

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
February 16, 2017

Chris is doing such a great job all around. He has already tentatively planned the teen summer reading program and summer teen night activities and movies! He is still valiantly trying to get the teens into the library during the school year. Last month's teen night was canceled because only two kids came (from the same family) but he is trying again this month, enticing them with laser tag, their favorite activity from last summer. If this doesn't work, we will probably give up and focus on teen programming in the summer, other than his semi-monthly Dungeons and Dragons group for grades 6-12, which is going strong.

We are working on adding front desk volunteers. We have had two people express interest in a regular weekly shift and two others who are interested in being volunteer substitutes. This is important because we have lost some regulars. Chris has continued his monthly volunteer newsletter that he emails to front desk volunteers and he has significantly updated the volunteer page on the library's website, the volunteer application form and the volunteer job description. Previously the information focused almost exclusively on front desk volunteers; now it includes information useful to people who might be interested in volunteering with programming, maintenance, book repair and more. He has many ideas for improvements in other areas of the website as well.

The snowy weather has disrupted the library somewhat. Last Thursday's heavy snow kept the library closed. I decided to keep the library open last Tuesday and Saturday but because Chris has a long way to drive, I told him to stay safe at home. Heavy snow this past Sunday caused me to postpone the Winter Film Series film one week to this Sunday, February 19. Winston has been doing a good job of keeping the sidewalks and paths clear.

Our last afterschool program last Friday, February 10 was the biggest ever with 19 kids coming off the bus and others arriving separately to total 28 kids. This situation makes me wish we had a larger space! Of course we are happy with this obvious success but it is overwhelming our current resources. I am working on figuring out how to get more volunteers and more cooperation from the children attending. We had 33 kids and 10 adults for the Pizza & Movie part and had to turn away a family who came just past 5:00.

Upcoming personal and professional time away: Chris is attending a 3D printer training in Hooksett next Thursday, February 23. He is taking 4 days of vacation March 7-10. I will be going to the CHILIS spring conference on Thursday, March 30 and the NH Library Association Spring Conference Thursday and Friday, May 4-5. I am taking 6 days of vacation from April 15-22.

The Friends of the Library is hosting Rebecca Rule who will be doing a program on Town Meeting in New Hampshire at the Town Hall next Tuesday, February 21 at 7pm. This should be a great program and it would be good for us to support it, please spread the word.

I am excited to say I have applied for a Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Free Screenings account which would allow us to show live performances of the New York Philharmonic, American Songbook, Great Performers, Out of Doors and more –free-- at the library! This would allow us to expand our adult programming and offer amazing cultural experiences to our patrons. It appears that only requirements are to have a decent computer, a reliable internet connection, a projector, speakers and screen, so we should be good to go. Stay tuned for more information!

It's that time again... I will begin tackling the Annual Report to the State Library soon. It is due at the end of March. Fun!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director