



#### Windham Public Library Report December 2019



### Children's Room News

December was a month of exciting programs! The Children's Room kept up the regular programs: storytime, books and babies, afterschool STEM Club and Busy Builders. The weekly movie program collaborated with us so that we could offer a family movie showing of 'The Polar Express.' Staff dressed up in pajamas and encouraged patron to do so. All enjoyed the movie and the hot chocolate. We also offered a few vacation week programs, although weather seemed to keep attendance down. We offered a program with different science stations based on Andrea Beatty's book series "The Questioners." The Friday and Saturday between Christmas and New Year's we offered a thank you note making station in the children's room, with lots of art supplies for creating. We also hosted a program to show off some of the cool new technology toys (Squishy Circuits, Snap Circuits and Dash and Dot Challenge Cards) we were able to purchase using funds from the Windham Primary School Community Days donation. If you would like a demonstration of some of these, come on in and ask! We were also able to purchase a replacement children's AWE computer using some of the funds to supplement the library budget. Unfortunately, winter weather prevented us from hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Noon Year's Eve Party, but we hope to do it again next year. The 'Winter Wish' art installation remains popular, and we hope to add more trees during the month of January. Let us know!

### Reference/Technology News

December began with an Author Talk on the 4th by local resident Cheryl Blanchard. Her book, entitled *236 Cumberland Ave. Portland, Maine*, is filled with her memories of ghostly encounters over 50 years ago when she and her 11 siblings and parents were living in a haunted apartment building located at the book's title. Participants were so engaged in her spooky stories that they ended up staying 30 minutes extra. Another Author Talk with James Hornor was scheduled on December 11<sup>th</sup>, but he ended up rescheduling in the spring because of a teaching commitment. The library hosted a special poetry recitation on the evening of December 14th by John Farrell, the *Artistic Director* of "Figures of Speech Theatre" based in Freeport. Mr. Farrell recited all 886 lines of T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* poems entirely from memory to a very appreciative and enthralled audience. Two representatives from People's United Bank offered a "Financial Literacy Workshop" on December 20<sup>th</sup> and taught participants how to protect their identity and prevent financial exploitation. The workshop was great but had a small audience, so

the representatives were invited to come back later in February when people do not have holiday commitments vying for their free time. Gary Conover, the Thursday Tech Help volunteer, has been “off duty” for the month due to some personal issues, but he hopes to be back in January. We hired Lisa Schadler as the new *Reference/Technology Assistant* at the end of December, and she has already come up with some fresh ideas for the department.

### **Teen/Emerging Technology News**

Formation of a Teen Advisory Group (TAG) is underway! Teens can fill out an application to join the group. The group is brand new so a time and day will have to be determined for weekly meetings. Teens in the group will advise the librarian on current teen interests and possible programming ideas. The group can also host their own teen programs, make teen book displays, and various other projects. This year teens can also participate in a reading challenge! The challenge is to read 26 books throughout the year with the author’s last name corresponding to a letter in the alphabet. All completed sheets will be submitted for a prize yet to be determined at the end of the year.

### **From the Director**

In December of 2016, Windham Public Library became a member of the Maine Shared Collection Cooperative (MSCC). The Maine Shared Collections Cooperative (MSCC) is a collaborative of 40 plus academic and public libraries in the state of Maine who have collectively agreed to retain more than 1.5 million print books for a minimum of 15 years. Participating libraries agree to make retained materials accessible to library users across Maine and beyond, allowing other libraries to consider withdrawing their own local copies safe in the knowledge that the content is being protected for future use. When Windham PL first joined MSCC we committed to retain fewer than 50 items. This process was fairly quick and painless. In November, library staff received a list of over 2,200 new items that we were requested to commit to retain. Library staff members did an amazing job searching the library shelves and evaluating each item on the list for its condition. Once evaluated, staff members decided whether we could commit to the retention rules for the item and placed a sticker in the book. Out of the full list, we are not committing to just 150 items that are in poor condition, missing/lost, or otherwise not up to MSCC retention commitment standards. I am proud of the staff for completing such a large project in a relatively short period of time and pleased that we are able to commit to retain the items for the greater library community.

### **Other news**

The weekly Movie Time group, managed by Sally and which is generally attended by adults, opened their doors for younger viewers with their December 18<sup>th</sup> showing of “The Polar Express.” Fourteen adults and children nestled into the library meeting room with hot cocoa provided by Ms. Sam and Miss Diana from the Children’s Room and enjoyed the family film together. Some commemorative ornaments and fun activity sheets were also available to attendees after the movie.

<b><u>Monthly Usage Statistics</u></b> Attendance: <b>4,431</b> Windham items circulated: <b>6,929</b> Items received from Minerva libraries: <b>889</b> Windham items sent to other libraries: <b>611</b> New library patrons: <b>19</b> New items added to collection: <b>322</b> Special Requests: <b>17</b> Reference questions answered: <b>312</b> Computer sign-ins: <b>617</b> Meeting room usage: <b>48</b> Study Rooms: <b>26</b> Download Library: <b>1,139</b> RB Digital Magazines: <b>17</b> Comics: <b>5</b> Universal Class Lessons Viewed: <b>186</b> Universal Class Videos Watched: <b>86</b> Items repaired: <b>36</b> Volunteer hours logged: <b>34</b>	<b><u>December 2018</u></b> Attendance: <b>3,935</b> Items circulated: <b>6,538</b> Items received from Minerva libraries: <b>756</b> Windham items sent to other libraries: <b>627</b> New patrons: <b>37</b> Items added: <b>346</b> Special requests: <b>9</b> Reference ?'s: <b>102</b> Computer sign-ins: <b>571</b> Meeting room usage: <b>40</b> Study Rooms: <b>22</b> Download Library: <b>904</b> RB Digital Magazines: <b>9</b> Comics Plus: <b>2</b> Universal Class Lessons Viewed: <b>13</b> Universal Class Videos Watched: <b>11</b> Repaired items: <b>11</b> Volunteer hours: <b>46.5</b>	<b><u>Other: December 2019 Stats</u></b> Book Group: <b>10</b> Tuesday Afternoon Knitting: <b>25</b> Author Talk: <b>10</b> Movie program, adults: <b>12</b> Wii and rec equipment: <b>16</b> Tech Help: <b>5</b> CloudLibrary training: <b>1</b> DigitalMaineLibrary training: <b>1</b> Catalog training: <b>1</b> Chess Club: <b>0</b>  <b><u>Story Time</u></b> Programs: <b>14</b> Children: <b>103</b> Adults: <b>90</b>  <b><u>Pass usage</u></b> Children's Museum – <b>4 uses</b> Dundee Park – <b>0 uses</b> Maine State Park Pass – <b>0 uses</b> Maine Wildlife Park – <b>0 uses</b> Planetarium – <b>1 use</b> <b>PASSES SAVED PATRONS</b> <b>\$106</b>
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