

**Four County Library System  
Youth Services Meeting  
11 March 2019 – Sidney Memorial Public Library**

Libraries represented: SID (2), NB, ONA, FE (2), AF (2), BHP (2), WA, NO, SNB, HART, DE, UN, BA, VE, EN (2), SH (2), OX, FR. Via GoToMeeting: SM (2), LI, CV, MO

Many of the documents referred to at this meeting can be found in the following Google Drive folder:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IA7WUgA\\_7Sz97xPMELdgvrJu6zxo\\_w1M?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IA7WUgA_7Sz97xPMELdgvrJu6zxo_w1M?usp=sharing)

**Quick things**

- The final Ready to Read at NY Libraries Training (for now) will take place on Friday, April 5, at Franklin. The workshop is called “Strengthening Young Families.” Sarah sent out the information about this workshop via email and through the Intra System Mail.
- Family Literacy Grant – For the next grant cycle (2019-2022), the State Library has decided to continue the focus on early literacy. Feedback from several people led to a decision that we will write the grant application to fund both bigger mini-grants and bringing a big-name presenter to the area. More information will be coming in the fall.
- WSKG Kids Writers Contest – Sara-Jo from EN shared about a PBS Kids writing contest sponsored by WSKG that is open to children in grades K through 6. Information and entry forms can be found here: <https://wskg.org/education/pbs-kids-writers-contest-is-open/>
- The Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown will be hosting an exhibit of original Elephant & Piggie artwork by Mo Willems April 2 through May 15! Here’s more information: <https://www.fenimoreartmuseum.org/future-exhibitions/elephant-and-piggie>
- Tamora Pierce, a well-known YA fantasy author will be appearing on March 23 at Ithacon, a free comic festival in Ithaca. More info here: <http://ithacon.org/>
- A set of free workshops will be held at Ithaca College on April 26, and many of the topics are relevant to our work with young people in libraries. The information flyer can be found in the Google Drive folder linked above.
- Here’s a cool set of STEM Role Models downloadable posters:  
<https://medium.com/nevertheless-podcast/stem-role-models-posters-2404424b37dd>

**Children’s Book Week – April 29 to May 5 - [www.everychildareader.net/cbw](http://www.everychildareader.net/cbw)**

- This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Children’s Book Week.
- The website includes lots of downloadables to print and to include on social media, flyers, etc. (Some of it still hasn’t been added to the website.)

**Summer Reading Program**

- Kopernik presentation – Drew Deskur from the Kopernik Observatory and Science Center shared some information about programs that he and his staff can do at libraries. These include a rocket program, a volcano program, a program about constellations, and a portable planetarium. More details and pricing can be found on the Kopernik flyer in the Google Drive folder linked at the top of the notes.

- Why do we do summer reading?
  - We're trying to combat the summer slide, where children lose ground over the summer break if they do not continue to read.
  - Lower-income children are more susceptible to the summer slide because they are less likely to have books around the house—and this is where the library comes in! You have the ability to provide all children in your communities with what they need to be successful when they return to school in the fall.
  - Scholastic put out a Kids & Family Reading Report to explore family attitudes and behaviors about reading for fun. The whole thing is over 100 pages long, but there's a section on Summer Reading (beginning on page 60) that's worth taking a look at. The report is included in the Google Drive folder linked at the top of the notes.
  - This is a reiteration from something I shared last year, but studies have shown that it only takes 5 books to start to limit the loss potential over the summer. Reading five books is so do-able!!
  
- Resources available on the NYS Summer Reading website - <http://www.summerreadingnys.org/>
  - Under "Librarians & Educators"
    - Downloadable materials – Many are still waiting to be updated for 2019
    - Promotional Video and Audio – video PSAs that can be embedded in your website or shared on social media. These can also be downloaded from CSLP and customized for your community—if you need a hand with this, let me know.
    - NYS Reading Lists – Still waiting to be updated for 2019. (The State Library let us know that they should be updated by April 1.)
  
- End-of-summer reporting
  - The SRP reporting form is included in the Google Drive folder linked above, if you'd like to take a look at it. I will send it out to everyone in August.
  - The form is the same as last year, with the probable exception of the myON question. (They haven't given any indication of the myON being offered again this year.)
  - I love your sharing of stories—that information is great to use in your publicity, too! I included a few of the stories in the SRP summary that was given to all of the state legislators on Advocacy Day. (That document is also included in the Google Drive folder.)
  - Many of your libraries answered the question "What would you like to do next year?" and I copied the pages so that you could take a look at them. This might help you in your planning for this year. (If you didn't receive one, let me know, and I can send it through Intra System Mail.)
  
