an additional wall!
- At HART, teens receive a free book for every book that they read. Barb (HART) said that some teens also keep track of the number of pages that they read so that they can impress their friends!

Promotional visits

- The SRP manual offers a few ideas about promotional visits, including going in costume and performing a skit.
- Sarah shared that she would do a storytime in younger classrooms and then share a few tidbits about the SRP with students. She’s also done some rapid-fire book talks related to the SRP theme for older students, again following with some info about the SRP. She liked the manual’s idea about using trivia questions with older students.
- Echo (SP) last year had kids answer trivia questions and jump rope at the same time when she did promotional visits!
- Stacey (GR) often goes in costume to promote the SRP. She has a great relationship with her school and visits twice a week. She set up these visits by connecting with the school’s principal. She’s also connected with the Head Start and shares information there.
- Erin (EN) visits the elementary schools for a morning assembly to promote the SRP, and she takes along samples of the prizes that participants could win.
- Kenneth (EN) will be visiting individual classrooms in the middle and high schools this year.
- Maryse (JC) has a table at the end-of-the-year carnival at the school. She also promotes her SRP by connecting with a program in her community for at-risk kids. She also does costumes because they provide a memorable visual for the kids. She suggests being approachable and having a visual when doing promotional visits.
- Candy (SH) promotes her SRP with the local kindergarten, first, and second grade classes when they come to the library each year.
- Barb (HART) shared that a board member dresses up as Ms. Frizzle when they have classroom visits to the library.
- Stephanie (WP) goes to the school for family nights to promote her programs and sign people up for library cards.

- Echo (SP) and others print flyers about the SRP for the schools to send home with kids in their backpacks.
- The general consensus was DON'T BE AFRAID TO CALL to ask if you can come and talk with students about the SRP. The more kids see you, the more familiar they are with you, and the more they're excited about the library.

Program/activity ideas

- Sarah shared a couple of books that would be good start points for SRP theme-related programs: *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy and *Rainbow Weaver* by Linda Elovitz Marshall. She also mentioned that the SRP manual has a lot of good ideas for teens this year, including passive programming ideas, book display suggestions, and movie suggestions. Kenneth (EN) said that he liked several of the manual ideas, as well.
- **Oxford** – Jess has been talking with some local beekeepers, and they're going to come in to present a program for the kids. This will be incorporated into a craft night where participants can build a bee house to take home. Jess is hoping to do her other craft nights in a similar way, where kids learn something and make something in the same program.
- **Cherry Valley** – Claire is going to focus on the recycle theme. She has a bicycle that she will be upcycling to decorate the library lawn, with a sign that says "cycle-RE-cycle" (with an AD above the RE to spell READ). She will also have participants making journals out of recycled materials and asking them to write about how they will build a better world.
- **Smyrna** – Looking for ideas!
- **BCPL** – Engineering with everyday materials, like gumdrops and toothpicks. Roberson Museum will lead programs like steampunk crafts and K'NEX. A frankentoys program will allow kids to take pieces of old toys and create new creatures.
- **Greene** – An egg drop program will have participants building structures to catch and protect a raw egg that will be dropped from the library's roof! A journal project will have participants decorating and personalizing journals.
- **Walton** – The SRP will have a lot of music and recycling. There will be an African drumming program, and kids will also be drumming on buckets. There will be lots of making things!
- **Deposit** – Kids will be learning about building a better world through art, dance, and volunteering. They'll be using community members like the fire department to present programs.
- **Vestal** – Vestal will also be using more community members instead of big performers this summer. There will be a family fort night, and an Explorers Club will be working on science and art activities. Lindsay also shared about a Facebook group called Storytime Underground, which is made up of children's librarians who share lots of ideas.
- **Whitney Point** – Has lots of ideas and will be sitting down to plan soon.
- **Oneonta** – The Ross Park Zoo and a clown are paid performers, but they will be enlisting a bunch of local people, too. The building fits in well with STEAM programming. There's an ongoing Minecraft group. Participants will also be creating a garden.
- **Springfield** – Participants will be taking lots of field trips to different community sites.

- **Hartwick** – Barb is collecting boxes to wrap in brown paper and have in the library for children to build with when they come in. The boxes will also be used to decorate the parade float at the end of the summer. A quilting group is making a Lego-related quilt for the library to raffle off.
- **Sidney** – One program will be based on the book *Not a Box* by Annette Portis— participants will make whatever they want out of boxes. They will also have a few paid performers.
- **Delhi** – The ending celebration will be “Build Your Own Sundae”! A contractor will talk to the kids about tools and safety. Cooperative Extension will share how to build a healthy body. Author David Kelly (Ballpark Mysteries) will Skype and share how to build a story. The mayor will talk about how to build a strong community, and kids will build their own communities in shoeboxes. There will also be programs about tessellation art, Scribble Bots, and pottery.
- **Bainbridge** – Getting thoughts together—Michelle is new to the SRP!
- **Nineveh** – The big kickoff program will be puppetmaster Bruce Weaver, who will perform for the school students.
- **Johnson City** – YHPL is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year, so some SRP programming will be related to that. They will have a sundae social, a CPR class, storytimes, the Dirtmeister, an Amelia Earhart impersonator, and a program about architecture. Some programs will include ideas from *Sneaky Art* by Marthe Jocelyn.
- **Sherburne** – Performers include the Dirtmeister, Dan the Snake Man, Jay Mankita, and a Balloon Man. Participants will also make birdhouses, and Candy hopes to work with the teens to make a Little Free Library.
- **Fenton** – Fenton is working hard on planning their SRP kickoff 5K and parade.
- **Endicott** - Breakout rooms are a new fad where groups of people are “locked” in a room and must solve puzzles to get out—Kenneth got a kit from Breakoutedu.com, and he will create his own breakout scenario in the library. Teens will have three options to get entered into a drawing: read for 3000 minutes, listen to audiobooks for 3000 minutes, and writing a 300 word review of a book and movie adaptation. There will game nights, a Mystery Night, a Trivia Night, a chalk art program, and an end-of-the-summer party for teens. Kenneth also hopes to recruit teens for a Teen Advisory Group.

Next meeting

Due to 4CLS scheduling issues, the next Youth Services meeting date has changed to Monday, May 22. This will be another Ready to Read at New York Libraries training—the topic this time is Partnerships & Outreach.