# Four County Library System
## Youth Services Meeting – Focus on Summer Reading Program
## 2 March 2020 – Sidney Memorial Public Library

Libraries attending in person: SID(2), NI, ONA, SH(2), SM, HART, SP, WA, CV, CO, VE, SNB, EN(2), OT, FE(2), ED, STA, FR, JC(2)
Libraries attending via GoToMeeting: AF, BA, NO, DE, WP

## Quick things
- Best New YA Books Workshop – This is a great workshop for those who work with tweens and teens.  It's hosted by local BOCES and aimed at school librarians, but there is a wealth of good information, so it's a great thing to take advantage of.  Here are the dates for this year (Sarah will send out registration information when it is available):
    - April 20 – Broome-Tioga BOCES in the Binghamton area
    - April 21 – DCMO BOCES in Norwich
- WSKG Kids Writing Contest – Sara-Jo (EN) shared about WSKG's writing contests for kids in grades K through 6.  It's a great opportunity for creative kids to have their work recognized, so please encourage your young patrons to participate!  Information and entry forms can be found here: https://wskg.org/education/pbs-kids-writers-contest-is-open/
- Thanks to a partnership with Your Home Public Library, our next Youth Services meeting will be a Sensory Storytime Training on May 1 at YHPL in Johnson City.  More information was sent out by email and in the delivery.
- Children's Book Week is May 4 to 10, and you can sign up to be an official site, if you're planning on doing programs that week.  There are downloadables (media tools, activities, etc.) that can be found here: www.everychildareader.net/cbw
- Save the date for farther in the future!  On April 13, 2021, we will have a training by Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen, a nationally-recognized expert on early literacy.  Her training is called "Mother Goose on the Loose"!

## Summer Reading Program
- Why do we do summer reading?
    - Historically, we have always said that we're helping to stem the summer slide.  However, how much are we helping and who are we helping?
    - Dominican University did a study between 2006 and 2009 with 367 students in eight different states, and here are a couple of things that they found:
        - "Students who participated in the public library summer reading program scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than those students who did not participate and they gained in other ways as well." Great news!
        - However, "Students who participated in the public library summer reading program included more females, more Caucasians, and were at a higher socioeconomic level than the group of students who did not

participate." This is the part that forces us to think about WHO we are serving with the SRP.

- o In a more local study, Albany Public Library collaborated with SUNY Albany to do a study that they reported the New York Library Association Conference this past November. Through a partnership with the school district, they were able to connect the SRP participants' test scores at the end and beginning of the school year to determine whether or not the SRP had reduced the summer slide. What they found is that their greatest impact was on students who were considered "average"—those students maintained their reading level. The SRP was found to have a much lesser impact on high-performing and low-performing students. (Keep in mind that this was a pretty small study in an urban area—it would be great if it could be expanded to more school districts throughout the state in a variety of different kinds of communities.)
- o This forces us to think about a couple of things:
    - Who are you serving with your SRP? Is it kids whose families already support their learning, or are you also reaching those who need some extra support?
    - What are your goals for your library's SRP?

- In talking about goals for the Summer Reading Program, a few ideas came up:
    - o Getting kids/people into the library!
    - o Introducing young people to experiences and cultures that they might not be exposed to in their normal day-to-day lives.
    - o Encouraging reading for fun!
    - o Taking library programs on the road
        - Storytime (or other program) at the laundromat, food pantry, or pool
        - Connecting with other community groups that host kids during the summer (ex. Boys and Girls Club)
        - Coordinating with free meal programs
        - Connect with your county's Opportunities organization
    - o Sarah provided a worksheet that she adapted from one created by YS Consultants at Mohawk Valley and Upper Hudson Library Systems. This could potentially help with goal setting and planning. The document can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/tfw2lrw

- Resources available to borrow from 4CLS (Contact Sarah or Ann at 4CLS to request)
    - o <u>Die cuts</u> – New die cuts related to the theme include a castle, a dragon, a crown, and a unicorn. The full list can be found here: https://intranet.4cls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/4CLS-ACCUCUT-DIES-AVAILABLE-FOR-LOAN.pdf
    - o <u>Print copies of the SRP manual</u> – We have two copies. This is just a print version of what you received on the USB. These can be put on hold in Workflows, but if you have any issues with it, you can get in touch with Sarah.

- o STEM resources – We have a few of these that can be borrowed—the newest ones are STEAM to GO kits from Penworthy. The full list can be found here: https://intranet.4cls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/STEM-kits-02.2020.pdf
  - o Puppets – Ann (4CLS YS Assistant) went through the 4CLS collection and discovered a ton that are related to the SRP theme—a dragon, a pirate, a prince and princess, a magical tree, a ton of fairies, etc. The full list can be found here: https://intranet.4cls.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/puppets-props-06.2019.pdf

