

**Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
September 21, 2017**

We are shifting gears after a busy summer, delving into projects we have held off on and launching fall programming.

We have established a second book club for kids. We now have one for grades 3-4, led by Cindy Fleming, and another for grades 5-7, led by Sarah Groleau. I went to the school last week to promote them and many children took the books to read. In addition to these book clubs, we now have four adult book clubs for which we are acquiring books: the library's book club and three private book clubs.

We now have all the grades scheduled to come to the library but unfortunately, the principal has asked the teachers to bring their classes less often. This is disappointing to us as we have worked hard to build a good program and establish close relationships with the students and we feel that their experience will not be optimal if they come every five weeks. I am hoping we can work out a compromise.

Chris is trying again with school year teen nights. This time he plans to have it once a month on a Friday. The activity will be a tabletop game followed by Pizza & Movie. No one came in September but we'll be trying again in October! Dungeons & Dragons has started up again for grades 6-12. Three students came to the first session but several more have expressed an interest. It will be meeting two Saturdays a month. Chris has also scheduled times for two different age groups to play Magic: The Gathering once a month at the library. We will just be offering the space for the game; no staff will be required to lead it.

Our first monthly afterschool program and Pizza & Movie night of the year will be Friday, September 22. I am expecting a large crowd. I am happy to say that the Rotary Club of Ossipee Valley has given us a grant for \$250 to pay for the snacks we provide at the afterschool program. This fund will once again be administered by the Friends of the Library.

The first Friends of the Library adult program of the season will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00. It is a gardening program called, "Putting Your Garden to Bed."

I am gearing up to launch a program called 1000 Books Before Kindergarten which encourages parents to read to their babies and preschoolers. I approached Nancy Seabury and family to ask if this is something they would like to sponsor and they liked the idea. I will need money for incentives and to buy notebooks for keeping their records. My hope is to give each child a book for

every 100 they read so that when they finish the program they will have ten books of their own. Scholastic has deep discounts on books for literacy programs such as this and I have applied to be a member of that program.

The CLiF conference in White River Junction last Friday was fabulous with several interesting panel discussions. The ones I got the most out of were “Everyday Diversity” about building collections that happen to have characters who are other than able-bodied white straight people (where their ethnicity, etc, is not part of the story) and the panel discussion on writing workshops in libraries. I got ideas from other librarians at lunch regarding summer reading and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and lots of ideas and inspiration from the colleagues I traveled with – children’s librarians from Tamworth and Conway. Oh, and I won a raffle with lots of children’s books we have now added to the collection!

Chris is taking next week off for vacation and Amanda will be working those hours and the following Tuesday. He will be attending two conferences during his time away. Next Thursday he will be at the Young Adult Library Services conference in Concord and the following Monday and Tuesday he will be at the Maine State Library Conference, so although he will be away for 10 days, he will only be taking three vacation days.

Chris has started a project of moving the biographies into their own separate section at the end of the nonfiction in both the children’s room and in the adult collection. The books themselves are moved. Now they need to have new spine labels that say “BIO” and to be updated in our system and the State Library’s system. It’s quite a project! But people enjoy biographies and soon they will be more easily accessible.

Backtracking a bit, I want to say that we had a very busy and successful summer. There were more people participating in the summer reading programs – modest increases in kids and teens and a huge increase (33%) in adult participation (from 96 in 2016 to 128 in 2017.) Preschool storytime, writing workshop, teen nights, Fun Fridays and Pizza & Movie – all very well attended. Our Habitat for Humanity summer reading fundraiser raised \$500 for the charity (money provided by people in the community who agreed to underwrite the program.) Pulling off such an ambitious summer program is a lot of work, but the results and the feedback from patrons make it all worthwhile!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director