

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
April 16, 2021

It feels busier in the library lately and *I'm* certainly busier as I make plans for summer reading. The theme this year is "Tails and Tales" and I have hired Wildlife Encounters to come on Wednesday, August 4 at the school where people can spread out easily. Now I hear that OHW is not planning to have a parade, although there will be some of the other events. It's very hard to plan when there's such a big question mark about how safe we'll be. We can play it by ear and cancel it if necessary.

I am planning another summer of Friday activities for kids. Last year I had seven weeks of Take and Make projects, where the families would pick up the supplies at the library for the kids to do at home. This year, I am planning activities that can be done either in person or as a Take and Make depending on what the situation is this summer and what the trustees decide about in-person programming. I do hope to have another Pet Show outside and a Fairy House program outside as well if possible.

I have decided not to use the ReadSquared summer reading app that we used last year for all ages, opting instead for our usual way of doing summer reading, with raffle tickets and jars and reading logs for the kids. I want to encourage more engagement with the library and I hope that we will have more participants for in-person summer reading. I believe we can do this safely. I am going to propose a low-key summer reading kickoff outside on June 12, the day after Freedom Elementary lets out. I'd like to have a community art project (painting flags to string on the property through the summer), some refreshments to take home (not eat here) and signing up for summer reading.

Reading to grades 2, 4/5, and 6 is quite time-consuming, but rewarding because it helps me stay connected to the kids. Cindy Fleming has scheduled a final Bookworms Book Club meeting for May 5 which will be a zoom event. There are four regulars and we've added an additional 4th grader who moved to town this school year.

Cindy is on board to lead another 6-week writing workshop this summer and we are considering having this be held in person, outside, pending board approval. I am also considering outside, in-person storytimes beginning June 16. After this week, I am moving to every-other week YouTube storytimes. Families are busier now that the weather is warmer. This way they'll have more opportunity to watch the storytimes and it will free up much-needed time for me to get my summer planning work done. There is certainly enough storytimes to re-watch as well... We just filmed our 50th storytime today.

We are having a "Stuffie Sleepover." 19 kids brought in their stuffed animals to spend the night at the library. Nancy Griffin, Jeannine Pearson, and I are going to take pictures of them tonight participating in a variety of activities like playing hide-and-seek, watching a movie, and eating popcorn. The photos will be included as a segment in the storytime that will go live next Wednesday.

We just had a visit from a technician from Porter Office Machines and we discussed the likelihood of needing to replace our copier soon. Although it's been very reliable, there are parts that are no longer made - completely unavailable - like the drum. The FOL purchased this copier for us probably 15 years ago and I am getting pricing on replacing the copier. Perhaps this is a project they would get behind.

Joel Clement came and did a lot of work on our computers yesterday including getting one patron computer up and running that wasn't working at all. He has taken another with him to replace a failing hard drive.

We have a new art exhibit at the library – photographs by Bonnie Burroughs. We have already had more people come to this show than any other I can remember because everyone loves Bonnie. It is a sweet show and I hope you'll come see it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director