- StarNet Libraries – [www.starnetlibraries.org](http://www.starnetlibraries.org)
  - This is a great resource in making plans for your summer reading activities!
  - Under Events → Summer of Space – An opportunity to register and add your library to the map, which also gets you an email newsletter from STARnet and enters you into a drawing for a telescope!

- Under Resources → Webinars – Archived webinars on topics very relevant to this year’s SRP theme.
  - Click the blue “Search STEM Activities” box – This has a HUGE amount of STEM activities—some are related to the theme and some can be used for other things. You can search for something specific or browse by category. What’s great about this database is that you can sort it by age level, cost of materials, prep time, activity time, mess level, etc. Many of the activities also have a how-to video that goes along with it.
- Online registration – READsquared - <http://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/>
- READsquared is the current vendor that provides online reading logging software available for no charge to NYS public libraries—can be used on a computer, tablet, or smart phone.
  - This software can be used with the setup they’ve created, or you can customize it to fit your needs.
  - There is setup for all age levels, up through adult. Users can create individual or family accounts.
  - You can have users log by minutes or books, and you can create “missions” for patrons to complete. You can add a point system, too, for completion of tasks. Patrons can also add book reviews. Users can earn badges and certificates, and they can earn the ability to pick up prizes at the library. There are lots of reporting capabilities!
  - It can be used all year long (e.g., if you want to have a winter reading program), and the State Library contract with READsquared runs through the end of 2022.
  - There’s a demo site available – you can practice with the back end, and you can register as a user.
  - There’s also a help video that gives you an overview of how to set things up. The March 7 webinar is also supposed to be archived and made available on the NYS Summer Reading website—Sarah will send that information out when it becomes available.
- Die cuts – We have quite a few at 4CLS that are related to the theme. We can send out the small machine and dies so that you can work on them in your library. The large machine is too big, so if you want to use something with the jumbo dies, you can send us paper. Please give us plenty of time to do it!
- Ideas from the manual
- There are two hard copies of the manual that can be borrowed from 4CLS—email Sarah to borrow it.
  - The electronic version of the manual has lots of graphics that can be used on flyers or shared on social media.
  - The manual includes tons of book suggestions—even if you don’t want to use them in programs, they would be a good resource for making displays.
  - Last year we talked about Readers’ Theater and the benefits that it has for reading practice and building young people’s confidence. This year’s manual has a number of Readers’ Theater scripts in it, if that’s something that’s interesting to you.
  - A few highlights that Sarah liked in the manual:

- Moonlit Story Walk (page 161 in the Children’s Manual) – This would be a great opportunity for a partnership with a park or nature center. The Story Walk idea involves taking a book apart and laminating the pages to include on signposts along a sidewalk or path—the moonlit portion involves doing it at night with flashlights!
  - Astronaut Training (page 168 in the Children’s Manual) – This would work really well as a multi-session program or as a longer program broken down into different stations. Suggested activities for astronaut training can be found on NASA’s website here: <https://www.nasa.gov/tla/activities/english>
  - Everyone’s a Star When They Read (page 173 in the Children’s Manual) – Set up a photo booth station with space-related photo props and encourage patrons to pose reading a favorite book. The photos can be used as posters in the library or as posts on social media (with appropriate permissions, of course.) This is based on the “Get Caught Reading” campaign (<http://www.getcaughtreading.org/>).
  - Cosmic Bath Bombs (page 86 in the Teen Manual) – If you’re willing to get messy and a bit complicated, the manual has instructions for creating bath bombs that resemble planets in the solar system.
  - Reading Horoscope (page 101 in the Teen Manual) – The manual has several book suggestions for each horoscope sign, which would be great for a booktalking program or a display. You could ask teens to add their own titles to the list, too.
  - Moon Landing 50th Anniversary Party (page 26 in the Adult Manual) – July 20 is the 50th anniversary of the first people to land on the moon. This is a great opportunity to celebrate and have an event for all ages!
- Program/activity ideas from around the table!
- Cherry Valley - Claire planning to have the kids make solar system mobiles with book planets. Instead of using Styrofoam balls, they are going to use blank newsprint and cover them with an outer layer of yarn to make our planets. These will be hung up in the library, which will create a party-like feeling in the space!
  - Sherburne – At the end of last summer, patron surveys indicated that people were interested in more hands-on activities, so Patty will be including more of those in their twice-a-week programs. They will also have presenters like Kopernik coming in to do programs.
  - Endicott – Their regular slate of storytimes will continue through the summer, with the addition of a popular weekly storytime at a local park. School-age programs will be held, as well as a family trivia night and programs with presenters like the Dirtmeister and Kopernik. Teen Thursdays with movies and activities like an escape room will be held, and Kenneth is looking to start a Forever Young Adult book club for those who are aged out of being a teen but still like to read YA literature. Sara-Jo also shared some craft ideas sent by EN’s Craft Goddess Brooke. If you’d like more information on how to create these upcycled crafts, please contact Brooke at [en.brooke@4cls.org](mailto:en.brooke@4cls.org).

