

**Four County Library System
Youth Services Meeting via GoToMeeting
17 September 2021**

Libraries attending: EN (2), WA, GR, BA (2), DE, SID (2), VE, SM, DI, MG, FR, NI, SH (2), LI, FE, SNB

Digital Resources for Homework Help (shared by Brian Lee)

- These resources can be found by visiting www.4cls.org and clicking “Research Center” on the right-hand side.
- Britannica School
 - o Found under “Encyclopedias & Almanacs”
 - o Also has a Spanish-language version – Britannica Escolar
 - o Three levels – Elementary, Middle, and High
 - o After you choose a level, you can search by clicking the “Search” button at the top and entering your search terms.
 - o Icons at the top of each article allow users to send an article to themselves, print it, cite the article (formats like MLA, ALA, etc), and have the article read aloud.
- Gale Databases
 - o Found under “General Periodicals”
 - o Choose the database most relevant to your search: Elementary, Middle School, Opposing Viewpoints, Science, World History, etc.
 - o Enter your terms in the search bar to get a list of articles.
 - o Icons at the top of the article pages allow you to cite the article, send it by email, download, and print.
 - o On the right-hand side of each article are related subjects to allow users to find more of what they’re looking for.
 - o One of the Gale Databases – Information Science – is geared specifically toward library issues, so you’d be able to find articles on weeding, programming, book reviews, etc.
- FreeTestPrep
 - o Found under “Job Help & Practice Tests”
 - o Provides help and practice tests for things like SAT, ACT, GRE, etc.
- Literary Reference Center
 - o Found under “Literature”
 - o Requires a library card number
 - o Articles about works of literature, as well as literary criticism and author biographies
- Transparent Language Online
 - o Found under “Languages”
 - o Requires a library card number
 - o Language learning help for those learning a foreign language, as well as those learning English

- Brian also shared that he has a program set up to share information about digital resources with homeschool families, and he'd be happy to come to your library to present or do something via GoToMeeting. If you'd like to connect with him about that program, or if you have questions about the digital resources, his email is blee@4cls.org.

Opportunities to participate in national initiatives

- Read for the Record – October 28
 - o An organization called JumpStart raises awareness for early literacy by trying to set the world record for the biggest number of people reading the same book on the same day.
 - o This year's book is *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon* by Kat Zhang.
 - o To participate, all you'd need to do would be to read the book on the date of the event and report the numbers of how many people read.
 - o To sign up to participate, visit <https://www.jstart.org/read-for-the-record/signup/>
 - o For activity suggestions to go along with the book, visit <https://www.jstart.org/read-for-the-record/activities-resources-toolkit-2/>
- Children's Book Week – November 8-14
 - o Children's Book Week is a celebration of books for young people.
 - o Information about how to participate, along with a link to free resources, can be found here: <https://everychildareader.net/cbw/about/>

Family Literacy Grant (Early Literacy)

- Following up on the early literacy webinars held in the spring, 4CLS will have available the following kits:
 - o Take-home kits for caregivers to do baby storytimes with their children, including baby-safe bells, maracas, scarves, board books, song/rhyme CD, and a booklet of rhymes and early literacy tips. (The cost to put together this kit was around \$120.)
 - o Similar kits for library staff to borrow to carry out baby storytimes, with enough supplies for a group of 10 children.
 - o Sarah is working on the finishing touches for these kits, and she will send out an email to the YS email list when they're ready to go.
- An Early Literacy Grant application was sent out via email and in the delivery for member libraries to request funds for early childhood projects. The deadline for applications is October 1.

Professional Collection Books

- Sarah highlighted a few new books in the 4CLS professional collection:
 - o [Impactful Community-Based Literacy Projects](#)
 - o [A Trauma-Informed Approach to Library Services](#)
 - o [Transforming Your Library into a Learning Playground](#)
 - o [Outreach Services for Teens: A Starter Guide](#)
 - o [Library Programming for Autistic Children and Teens](#)

- [Pairing STEAM with Stories](#)
- These (and other) professional collection books can be borrowed by putting a hold on the book in Workflows. (If there are problems putting a book on hold, please email Sarah – sreid@4cls.org – to request the book.)
- To search for books in the professional collection:
 - Visit www.4cls.org
 - Put your topic in the search bar (e.g. teens, science, preschool, puppets)
 - When you get the list, narrow your results by going to the “Local Collection” section on the left-hand side of the screen, and clicking “LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION.”

StoryWalks

- A question was raised about StoryWalks and how to go about starting them. For information about StoryWalks and how to do them, visit <https://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk>
- Anna from Vestal shared about their implementation of a StoryWalk: They purchase two copies of the book and use materials similar to campaign signs to attach the pages to. They switch out the stories every couple of months, so that once they start to look a little rough from the weather, it’s time for a new story.
- Doris from Margaretville shared that they posted the pages to their chosen book in the windows of businesses in town. This is a great way to partner with people in your community.

A few other notes

- A couple of libraries are potentially interested in doing a consolidated order of Folkmanis puppets. Sarah will send out an email with details to see if there’s enough interest to do a big order.
- Sarah is happy to do site visits, so please invite her if you’d like to chat or if you’d like an extra pair of hands for a program.
- The State Library has sent out the access code for the online manual for the 2022 Summer Reading Program theme. Sarah will send that out via email.
- Author/artist Kristen Mann will be providing a program at Sidney on September 25, and the Friends of the Library and the United Way provided funds to give away copies of her books.
- A Reading Dog program will be starting soon in Sherburne on Wednesday afternoons after school.

HANG IN THERE!

Things are still weird. Several people shared that they are finding that it’s hard to figure out what is going to work and what’s not because things keep changing, and patrons’ responses keep changing, as well.

You are all doing amazing work! Keep at it, but don’t forget to also care for yourselves and give yourselves some grace.