

YSS Summer Planning Session
March 8, 2019

YSS Board:

Present: Samantha Cote, Chair, Windham Public Library;
Danielle Fortin, Vice Chair, South Berwick Public Library;
Jill Hooper, Head of Lupine Committee, Freeport Middle School;
Irene Hall, Member-at-Large, Witherle Memorial Library;
Mary Beckett, Member-at-Large, Edythe Dyer Community Library;
Deanna Gouzie McNamara, Reading Round-Up Liaison, McArthur Public Library;

Attendees:

Heather Runnels, Donna Wallace, Corina Soucie, Deb Cleveland, Auburn Public Library;
Jessica Bass, Bass Harbor Memorial Library;
Alaina Goodnough and Shilo Fiel, Berwick Public Library;
Roberta Jordan & Laurel Cox, Patten Free Library;
Annika Black, Norway Memorial Library;
Barb Rehmeyer, Liberty Library;
Jessie Trafton, Skidompha Library;
Allison Herman & Jade Austin, Wells Public Library;
Kelly Greenlee, Prince Memorial Library

The business part of the meeting was called to order at 10:30am.

On the agenda was YSS Elections. Sam's term as Chair of YSS is ending in April of 2019 and needed to be filled. Danielle's term as Vice-Chair is ending in April and needed to be filled. Secretary was still vacant. There will be one Member-At-Large position opening up in August.

Sam and Danielle gave a quick overview of the positions and how the transitions have eased now that the 6 year commitment has been removed from the requirements for Chair and Vice Chair (Vice-Chair is no longer required to automatically move to Chair, Chair is no longer automatically required to join Lupine for two years after their term ends). They also mentioned that the position of Secretary was vacant.

Danielle is running for position of Chair.

Samantha Cote called for a vote, it was seconded by Irene Hall. Election passed unanimously. Danielle's term will begin in April of 2019 and run for two years.

Samantha Cote asked for individuals willing to run for the open positions.

Donna Wallace was running for position of Vice-Chair.

Samantha Cote called for a vote, it was seconded by Danielle Fortin. Election passed unanimously. Donna's term will begin in April of 2019 and run for two years.

Deb Cleveland was running for position of Secretary.

Samantha Cote called for a vote, it was seconded by Danielle Fortin. Election passed unanimously. Deb's term will begin in April of 2019 and run for two years.

Annika Blank mentioned she might be interested in running for the Member at Large position that will open in August.

The business part of the meeting ended at 10:45am.

Summer Learning with Deanna at McArthur

The idea behind Summer Learning instead of (or in addition to) Summer Reading is to prevent the "Summer Slide" and keep kids engaged in learning over the summer. Because we're all librarians we have a tendency to automatically lean towards putting "reading" in our programs. But literacy is much more than 'just' reading and keeping kids stimulated over the summer can require more.

Deanna started implementing Summer Learning when she was at Baxter Memorial Library and continued when she moved to McArthur Public Library in Biddeford. Tons of kids would sign up, get their sign-up prizes, but then disappear and she'd never see them again. Only a very few would finish the program.

She began implementing the idea of adding learning during TV Turn Off Week with a Beat the Winter Blues program. This program featured a game board sheet with various activities on it. Families were extremely engaged and really

seemed to enjoy the program. Deanna decided to implement the same principles with the usual Summer Reading Program, not replacing it, but expanding the program to incorporate more challenges and learning. One of the biggest selling points of the game board sheets is that they are more inclusive of kids who are not super readers. There are other activities they can do, instead of 'just' reading. The new activities and including the word "Learning" in the program may excite kids who struggle with reading, or those who don't like to read. Learning is all inclusive. Like her first "Winter Blues" program, the Summer Learning sheet is a game board game. Participants fill in a square every time they do the activity or read for 20 minutes. At first, Deanna was worried that kids would only pick the "fun" activities, but reported that there seemed to be a good mix of activities and reading with those who signed up for the program. Incorporating STEM, writing prompts, a youth author camp, etc. into library displays and programs made it easier for kids to participate.

