

**Four County Library System
Youth Services Meeting
8 September 2017 – Unadilla Public Library**

Libraries represented: VE, BCPL, EN (2), SM, HART, DE, AF, SH (2), OX (2), AN, LI, ONA, JC, NI, UN, GI (via GoToMeeting)

Quick things

- BookFest – 4CLS and the Discovery Center in Binghamton will be presenting a BookFest on November 4. The featured book creators are author and illustrator Anna Kang and Christopher Weyant. If you would like copies of the flyer to share with your patrons, please get in touch with Sarah.
- Eventkeeper – This event listing platform will continue through the first part of 2018, when we hope to be able to switch to another service that doesn't have a subscription fee. The site has had around 20,000 visits so far this year, so if you add your events (for any age!), chances are they'll reach a wider audience. Instructions on how to access Eventkeeper and use it are on the handout at the end of these notes.
- Performer information sharing – Please submit information on performers that you would recommend—this helps others pick out quality programs for their libraries. Instructions about how to submit this information and to view what others have added are on the handout at the end of these notes.
- Folkmanis Puppets – The consensus was that people are not ready to place a puppet order at this time, so we'll revisit that in the spring.
- Banned Books Week – September 24-30 - www.bannedbooksweek.org – Many books that have been challenged or banned are books for young people, so it's a good opportunity to do a display. The website has some good social media graphics and printables.
- Summer Reading Program reports – Reports were due September 15. Some discussion was had about whether people had trouble filling out the reports. At the state level, there have been some conversations about whether counting books and minutes accurately captures what libraries are doing with their Summer Reading Programs, so the SRP reporting form may have a couple of different questions next year. (A side note: 4CLS received catalogs for the 2018 SRP, and they will be sent out to all of the libraries in November. Let Sarah know if you'd like to receive one earlier.)
- AccuCut dies – Input was given about which dies would be most useful for next year's SRP theme.

- Professional Collection – A selection was shared of some of the newer titles that have been purchased. If there are topics that you would like me to seek out resources about, please let Sarah know!

Electronic resources

- Flipster – There are a few children’s titles, and we’d like to see them get used if people are interested. The more children’s stuff gets used, the more resources get spent on children’s materials. Sarah made a flyer dedicated just to the children’s stuff—she can send that via email if people want. Concern was expressed about the children’s titles that have been chosen, so next time the renewal comes around, Sarah will do her best to advocate for more popular titles!
- Britannica School – This is a new database offered through NOVELNY, and a link to the resource can be found on 4CLS’s Research Center in the “Encyclopedias & Almanacs” section. It’s an excellent resource and offers many features that will be useful to young patrons who are doing research for school assignments. Here’s a link to webinars that will be offered this fall:
https://attendee.gototraining.com/1rq37/catalog/4122432313280273152?tz=America/New_York And here’s a link to the archived version of a webinar that 4CLS staff viewed over the summer: <https://vimeo.com/225414501>
- Transparent Languages – A new resource offered from 4CLS. It’s free with a 4CLS library card, and patrons need to sign up for an account with their email address. This could be good for students to support language classes, and it could work well for homeschoolers, too. A link to this resource can be found at the bottom of the left-hand sidebar at 4cls.org.
- 4CLS Intranet – Just a reminder that this is a place where a lot of information is housed for reference by 4CLS library staff. You can access it by going to <http://intranet.4cls.org> or by visiting www.4cls.org and clicking FAQs→”For Library Staff”

Read for the Record

- Read for the Record is an annual event sponsored by JumpStart in order to raise awareness of early literacy issues. The event aims to set the world record for the number of people reading the same book on the same day.
- This year’s date is Thursday, October 19, and the book is *Quackers* by Liz Wong.
- Information and activity ideas can be found here:
<https://www.jstart.org/read-for-the-record/>
<https://www.jstart.org/read-for-the-record/activities-resources-toolkit/>

Programming kits

- Sarah is exploring the idea of doing makerspace kits and/or STEM kits that could be lent out to libraries like the storytime kits. The consensus was that people would like to see these types of kits to do programming for upper elementary and middle grades. Echo (SP), Kenneth (EN), Deb (DE), and Kelsey (BCPL) offered to share input in creation of these kits.