- Resources provided by the State Library
  - o Posters – The posters are not quite to the standard that they usually are because there was an issue with the artwork late in the game. There's only one poster design. Sarah will be sending the posters out to the libraries that want them in the next week or two.
  - o Online SRP registration – The State Library has a five-year contract with a product called ReadSquared, which allows libraries (at no cost) to have their patrons register and keep track of their reading online. Kenneth (EN) shared that he used it with his teens last summer and really liked it! He said it was possible to set it up quickly, although he took some extra time to customize it to include extra activities and challenges for his patrons. The teens were able to participate from outside the library and record their reading and write book reviews. Kenneth was able to collect statistics and surveys easily, and he could create booklists and "lessons" for his patrons. He said that he'd be happy to answer questions about the program (en.roman@4cls.org), and the State Library also has some FAQs and webinars for those who would like to learn more: http://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/
  - o There will not be access to myON this year. Alternatives include
    - ▪ www.daybydayny.org – This provides a new rhyme, song, activity, and story each day for young children. (The Spanish language version is www.daybydaynysp.org)
    - ▪ Tumblebooks – This is a resource provided by BCPL, and it requires a library card and PIN.
    - ▪ Overdrive/Libby – Although it has a majority of titles for adults, there are around 300 juvenile titles and over 250 teen titles.

- End-of-summer reporting
  - o As far as we know, the reporting form is much the same as in previous years. It is hoped that it will be finalized in May, but that depends on the State Library. The preliminary form can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/skh6phd Sarah will send out the finalized form during the summer.
  - o You do not need to have an answer for every question! These are just a way to capture all of the different methods that libraries across the state use to record participation in the SRP.
  - o Sarah encourages you to fill out the stories section at the end. This is where she pulls quotes from to create handouts to provide to legislators and other

stakeholders (like this one: https://tinyurl.com/sknnvp8).  You can also return to this section to create your own handouts or social media posts.

- o Sarah love it when people send photos, too!  If you have photos that you're willing to include in advocacy materials, she would greatly appreciate it if you would send them along.

- o Sarah made copies of the page that includes what you answered about what you might want to try for summer 2020.  Not everyone answered this question, so there won't be a copy for everyone, but she just wanted to remind you of what you were thinking about at the end of last summer.  Or if you're new, you can see what your predecessor had in mind.  Sarah has all of the previous years' SRP reports in my office, and she'd be happy to make copies/scans if anyone wants to take a look at that information.

- Program/activity idea sharing
    - o Cool craft ideas
        - ▪ Crocheted dragon egg dice bag for a prize (CV) – Claire said that the pattern is available for free on Ravelry.  Sarah has asked her to send out a photo to the YS List.
        - ▪ Memory strings for SRP participants to add beads and little handmade books to – will hang in the library (CV)
        - ▪ Dragon eggs using a styrofoam ball/egg and flat metal thumbtacks – can be painted with nail polish (OT)
        - ▪ Dragon eggs using a styrofoam ball/egg and fabric triangles (EN)
    - o Fun program possibilities
        - ▪ Book club with movie (BA) – suggestions included Harry Potter, Lemony Snicket, My Side of the Mountain
        - ▪ Fairy Tale Camp (ONA) – each day will focus on a different fairy tale with related activities
        - ▪ Fairy houses and gnome houses (ONA, FR, SID)
        - ▪ Taco party (WP) – to connect with the book Dragons Love Tacos!
        - ▪ Life size board game where patrons are the game pieces (JC)
        - ▪ Harry Potter Wizarding School (JC) – six-week program with activities like potions and quidditch training
        - ▪ Ice cream social (ONA, VE) – good ending event
        - ▪ Escape room (EN)
        - ▪ Mystery night (EN)
        - ▪ Genealogy (EN) – Family program – "Imagine Your Family's Story"
        - ▪ Writing programs (EN)
    - o Performers/presenters people are excited about
        - ▪ Tracey West (WA) – author of Dragon Masters series and Pokemon chapter books
        - ▪ Dan the Snake Man (multiple libraries)
        - ▪ State Police K-9 Unit (CO)
        - ▪ Kopernik Observatory (JC) – program about constellations and mythology

- Dancing Bear Puppet Theater (CO)
- Taylor Rental and NY Bounce House have rentals for things like dunk tanks.
- Department of Health - programs on bike helmets and tick safety (FR)
- Cornell University Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility (WA) – will do programs for free within a certain distance of its facility
- David Wasik (WA) – creating a mini book
- Renaissance Festival (VE) – suggestions for finding presenters include the Society for Creative Anachronism, Faerie Festival, Bells & Motley, Happy Haggs
- Moreland the Magician (SH and others)
- The Dirtmeister (Steve Tomecek)

o Thoughts on prizes/incentives
- Weekly prizes can work, but they can be overwhelming to manage.
- Participants can earn a larger prize when they complete the program.
- Participants can earn raffle tickets for bigger prizes/baskets.
- Participants can earn points/tickets to collect and "shop" at a "store" of prizes.
- It might be good to have a parent prize/incentive to encourage them to bring their family and participate in programs/events.

o Advice for those doing the summer reading program for the first time
- Start with a single age group and grow from there
- Work first with the age group that you're most comfortable with
- Connect with local presenters for programs
- Local agencies (like Cornell Cooperative Extension) are often willing to come and present programs
- Reach out to the schools to help promote the program