With this new program Deanna also changed up how she did sign-ups for the program. Previously, participants would have to go to the library to sign up for summer programming, but with the move to Summer Learning Deanna decided to 'go to the kids' and visit the schools and automatically signing up participants- if they got a sheet they were signed up. She also visited the school over two days in the fall to hand out prizes to families that could not get to the library. Deanna reported that she had 50 more kids "sign up" for the modified program than previous years. Kids and Teens use the exact same game board sheet, while Adults have different activities.

Questions:

For the Annual Report statistics Deanna uses the number of completed programs, instead of sign ups.

When a participant finishes their game board sheet they receive all of the prizes at once. Prizes include: Dairy Queen coupon, free books, fancy bookmarks, etc. Deanna is trying to move away from the food prizes.

If a participant finishes their game board sheet and wants to do another they may, but only get the prizes once. For each additional game board sheet they complete they are entered into a prize drawing at the end of the program.

If someone loses their game board sheet they can just get a new one or write on a sheet of paper.

The Summer Learning Program adds alternatives to the program instead of "just" reading.

(see final page for example of Deanna's game board sheet.)

At this point the discussion turned to more general summer reading questions and idea sharing. We brainstormed ways to bring people into the library without using cheap plastic toys. Ideas included: a visual representation around the library (LEGO building, stickers, shapes around the library, a collaborative mural), a parent loyalty card (every time a parent brings the child THEY get a loyalty stamp, when filled they get a free book), and community coupons.

There was a suggestion of removing the timing/counting aspect of the program and only asking if a participant read on that day.

Another learning option mentioned was an activity sheet with different activities such as read in a blanket fort, read upside down etc. Each box is one point, when they reach 25 points they got a chocolate lollipop, at 50 points they got a free book, could repeat.

The group wondered how well adding the "Learning" tag worked with teens or those who are not enamored with school. Deanna reported no issues. The YSS board reminded the group that the CSLP doesn't have "reading in their title, but calls it a Summer LIBRARY Program. If you're worried about the word "learning" try incorporating that into your title.

How well did the learning tag work with teens?

Advice for people moving away from plastic toys:

There has been research showing that incentivising programs doesn't work (citation?).

What if there is pushback?

- Rip off that bandaid and just change the program
- Say that you are making the program your own
- Get patron feedback about reducing waste
- Talk about how this is an option for "going green"
- game board Tournaments to get rid of leftover summer reading prizes or plastic toys
- Repurpose the plastic toys into useful things

Break for Lunch

There was a question about how libraries track participation for Summer Camps and Daycares. An idea for different colored logs to differentiate between independent sign ups or those “forced” through camp or daycare. Both logs are the same, but are different colors. Leaders and teachers are encouraged to pick up the logs.

Someone wanted to know about using Escape Rooms for programs.

There will be a presentation about escape rooms at RRU this year. Kara Reiman has held several at the Westbrook Public Library and is willing to answer emails. There is a company called BreakoutEDU that sells kits. Theme tie-in: Gravity Escape?

Someone asked about the “Read and Bead” that was mentioned on a Facebook group. An overview of the program can be found here: <http://readinthecorner.blogspot.com/2015/09/summer-reading-incetives-magic-of-beads.html> as well as a Viemo from the Massachusetts Library Association: <https://vimeo.com/208186272> Freeport uses a variation of this program but instead of using beads uses flat/melted glass beads in various colors.

A question was asked about Interactive Movie Scripts and good movies to use. There are several movies that have “Sing Along” versions such as Greece or Nightmare Before Christmas. These are easy since the words are along the bottom.

Interactive movie scripts

Sing Along Movies - Greece, Nightmare Before Christmas,

You do need a movie license to show movies!! Your movie license covers your whole building and anyone who uses it. If you want to show movies outside, you will need a difference license. SWANK is one of the more common licensing options. Their cost is usually population based.