Sharing from member libraries

- A few common threads throughout our conversations:
 - o Many had ice cream socials—some just as regular events and a couple as fundraisers.
 - o Requests for eclipse glasses were problematic for pretty much everyone, but those who were able to do programming around the eclipse had a positive experience.
 - o A number of people expressed that they found that performers from out of the area were expensive and that the local talent is often just as good, if not better!
- Dottie (NI) shared her excitement about new renovations that are happening, and she said that they'd have an open house once they're completed. She also mentioned a library lanyard that NI is giving to children for their library cards. She's looking for ideas for programs to increase attendance.
- Lindsay (VE) said that her SRP had great attendance this summer. Some highlights included a very successful Harry Potter Party (that attracted adults, too!) and a Junior Explorers Club that was held each week with art and science projects.
- Maryse (JC) said that her SRP also had good attendance this year. Dan the Snake Man was a favorite, and the mayor came to the ice cream social. This year has been a focus on the past because of the library's 100th anniversary, and next year she hopes to focus on the future.
- Clara (SM) shared that SRP events were held after library hours this year, due to space concerns. The children participated in robotics activities, and a puppet show was held at the town hall. Clara is now getting ready for fall storytimes.
- Barb (HART) said that her older kids enjoyed painting friendship rocks. This summer children enjoyed building with food and toothpicks, making their own toys, and building with boxes that were available in the library. A favorite program was "Build a Banana Split Day"! She is now busy with getting resources together for a program that will provide a bag with a book, a library card, and storytime information for each child born at Bassett Hospital in 2018.
- Deb (DE) shared that they had toddler time and a connection with the local Head Start. This summer they started programs for children in the middle grades, as well as an adult SRP, and they were well received. Favorite programs this summer included a multi-session Dance Camp and a Dinosaur Dig.
- Pam (AN) built five weeks of STEM programs around the eclipse, including presentations from Kopernik Observatory. The CROP summer program brought their participants to take part in library programs. Pam is working on planning a workshop for doing music

programming with children, which would probably take place in Oneonta. (She is trained and certified as a music teacher for children.) She also mentioned that for Delaware County libraries, there is funding available for library programming through the O'Connor Foundation.

- Cher (LI) took a different approach to SRP this year, and she saw an increase in attendance as a result. Highlights included an eclipse party, Lego building events, a butterfly release, craft times, and Kopernik programs. She also partnered with the village to do a back-to-school pool party. Upcoming is a Suffragette Centennial Celebration.
- Jess and Nancy (OX) shared that they started an adult SRP this year. They are looking for input about what people have discovered are good times to hold programs. Highlights from the summer include Lydia Adams Davis improv songs (they highly recommend her!), sign language, beekeeping, building birdhouses, and making t-shirt decals. Their end-of-the summer carnival, including a reading nook and a book sale, was very successful.
- Erin (SID) said that their SRP included hired performers (although the magician failed to show up!), and they had a lot of success with staff-led programs including a fairy house building event, Go Green Night (crafts with recycled materials), a beekeeper visit, movies, and book clubs for grades 1-3 and 4-6. Teen Tuesday activities included Harry Potter trivia, smoothie making, mug meals, and rock painting. Erin and Linda are beginning a new program this fall with an unstructured play-and-learn time for young children.
- Andrea (UN) worked with the town's summer recreation program to get kids into the library, and she had great success this year. She sent library card applications home with children and received a good number of them back with a parent's signature! She did farm animal programs for preschoolers, which work really well (and her baby goat Marigold joined us for the meeting!). She's excited about her library's renovations, especially the life-size tree sculpture in the children's area. She recommended www.toymaker.com as a resource for fun, easy paper toys for kids to create.
- Anne (ONA) had a very busy summer—she doubled up on storytimes and hired weekly performers. They had Minecraft camps and programs, as well as a Girls Code program, and they connected with the Bugbee Children's Center to do a STEAM summer camp.
- Ramona (AF) shared about an after-school program that showed participants how to crochet and knit. She visited the school to promote the SRP and had some tour groups visit the library. Summer highlights included a Funbelievable Magician and a therapy dog visit.
- Candy and Colleen (SH) shared these highlights from the summer: the Dirtmeister, Dan the Snake Man, Jay Mankita, a cosplay design workshop, Little Free Library building, and programs about greenhouses and planting. They worked with the Earlville Library and the Rogers Center for their eclipse party, and they used community members as guest readers for some storytimes. Their preteen book club is going really well, so they're looking at trying a teen book club. They're planning an American Girl party, a game night, and an Indy Author Day, and they're hoping to forge a more active relationship with their school.

- Sara-Jo and Kenneth (EN) shared that they switched their reading log to minutes read, and it seemed to go over really well. Their teen programs included an escape room, teen-run programs, a book club, a readathon, and a murder mystery. Programs for children included Cooperative Extension programs about healthy eating, Moreland the Magician (highly recommended!), and passive programs one day each week.
- Kelsey (BCPL) said that attendance this summer was up. The response to the teen programs was great, especially with the Urban League around the corner. They used recycled materials for crafts and built a giant playhouse out of recycled cardboard for the children's area. Roberson Museum staff led a couple of programs, including a steampunk art program.

Next meeting

The next Youth Services meeting will be on Monday, November 20. It will be another training session from the Ready to Read at NY Libraries curriculum. The topic will be Community Asset Analysis, and participants will be able to apply for minigrants from the Family Literacy Grant.

Eventkeeper

- Go to www.4cls.org and click the “Library Events” button on the right.
- Scroll ALLLLLLL the way down to the bottom, and click “Editor Login.”
- Username = 4cls-slt Password = slt
- Click “Add Event” and fill in the information to add an event to the calendar.
- It’s really helpful, too, if you go back and delete old events, since we have a limit to the number of events that we can have on our account.

Performer Information Sharing

- To add information about a performer that you would recommend, you can fill out the form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/4clsperformerinfo>
- Or you can just email the information to sreid@4cls.org, and Sarah will put the information in.
- The information on performers that others have submitted can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/4clsperformerinfo>