- Afton – Linda is working on arranging for three entertainers, which will be coupled with crafts. Participants will read by minutes to earn free books and prizes, and there will be 4-H-led programs. Ramona is looking for ideas for teens, thinking about creating a small makerspace in the library, and preparing for nursery school storytimes and school visits.
- Vestal – Programs for kids will include regular storytimes, readers' theater for grades 1-3, entertainers, a stuffed animal workshop, astronaut camp, 3-D pen rockets. For teens there will be a blacklight party, where teens can decorate a white t-shirt with highlighters to see how it glows! Anna is also planning a space party kickoff for the SRP.
- Deposit – Toddler time will be held, as well as programming for ages 5-9, preteens and teens. Deb will be doing some hands-on crafts with the kids, and the Kopernik planetarium program will be held at the school. The popular dance camp for kids and teens will be held again this year, as well as a SRP for adults.
- Hartwick – The Kopernik planetarium will visit Hartwick, and they will also be repeating their very successful karaoke program this summer. Barb will also be working with the kids on creating a float for the community's summer parade.
- South New Berlin – Robin will be trying out the make-your-own planetarium from the StarNet Libraries website, and she'll also host an escape room event for kids and teens.
- Norwich – Kim has her weekly performers booked, and more plans will be coming!
- Walton – April will be starting a goal-based reading program this summer, where participants select their own goals for how much they want to read. Walton will have STEM activities on Tuesdays, self-led crafts on Wednesdays, movies on Thursdays, storytimes on Fridays, and performers on Saturdays. There will also be weekly raffles.
- Bainbridge – Michelle is going to lead the kids in making their own toys and sending them home with further instructions to reinforce their reading skills.
- Franklin – Xina shared that there will be presenters on Tuesdays and crafts on Thursdays.
- Fenton – Kopernik will be at the library for SRP registration day. Debi and Korin are working on programs for the whole family to enjoy together. The 5K will be held again this year.
- Oxford – Jess is still working on plans for SRP, but she's excited about an open house that will be held at Oxford on April 27! She's hoping to have every question that she's ever been asked about the library answered in that one event.

- Oneonta – Storytimes will continue through the summer, with some possible changes in times. There will also be performers, STEAM camps, and a connection with the YMCA Preschool. Kathryn is also excited that, while the library has been going through some construction, she's been able to take the opportunity to change her picture book arrangement into subject categories, and she's calling the new layout Picture Book Junction, with a train theme! She hopes to send photos when everything is complete.
- New Berlin – Participants will earn prizes for filling out reading logs, and they'll add their names to the reading thermometer. Michelle was able to purchase a telescope, which will be available to circulate to NB patrons! Programming includes a concert series, self-led crafts, an ice cream party, movie viewing, a NASA rocket scientist, and rockets for kids to build (and launch at home). Michelle is also hoping to collaborate with the local park program.
- Sidney – Regular children's programs will continue, with the addition of performers, book clubs, movies, and programs like astronaut training, sun and moon yoga, and space art. Erin is also planning a kickoff SRP registration party with live music. Cassandra brand-new to her work with the teens, but she is planning on holding weekly teen sessions during the summer.

**Next meeting** – Friday, May 10, 10am – Worcester – A chance to see their new library!!