

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
January 8, 2024

The people counter reported that there were 4,296 visits to the library during December. Meeting rooms were used approximately 94 times during that period. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 36 times.

Programs in December & January:

- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn
- Stay & Play (January)
- Dance Party Playgroup
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Unicorn Club
- Homeschool Hangout
- Read the Rainbow
- Puzzle It Out
- Crafternoon
- PAWS to Read
- Tinkerlab
- STEAM/4-H Gingerbread Houses (December)
- STEAM/4-H SCRATCH coding for games (January)
- Sensory Bin (December)
 - Fall-Themed sensory bin
 - Pumpkin Salt Writing Tray
 - Pumpkin Soup Story Basket
 - Investigations Table
 - Middle grade Table
 - Stacking toy for Babies/Toddlers/Preschoolers
- Introduction to Robotics Using Arduino
- Middle School Hangout
- Fandom Forward
- Teen Dungeons and Dragons (January)
- Discord Gaming Meetup
- Teen & Tween Snap Bag Sewing - December

- Teen Acrylic Painting - January
- Medway Area Rainbow Community & OUT Metrowest
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Library Book Group
- Adult Dungeons and Dragons (January)
- Exhibit in the Conference Room featuring photography of Mary Weafer (January)

Youth Services Report for December 2023

We're still working on the balance of who writes what, given the significant overlap between youth services and Makerspace! This month we're trying "if it happened in the Makerspace, it's Mostly Diane's."

Regular weekly programming had a nice month. The weekday morning at 11 programs brought in consistent numbers, and we even had a bunch of participants the week leading up to Christmas. The Thursday storytime group enjoyed the monthly Centers day provided by Yvette Sammarco from the Walpole CFCE, and she's getting to know our Thursday regulars. The Friday Move, Groove, and Learn! Dance Party was previously followed by Dance Party Playgroup--we've changed the name on that part to Stay and Play, as a few people kept showing up at 11:30, at the close of the dance party portion, looking for more dance and less play. We finished the fall season's playlist this month and will begin the winter songs on Friday, with a snowball fight portion supported by middle school volunteers, who've made pom pom snowballs.

The middle schoolers keep showing up. They're bringing friends. Not just on Wednesdays. We've instituted a drop-in volunteer category for them, with ongoing tasks they can assist with that require no prep and very little oversight. They enjoy making a difference. They also had a lovely Wednesday session before the end of the year making gingerbread houses (there were plenty to hold over for the STEAM kids, too). Most of the kids who finished their houses helped prepare for the STEAM group, leaving a little space for those artists who needed a bit more time. It was festive all around.

The Homeschool Hangout program had a few inquiries before the break, so we're keeping the time slot open for now. The Tuesday afternoon programs went nicely this month. Puzzle It Out is effective as a social time, not so much as a puzzle session, and that is fine. We keep running into technical issues in our Discord gaming meetup. Not with the Discord. With the game. Fall Guys is not our best game, and while our participants rolled with it, we have had a few requests for Minecraft. This isn't our first go-round with this concept, but it's probably the one that's going to stick. PAWS to Read was predictably full and full of happy kids. The therapy dogs were such

a hit that we invited them to return for TeenConnect Hangout, which featured end-of-year chill-out techniques (visit with a therapy dog, play with Play-Doh, etc.).

Read the Rainbow had participants who had things to say. Considering all participants loved the book (Deya Muniz's The Princess and the Grilled Cheese), that's particularly notable! There was much to discuss. We're hoping the January group is equally productive.

The final week of the year, school vacation, was also a programming vacation. Everything picked back up on January 2, and starting this Friday Jan. 5, we're pleased to welcome OUT MetroWest for Satellite Night on the first Friday of the month (excepting July and August).

Sincerely,
Audrey Snowden
Children's/YA Librarian

Makerspace Report for December 2023

In December, 283 people either used the equipment in the space or wanted a tour to see what we offered. We had several families stopping in to use the craft items during the week as well as on Saturdays. The paper crafts, stamps, and recyclables were a big draw. The painting supplies were also utilized by children working on special projects or gifts for loved ones for the holidays. Pom Pom making continued to serve as a fun activity for patrons whether for making fun creatures or to assist in creating holiday craft items. Patrons also stopped by to use fabric and yarn from the space. We also had one young child who enjoyed using the legos that were in the room.

Several adults and children took advantage of our sewing machines. One patron used the heavy duty sewing machine to finish a project before starting a new job and was very pleased that we had a machine able to handle heavy duty upholstery fabric. Another patron continued to spend several days throughout the month working on their sewing projects. We held a sewing class for teens & tweens to teach them how to use a sewing machine and some basic sewing skills that they used to make doggy print themed snap bags. The class filled to capacity and everyone enjoyed their creation.

Our Robotics group, which continues to meet every Monday night, completed the introduction portion of the program before holiday break. We are now preparing for phase two of the program where in January the students will start to design robotic vehicles or rovers. In preparation for this program, I have purchased advanced Arduino boards using the money donated to the Makerspace. The boards have built-in WiFi, Bluetooth, and an LED matrix. Registration has already started to fill up.

Because of the holidays, the plans for this month's STEAM session were altered and, turning the session into an architecture lesson, we decided to have them decorate gingerbread houses.

The children were very happy to create their own structure. The initial lesson plan, catapults, has been moved to February's STEAM session.

In addition to these regular programs, we also held an hour of crafting and an hour of building with recycled materials for children in grade 1 and up. These are both walk-in programs.

Other library programs have utilized the Makerspace since it is an area where kids can be "messy". Unicorn club & Middle School Hang Out took advantage of the large conference tables as work spaces. The middle schoolers also enjoyed using the computers and 3D printers. And the Fiber Arts group continued to meet twice per month as well.

For a more detailed look into the usage of the space: Patrons used the large format printer and color laser printer to create gifts and cards for the holiday season. Several patrons took advantage of the Epson scanner to convert slides and photos to digital images. Several patrons used the VHS to digital converter and VHS to DVD converter machines. The 8mm converter, DVD buffer, laminator, and 3D printers were also used by patrons. On the craft side, in addition to the patrons spoken about above, five people used the sewing machines multiple times throughout the month. Many patrons used the paper crafts and children activity supplies. Several people used the knitting and fabric supplies.

In January, we will hold a Teen painting class where the children will use acrylic paints and bubble wrap to create a unique piece of art on canvas. We are also teaming up with the Medway High School Art Club for an art class which will teach elementary students how to use oil pastels. Starting in a couple weeks, we will hold the first session of a special three part STEAM class which will teach children how to use Scratch, a high level programming language. Adult Dungeons & Dragons, which took a break for the holidays, will continue to meet every Thursday starting in January. The Makerspace will also continue to host the ongoing monthly programs as well as serving as an additional meeting space for other community groups.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator

Meetings & Webinars in December included:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Department Managers Meeting
SUP Policy Work Group Meeting

Meetings & Webinars in January will include:

Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Department Managers Meeting
MLA Legislative Committee Meeting - Legislative Breakfast training session

MIIA program

Budget Meeting

Minuteman Library Network Meeting

New England Library Association IT meeting

SUP Medway Coalition Meeting

SUP Policy Work Group Meeting

Building and Grounds

The dehumidifier that was temporarily installed in the Children's room has been removed.

Other

The lower level was open 15 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in December. Fifteen individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 34 people attended 5 meetings and programs after 8:00 pm.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director