

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
September 27, 2018

Our school-year programming is off to a good start. All the Freedom Elementary School classes are scheduled to come to the library every four weeks. Chris will be reading to grades 4 and the 5/6 grade combined class. I will be reading to K/1, 2 and 3. Our first afterschool program and Pizza & Movie night last week went very well with good attendance. I had a friend lead a rock-painting activity with the kids and they did some really wonderful work. I am pleased to say that the Rotary Club is once again funding our afterschool snacks for the year. Because I went over budget last year, I requested an additional \$50, for a total of \$300. Twice monthly Dungeons & Dragons for grades 6-12 begins Saturday, October 13.

We are planning to have some sort of school-year reading program for students to encourage them to read and to finish books. We have purchased another collaborative sticker poster like the hot air balloon one that we used in the summer and we will have prizes for various reading milestones. We are going to talk to the teachers to figure out the best way to implement this program. I learned about a free reading program app at the ARSL conference that will help students track their reading. Chris has tested it out and says that it seems to work well and will likely be something we can also use in the summer for all ages. I went to the school to promote our Fire Unicorns Book Club for grades 3 & 4 and there are 13 children who took the book. Cindy Fleming will once again be leading and we will add a second adult volunteer to help out this year.

We have new lighting now! We also have had the septic pumped and the furnace cleaned.

I had a valuable experience at the Association for Rural and Small Libraries annual conference in Springfield, IL earlier this month. The keynotes I attended included one featuring one of my favorite authors, Elizabeth Berg, with an homage to small libraries and one with Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, who live-streamed in. Very exciting! The number of vendors is smaller than at the huge conferences but I discovered a couple of different products we might want to use and I got support from two vendors we already use.

I loved how the sessions were all suited a small, rural library like ours. These are the ones I attended:

- ❖ Attracting the Elusive Teen
- ❖ After the School Bell Rings (turned out to be promoting STEAM education; wasn't clear from the workshop description)
- ❖ Increase Circulation!
- ❖ Coding Without a Clue
- ❖ Transform Your Library with One Page (one-page strategic plan)
- ❖ Low Cost/No Cost Ways to Reward Your Staff
- ❖ Big Programs, Little Budget

❖ 30 Ways to Make Your Small Library Extraordinary

I found the conference inspiring and I got a number of ideas that I think will work for Freedom Public Library. We have already implemented some changes in how we circulate materials and how we count circulations. I am very grateful to have been able to attend the ARSL Conference this year and hope I'll get to go again.

Chris is taking some time off this week before attending the Maine Library Association Conference at Sunday River Grand Resort September 30 – October 2. He will return to work next Wednesday. Amanda is working additional days to cover. I am registered for the Children's Librarians of NH conference taking place on October 18 in Somersworth.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director