**YSIE Get-Together Notes~ March 21, 2024 Minocqua Public Library**

Tour of Minocqua Library

* Erica and Jenny led a building-wide tour.
* Highlights in the children’s area include: an attached programming room, outdoor garden space, many face-out display areas, several AWE computers, and a couple areas to highlight children’s artwork made at the library.
* Highlights in the teen area include: the Kindness Cupboard, teen book boxes, and a semi-secluded seating and lounge area especially for teens.
* Minocqua recently added a Library of Things collection which includes a telescope, daily passes for local trails and children’s museum, tot totes, kids packs, board games, and much more!
* The library features a drive-up window. Patrons ring a bell for service which makes the phone ring, so staff know when patrons are seeking assistance.

All Ages Programming

* Participants discussed a preference for less structured programs and crafts that can lead to individualism and creativity. They are aware of not creating activities that seem like “work” to children and families.
* Minocqua offers Club Connect several times a month, which is geared towards school-age kids up through teens.
* Tomahawk Tinker Tuesdays is a similar program, aiming for K-8 participants.
* 3D pens and buttonmakers have been popular programming tools.
* Participants were reminded of the WVLS makerspace items for programming: <https://wvls.org/equipment-for-booking/>
* Discussion of jigsaw puzzle competitions for family or all age programs. Minocqua has tried a family puzzle competition in the past with a 300-piece puzzle. There are many variations that libraries have come up with for puzzle competitions such as providing a time limit, limiting the team size to a specific amount of people, only allowing X amount of team members to work on the puzzle at a time while the rest of the team takes a break, allowing puzzle aids or not (such as spatulas or cookie sheets).

Children’s Collections

* Tomahawk received a donation in the past and purchased Wonderbooks. They have about 50 total. A patron can check out up to 3 at one time. Upon return, Tomahawk staff recharge the Wonderbooks and then put them back into rotation. The charging cords stay at the library and do not circulate with the item. See Wonderbooks [here](https://playaway.com/wonderbook/).
* Merrill has VOX Books and Wonderbooks. See VOX Books [here](https://www.libraryideas.com/vox-books).
* Minocqua is considering adding VOX Books.
* General discussion of how best to shelve VOX Books and Wonderbooks. Because of the electronics involved, the books do not have a uniform thickness from one side to the other. Tomahawk puts 3-4 on a metal shelf, and then uses a magnetized bookend to try to keep them upright. They are considering trying browser bins for their Wonderbooks.
* Are there grants available anywhere for VOX Books/Wonderbooks? Perhaps the Dollar General youth literacy grants. <https://www.dgliteracy.org/grant-programs/?#youth-literacy-grants>
* Minocqua now has a Library of Things collection.
* Discussion of the pros and cons to dividing a children’s chapter book collection so that easier chapter books are separate from the others. Are there any guidelines available to distinguish between the two?
* Lexile levels are limiting.
* Teen circ is so-so overall. Uptick in summer.

NICE Project

* Workgroup recommendations are located [here](https://nicelibraries.org/meeting-documents/).
* Participants reviewed where to find the recommendations and what those current recommendations are.

Upcoming Dates for Youth Services Staff

* YSIE Get-togethers
  + August 12, 1-3p @ Granton Library
  + September 10, 1-3p, Virtual with IFLS youth services staff
* WVLS Youth Services annual workshop
  + October 2, all day, TB Scott Free Library in Merrill
* Other important dates
  + April 9, 10:30-11:30a, NICE Town Hall meeting
  + April 17, 10a-1p, WVLS Listening Session at Colby
  + May 1-3, WAPL Conference in Stevens Point <https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/wapl-conference-2024>
  + May 9, 3-4p, YSS Webinar~ Libraries Without Limits: OTs, PTs, SLPs <https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/youth>
  + September 19-21, ALSC National Institute in Denver~ A WVLS scholarship will be available to attend! <https://www.ala.org/alsc/confsce/institute>
* Rhinelander Book Fest
  + At this time, will not be held in 2024
* CCBC Presentations
  + April 10-12 @ Brown County Library <https://newilibraries.org/content/ccbc-choices-workshop-2024-thursday-evening>
  + May 13-14 @ Superior Public Library <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/event/great-new-books-for-children-and-teens-intellectual-freedom-training-for-northwest-wisconsin-library-systems-3/>
  + May 15-16 @ LE Phillips Library (Eau Claire) <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/event/great-new-books-for-children-and-teens-intellectual-freedom-training-for-newi-library-systems/>
  + CCBC Events (in person and virtual) are [here](https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/events/)