

Medway Public Library
Director's Report
December 4, 2023

The people counter reported that there were 4,525 visits to the library during November, lower than the number of visitors in October primarily because there were many booksale and Halloween visits in October. Meeting rooms were used approximately 84 times during that period. Patrons used curbside checkout and home delivery 35 times.

Programs in November:

In September, 426 children and teens participated in 51 library programs.

- Toddler Storytime
- Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
- Preschool Storytime
- Move, Groove and Learn
- Dance Party Playgroup
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Unicorn Club
- Homeschool Hangout
- Puzzle It Out
- Crafternoon
- PAWS to Read
- LEGO Club

- Introduction to Robotics Using Arduino
- Middle School Hangout
- Fandom Forward
- Discord Gaming Meetup
- Read the Rainbow
- TeenConnect Hangout
- STEAM up your Wednesday

- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Medway Fiber Arts Group
- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
- Program: The Unsung Heroine of the New Deal: Frances Perkins, Part II
- Frances Perkins Center traveling exhibit

Programs in December:

- Toddler Storytime
 - Toddler Jam at the Library (twice a week)
 - Preschool Storytime
 - Move, Groove and Learn
 - Dance Party Playgroup
 - 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
 - Unicorn Club
 - Homeschool Hangout
 - Puzzle It Out
 - Crafternoon
 - PAWS to Read
 - Tinkerlab
 - Read the Rainbow
 - STEAM up your Wednesday
 - LEGO Club
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- Introduction to Robotics Using Arduino
 - Middle School Hangout
 - Fandom Forward
 - Discord Gaming Meetup
 - Teen & Tween Snap Bag Sewing
 - TeenConnect Hangout
 - Teen Dungeons & Dragons
 - STEAM up your Wednesday
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- Adult Dungeons & Dragons
 - Medway Fiber Arts Group
 - Library Book Group
 - Adult Dungeons & Dragons

Youth Services Report for November 2023

Much of the combined-effort programming has been covered in Diane's Makerspace report, so I'll supplement, this time. Our 11 AM weekday programming continues to be popular, and fills the children's department both beforehand and afterward. We added a Center Day with Yvette

Sammarco from Walpole CFCE to our monthly storytimes and had a very successful inaugural Thursday. We are all looking forward to the next one.

Homeschool Hangout is off to a slow start, but we will keep it there for a while to give it a chance. Monthly Unicorn Club on Mondays still has a consistent following, and our Tuesday afternoon programs have been getting a good number of participants. Read the Rainbow has had a nice few months, and the next one looks good, too--plus, we've picked out a few reading choices for the new year, so that group will continue. PAWS to Read had two teams last month, and all the signups were full. Our Fandom Forward group time slot is sandwiched between two other programs, and will likely need to be changed, but we have the kids and the helpful attitudes, so only the time slot will need to be tweaked. The kids are great.

Jennifer's passive programming continues to serve as a sort of ongoing center day in the children's section, and it's heavily used.

Sincerely,
Audrey Snowden
Children's/YA Librarian

Makerspace Report for November 2023

It was a very busy month in the Makerspace. Out of curiosity, I made sure to log everyone who visited the Makerspace. 308 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 and painting supplies were a big draw. Pom Pom making also served as a fun activity for patrons, both young and old, throughout the month, whether making fun creatures or using the pom pom makers to assist in making holiday craft items. Several adults as well as children took advantage of our sewing machines. One particular young adult created a costume, from the fabric in the Makerspace, for a school event. Another patron spent the day adding a mechanism to a beautiful quilt she bought in India to display in her home.

Middle School Wednesdays are progressing well. We have between fifteen to twenty children each week. They enjoy hanging out in the lounge, Cole room & Makerspace. Our various craft supplies have proven to be invaluable when occupying the children. The children also enjoy building items with the 3D printer as well as creating jewelry with the rainbow loom and bead supplies. The children are extremely comfortable with the space and with the library that several visit almost everyday. The Makerspace has become a welcoming and safe space for the middle schoolers this school year. There is usually a craft or a task ready for them when they arrive. This month they enjoyed creating jewelry items with Shrinky Dinks as well as learning how to use the 3D printers.

For tech related elements of the Makerspace, the laser printer has been upgraded to a full color printer. Previously, patrons could only print in black & white, but now they can print in full color

without having to use the printer on the upper level. This has become extremely helpful for all patrons, especially those with paper crafting activities, as well as our inhouse programs.

In our Robotics group, which meets every Monday night, the children are learning basic software concepts and hardware engineering. Those who wish to transition to phase two of the program in January will design robotic vehicles which will build on the principles they have learned during the Fall session. This month we held our STEAM session which was funded by the Medway Cultural Council and the Friends of the Medway Library. One of our young mentors designed a Spin Art Kit which the children were able to assemble themselves. They learned about the engineering design process and were able to take the finished product home. With the generous support from MECC and Friends, we were able to accommodate fifteen participants. In addition to these programs, we also hold an hour of crafting and an hour of building with recycled materials once a month 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 & Teen Connect met on the craft side and have taken advantage of the large conference tables as a work space. Adult Dungeons & Dragons group meets every Thursday and has continued their fall campaign. The Fiber Arts group has continued to meet twice per month as well.

Medway Cable Access held a class on November 8th to give community members an overview of the media equipment on the Tech side. Nine people attended and several have returned to the space to work on their projects.

For a more detailed look into the usage of the space: Two patrons were certified on the sewing machines, one patron was certified on the knitting machine, and three people were certified on the 3D printer. Several patrons utilized the Epson scanner to convert slides & photos to digital images. One patron used the VHS to digital converter and at least five people converted VHS tapes to DVDs. The DVD buffer, laminator & 3D printer were also used by patrons. On the craft side, at least six 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.

The Makerspace also served as an additional meeting space for the monthly Stamp Club meeting. We anticipate this to be an ongoing need throughout the year because of the day & time they meet—Wednesdays are a very desirable day for groups to meet at the library and the Makerspace serves as a conference-type space as well.

In December, we will hold another Tween and Teen sewing class where the children will make storage bags that they can take home with them. Our ongoing programs will also continue to meet in the space.

Sincerely
Diane Busa
Makerspace Coordinator

Meetings & Webinars in November included:

Meeting with Capital Improvement Planning Committee
Zoom meetings with directors of small libraries in Massachusetts
Minuteman Membership Committee Meeting
Department Managers Meeting
SUP Full Coalition Meetings

Meetings & Webinars in December will include:

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

Building and Grounds

An inspection of the emergency lights was completed. Some of the batteries will need to be replaced.

Other

Budget requests for FY25 are due no later than December 29th at noon.

The lower level was open 16 nights from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm in October. Sixteen individuals used computers and the Makerspace. A total of 86 people attended 13 meetings and programs after 8:00 pm.

Margaret Y. Perkins, Library Director