There was a question about ratings on movies. What do you do when a kid wants to check out an R rated movie? Do libraries have the responsibility to monitor that? Libraries don’t act in loco-parentis. It is not our responsibility to censor what a child checks out, whether book or movie. If you are concerned there is an option to include the ability/permission to check out these types of materials on a card application, but it isn’t our place to monitor.

There was a question about the LENGTH of summer programs.

Number of Weeks	Number of Libraries
0-3	0
4	1
5	0
6	2
7	2
8	8
9 or more/the full summer	3

Do you have full programming running every week?

One library has something every single day of week, but uses set events every day. They continue the regular programming (story times, etc) and add in one extra program for summer reading that week. Several libraries condense some programming, but add more. (Two story times instead of three, but another activity in place of that story time.)

DO WHAT YOU CAN and keep yourself sane

Program Ideas:

Chewonki just received an inflatable planetarium- you need a 25x25 space and 12 feet high
Northern Stars has an inflatable planetarium

Planet Walk- replacing a story walk with planets and the distance between them (be smart about your scale, or your planet walk will be huge!)

Gem and mineral museum has a measuring tape with planets and distances already on it!

Presque Isle to Houlton - Route 1 has a solar system representation you can drive through

Stomp Rockets- Stocked by science.com or Kits through 4H (there is a \$25 deposit)

Upcycling Program- Thrift Flip take a thrift store item and making it cool, at the end having a fashion show or display of items that kids have redone. Maybe tie in with a Decluttering program

Decluttering Program - Janie Maxwell Organizational Zen

Question - can we reuse old summer reading materials? You can use the materials and manual but you are not able to reuse the clip-art or the copyright images.

Paint Night with Bob Ross - You'd need a licence to show Bob Ross shows, but what about sip and paint nights, try asking your school's art class?

Books at the Beach - regular story time but moved to the beach gazebo (The book 10 Little Elvi was mentioned as being super fun with last year's program).

This year's theme was chosen because it's the 50th anniversary of the Moon Landing
StarNet is an AMAZING resource for space themed activities

Linda Buckmaster, Maine Author (Space Heart) who lived at Cape Canaveral might be available for author talks.

Kickoffs

Do you do before school ends or after?

Many libraries seem to have their event AFTER school gets out, usually a week or so after due to sports sign-ups etc

Another good option is for having an event the actual day that school ends, especially if your school does a half-day
BBQ, musician, party, or other community event

School Visits

The Kahoot online quiz "show" makes visits pretty fun

Setting up in a central location versus going to each individual classroom makes it easier

Assemblies are also nice, but intimidating

Read. Make. Play!



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Come to a library program.	Select a cookbook and make one of the recipes.	Listen to an audiobook or podcast for 20 minutes.	Run, skate or walk outside for 20 minutes.
Read out loud for 20 minutes to a sibling, pet or friend.	Write a review of something you've read.	Participate in the library's talent show on July 13th!	Try making a project from a craft book.
Complete a crossword or Sudoku puzzle.	Write a poem or story.	Memorize a poem and recite it for the librarians.	Read a book on the MSBA or Chickadee list for 20 minutes.
Play a board or card game.	Complete a jigsaw puzzle.	Try out a project from a science or STEM project book.	Read a graphic novel for 20 minutes.

Flip over to the other side to record your reading and activities!



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Read. Make. Play!



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DIRECTIONS:

- Fill in one of the squares below each time you read for 20 minutes OR each time you complete one of the activities on the reverse side of this paper. (You can repeat activities as many times as you want).
- When ALL of the squares are filled in, turn this in to collect your prizes — a bookmark, a book you can select from our prize books and a coupon for a DQ Blizzard!
- No need to sign up, just turn this completed page in at McArthur Library when you are done to collect your prizes OR bring it in at the beginning of next school year when the McArthur librarians visit your school!

NAME: _____



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