

**Four County Library System
Youth Services Meeting via GoToMeeting
14 September 2020**

Libraries attending: SID(2), NI, EN(2), FE, VE, CV, GR, STA, NO, DE, LI, SM, DI(2), SNB, BA(2), NB, WP, WO, ONA, ED, RS

Summer Reading Program thoughts

- SRP report is due to Sarah by September 25. If you did not do a program this summer, that is no problem! Just let Sarah know so that she's not looking for a report from your library.
- Many libraries were disappointed to scrap the fantastic plans that they had for the summer and found that they were not able to reach as many people this year. However, some libraries saw numbers increase with transportation being eliminated as a barrier to attending programs.
- Some libraries had success with virtual programs, but some found that their families were tired of being indoors in front of screens.
- Libraries who had grab-and-go types of programming/activities seemed to have an overall positive response from their patrons.
- Thinking ahead to 2021, we typically have done the SRP meeting in March. When asked whether the meeting would be more helpful earlier in the year (Jan/Feb), some libraries said February would work well. Sarah will ask again at the beginning of 2021, when we will (hopefully) have a better sense of how things might play out with relation to gatherings and social distancing.

READSquared

- Information about closing out your SRP module of READSquared can be found here: <https://www.summerreadingnys.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/READSquared-Post-Program-Recommendations.pdf>
- The READSquared app became available to NYS libraries at no charge in July and will be available through December 2021.
- Kenneth (EN) shared about the "Carve Out Time for Reading" module that's available through READSquared. He has customized it for his teens and plans to run a program for them September through mid-November. He shared that there is now a bingo board function in READSquared, and he would be willing to help train people on how to use it.
- There were mixed reviews from the member library staff about READSquared. Some people found it very helpful, and some found it difficult and cumbersome to use. We do appreciate Kenneth's willingness to help out in answering questions!

Copyright and online storytimes

- Many member libraries are looking at the possibility of continuing virtual programming into the fall. The fact that libraries are allowing people to come into the buildings in person seems like it could change the Fair Use concept a little bit.
- *School Library Journal* has kept up on their document with publishers' permissions – several have extended their special permissions to the end of the year. That document can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-OffEITRoI7zsvk6gixrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/edit?usp=sharing>
- Your use of a book could be considered fair use without those permissions if you don't do a straight reading of the book. If you interject your own thoughts, questions, etc. (like you usually do in a normal, in-person storytime), it becomes something a bit different.
- Another approach would be to share all of your rhymes, activity ideas, etc., in your video and then give participants a link to an author/celebrity readaloud of the story.
- A couple of libraries mentioned using a Zoom-type platform for virtual storytimes. They reported that this allowed for more interaction with the children and parents. Kathryn (ONA) shared that she required families to have their cameras on so that they didn't end up with any "unaccompanied adults" joining in the storytime. Stephanie (WP) connected with the school district to share a Zoom storytime with students.

In-person library services

- Member libraries shared that things have generally been going well—patrons have been mostly cooperative and have expressed gratitude that the libraries are back open to serve them.
- Most libraries are discouraging people from lingering by removing furniture and toys. This is disappointing because we often want to encourage families and teens to spend time together at the library. However, this is the safest way to provide service right now.
- A few libraries have started in-person programs for kids, and I asked a couple to share their approaches.
 - o Greene – Gary shared that their Facebook Live storytimes started strong but fizzled, so they switched to doing in-person storytimes in their outdoor space. They mark off seating areas, require masks, and ask families to bring their own blankets/chairs. They use a portable sound system for the stories, and they provide individually-packaged snacks and crafts for families to take home. As the weather changes, they're looking at adding extra storytime sessions to avoid having too many people.
 - o Norwich – Kim shared that they decided to go forward with the school age art classes and author programs they had scheduled, since they were funded by a grant and supported local creatives. They, too, have an outdoor space that they can utilize, and that gave them enough room to spread out tables. They required masks and asked families to bring their own hand sanitizer, as well. Kim

said the hardest part is that they have to keep reminding the kids to keep their masks on!

- Sherburne – Myranda shared that they have a large outdoor space and implement their storytimes in much the same way as Greene does. They have seat cushions that are easily wiped down, and they space them out in the lawn. After the stories, the kids participate in a socially distant activity like yoga or a scavenger hunt. As they look toward the changing weather, they're looking at requiring pre-registration and adding storytime sessions to keep groups smaller. They're also doing family trivia on the lawn, using an app called Kahoot—it's getting a good response!

Back-to-school

- You may be seeing more families than usual deciding to homeschool their children this year—true homeschooling instead of just remote learning through the school district. A webinar was shared with us from the Onondaga County Public Library—the slides and audio file can be found here:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TercqoN7KGnyZCqaJ19PN45xFJ7xJdQu?usp=sharing>
- Michelle from the New Berlin Library also shared that she has a number of years' experience with homeschooling her children, and she'd be willing to answer any questions that people might have.
- With many schools having in-person instruction only part of the week, it would be a good idea to take a look at your policies for unattended children, just so that you're familiar with them in case of students being dropped off at the library for long periods of time.

Other opportunities

- Banned Books Week – September 27 to October 3 – Lots of banned and challenged books are those for young people, so you'd probably find plenty to make a display or a book list. ALA has a great set of resources that you can use:
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/banned>
- Read for the Record – October 29 – *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away* by Meg Medina – This book just came out September 8. Suggested activities to go along with the book can be found here: <https://www.jstart.org/read-for-the-record/activities-resources-toolkit-2/> (The JumpStart website can also give you background information about the Read for the Record event.)
- Sean Swart Memorial Grant – A donation was made to 4CLS in memory of Sean Swart. Sean was the son of 4CLS staff member Dannielle, and he was an artist and musician. The original intention of the donation was for it to help support a big author/illustrator event, but those plans were messed up by the coronavirus situation. So Dannielle and I talked about how we might be able to use the money and decided to offer mini-grants

to support arts programming for young people in the member libraries. Sarah emailed the form to the YS List and will send it out in a paper format, as well.

Other thoughts

- A question was asked about what sorts of Halloween plans libraries are feeling comfortable offering this year. Some suggestions were offered:
 - Trunk or Treat in the library parking lot
 - Take-and-make crafts with a Halloween theme
 - Haunted tour (registration required to limit large gatherings)
 - Programming about the tradition of jack-o-lanterns along with a “Lighting of the Jacks”
 - Pumpkin carving/painting contest
- A wild story was shared by Michelle (NB). She ordered a picture book from Amazon and received it from the warehouse in a box with a few other books. When she opened the picture book, she found a \$100 bill! The bank assured her that it was real, and her treasurer decided to add it in as a donation to the library. She has no idea how that could have happened—what a fantastic surprise!