

Children's Room Write Up  
Submitted by Peggy Gorman  
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This write up is just to announce or explain a few things of note going on lately in the Children's Service's Department of the Plainedge Public Library.

I've had the pleasure of attending a couple of interesting and informative NLS Youth Services meetings recently. In early December I participated in a Mock Caldecott Session sponsored by Levittown Public Library. At the Mock Caldecott meeting, Children's Librarians met and discussed 16 notable children's picture books previously read and critiqued in time for said meeting. We broke into 2 big groups and discussed our feelings on the books as if we were truly voting for the best ones based on the thorough and strict criteria under which Caldecotts are considered. It was fun to see the differences of opinion during the discussion and voting. It was also very nice to have read such beautiful, interesting picture books, all of which have been purchased for our collection.

On February 8th I attended the "Introduction to Youth Services" Meeting at NLS in Uniondale. The meeting was designed to introduce new librarians to everyone and everything about the Youth Services Department run by Renee McGrath. It was also a means to refresh the already established Children's Librarians as well as update us on new materials or trends in Youth Services. We sat through a power point presentation about the structure of Youth Services, who it serves, how it serves, and how important it is to sustain a Youth Services department in any Library system. Renee spoke about herself, her role at NLS, the boards and committees she's on as well as all the conventions and conferences she attends. Some new, trending services and materials they loan are Maker Kits (LittleBits, Ozobots, and Strawbees) which are fun educational boxes of mini pieces of equipment that can be used to build things. They are a means to promote S.T.E.M. based education. NLS Youth Services is also on more social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest.

Both were decent meetings that I got a lot out of and was glad I attended them. I will be attending another Youth Services meeting in March entitled "Early Learning Spaces". It is a training session that is part of a series of sessions from the Ready To Read at NY Libraries Initiative. During this meeting they will cover the planning and designing of welcoming, flexible early learning spaces that promote family engagement, children's development, and early literacy skills. I look forward to attending.

There are a few Plainedge Public Library Children's Services upcoming activities/programs that may be of interest. There is a new Multi-Age Play Group program added to our repertoire. There are also a few programs coordinated with the Plainedge School District this school year to connect a bridge to further our positive communication with the schools. We like to promote our Library as a place for education too! In the upcoming Spring season of our Get Together Storytime, we are inviting a guest speaker to talk about positive parenting issues.

The Multi-Age Play Group is similar in format to our existing Toddler & Preschool Play Groups (that includes music, movement, manipulatives, and free play) created and conducted by Kathleen Cunningham. Due to the request of our community's families with multiple children in a wide age range, we are trying out a Playgroup where the children participating can be within the age range of 1 year-5 years, with an attending adult of course. The original Toddler Play Group is for ages 1 year-2 years. The Preschool Play Group is for ages 3 years-5 years. Multi-Age Play Group begins on Tuesday, February 14th.

There are also programs coordinated with the school district. On Saturday, February 11th, The Library hosted a F.I.R.S.T Robotics program. It was conducted by Plainedge High School's Robotics Team #527 and co-coordinator Ms. Linda Waldbaum. Participating children, grades K-3rd, drew/designed a robot and then built one with Lego bricks. The Team also brought in the robot that they build and enter in competitions nationwide. They explained the field of robotics and what they do as members of Robotics Team #527 of Plainedge. It was a great opportunity to promote S.T.E.A.M. education. They were a great bunch of students who took time from their very busy build season to do this for us and Children's Services really appreciated them doing the program.

On Thursday, March 2nd and Tuesday, March 7th the Children's Department of the Plainedge Public Library will be holding our famous P.A.R.P. Pizza Parties. Each year we enjoy getting involved with Plainedge School district's P.A.R.P. Reading Program and our yearly pizza party for Plainedge School district students, grades K-5th, is a popular way to do it. The Librarians, with the help of the Children's Pages and volunteers, read stories, play Pizza Bingo, and conduct a Pass-The-Pizza Dough Relay Race. There are crafts for the kids and at the end, pizza is given to all the excited students. We expect a very high rate of attendance this year just like we have received the previous years.

This year we are also coordinating the "Dr. Suess Goes To Kindergarten" program with the Plainedge Teacher Center. It is our collaborative early literacy promotion effort that targets parents of children who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall. Their pre-Kindergarteners are also invited. There will be teachers giving information promoting early literacy and math skills and knowledge of what is to be expected of incoming Kindergarten students. There will be freebie items/goody bags, story time programs, arts & crafts, and information for parents who want to be in the know. There will also be teacher led activities. We expect a high number of curious and dedicated parents and their youngsters to attend.

This Spring season of Get Together Storytime, I am inviting a guest speaker to visit during 2 out the 6 weeks to discuss positive parenting. The first week she visits she will discuss what positive parenting is, how helpful it will be in creating a peaceful environment, and introduce discipline techniques. During the second week, she will go into 5 specific positive parenting techniques that parents can learn and start applying as soon as they get home. The presenter's name is Ms. Donna Salerno who is a licensed and certified School Counselor with over 10 years of experience. She has earned continuing education credits in NY Yoga and Mindfulness in the Classroom. She is also certified in Level 1 and 2 and Master Level Reiki. She currently leads parent/child workshops at many libraries throughout Long Island.

We are really excited about these programs/activities It's just the tip of the iceberg since we still have a very busy upcoming Spring and Summer Reading programming schedule ahead of us.