

JULY 2023

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



UPCOMING EVENTS

CLOSURES & NOTABLE EVENTS

7/3 - 7/4 – CLOSED for Independence Day
8/14 - 8/18 – Annual Book Giveaway

PROGRAMMING

Every Wed & Friday – Storytime @ 10:30 - 11:30AM
Every Wednesday – Patient Navigator for Substance Use Disorders @ 10AM-12PM
Every Thursday – Career Center Consultant @ 1-4PM
Every Friday – Sit & Knit @ 1 - 3PM

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7/6 – Coburn Woods Trail Nature Hike (@ Trailhead on Russell Rd, Skowhegan) @ 10AM  
7/11 – Backyard Birds @ 1PM - 2PM  
7/11 – Pine Needle Mini Baskets @ 4PM - 5PM  
7/13 – Author Talk & Book Signing w/Deb Jones @ 6PM  
7/18 – Coding Club (Group 1, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM  
7/19 – Coding Club (Group 2, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM  
7/20 – Coding Club (Group 3, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM  
7/20 – Fairy & Gnome Houses (@ Coburn Park) @ 4PM  
7/25 – Author Talk w/Cathryn Falwell @ 3:30-4:30PM  
7/27 – LEGO Club @ 3:30 - 4:30PM  
7/31 – 4th Annual Harry Potter Trivia Night @ 6PM

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8/1 – N. Star Planetarium (preK-2nd) @ 10AM - 11AM
8/1 – N. Star Planetarium (3rd-8th) @ 11:15AM - 12:15PM
8/4 – Bake & Book Sale @ 10AM-3PM
8/5 – Bake & Book Sale @ 10AM-2PM
8/5 – Teen Pizza & Hide 'N Seek Night @ 8PM
8/10 – Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals @ 4PM
8/15 – Mr. Drew & His Animals Too @ 2PM & 4PM
8/16 – Coding Club (Group 2, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM
8/17 – Coding Club (Group 3, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM
8/17 – Author Talk w/Chris Packard @ 6PM
8/22 – Coding Club (Group 1, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM
8/24 – Author Talk w/Tim O'Brien @ 6PM
8/26 – Mudpies & Fireflies Slime Workshop @ 10:30AM
8/31 – LEGO Club @ 3:30-4:30

SUMMER FUN!

Summer is finally here, and even though the forecast has been full of rain and gray skies lately, we are gearing up for one of our most fun summers yet! With the adult and youth summer reading programs in full swing, we are getting very excited for all of the great programming we've got coming up this month and next. From exploring planetariums and building fairy houses, to visits with wild animals and a lineup of great author talks, we've got something going on for everyone this summer.

BREAKFAST "BEAR" NECESSITIES FOOD DRIVE

The Skowhegan Library is doing a food drive again this summer to benefit the Skowhegan Food Backpack Program. It's important to make sure that the kids in our communities don't have empty bellies!

We are doing a breakfast "bear" necessities food drive to collect all the breakfast items we can. (This includes cereal, oatmeal, Pop Tarts, granola bars, canned/dried fruit, etc.) Help us FEED THE BEAR all summer long!



Our breakfast food-drive drop-box is right in the lobby!

PLENTY OF PRIZE DONATIONS...

We SO appreciate all of the wonderful donations of prizes and incentives towards our youth summer reading program that we got this year. I think it's safe to say that we have *more than enough* to give away now! We no longer need any more donations of this nature, so thank you to everyone who already donated. We are, as always, grateful for what a generous community we have!



A BUSY JUNE

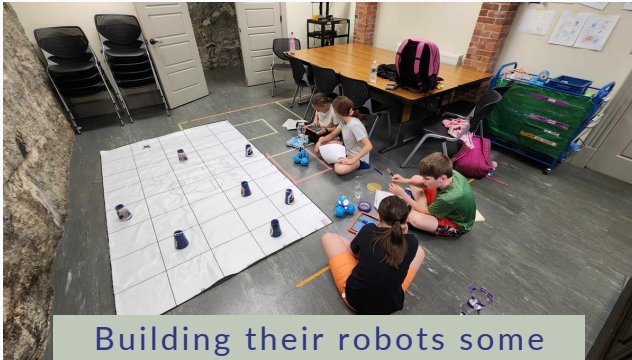
June was a busy month for both the library AND the local schools! We had half a dozen fieldtrips just in the first couple weeks of the month, where we gave tours, held storytimes, and went over all the great services and fun programs we offer for kids and families here at SFPL - especially during the summer. It's always wonderful for the staff to meet the new groups of students that get to discover the library in this way, and we always look forward to hosting these fieldtrips in the Spring.



So many school fieldtrips!

We had some great adult programming as well this past month, with a big turnout for Maine writer Tim Caverly's program, "So You Think You Know Maine?" We not only learned about the inspiration for some of his books, but also about many aspects of Maine's history that we weren't familiar with before.

In June's Coding Club sessions, beginning our journey through a string of story-based "missions" that will take us to the end of our coding and robotics journeys in October, kids worked in teams or on their own in learning how to maneuver their robots through a "junkyard" obstacle course (all while their robots wore some very silly, very tall hats the kids made so that their friends on the outside of the junkyard could find them!)



Building their robots some very tall hats



HP Trivia Master Angie, hard at work

COMING UP IN JULY... & HARRY POTTER NIGHT IS BACK!

We have lots of very exciting programs coming up this month, including the many Summer Reading Program events we've been advertising (check out our SRP brochure for a list!) But did you know we also have a lot of *other* great programs being held at the library this month for both kids and adults?

Register ahead for our Mini Pine Needle Basket craft program on July 11th at 4PM or our DIY Pressed Flower Bookmark craft on July 26th at 1PM for some adult craft-time fun; or pop by on the 13th for what promises to be a fascinating author talk with Maine author Deb Jones-Phoenix (showcased in Discovery+ "Love, Honor, Betray" episode *In Those We Trust*.)

Our 4th annual Harry Potter Trivia & Treats Night is BACK this year! Join us on July 31st at 6PM (in costume if you so choose!) for a fan-favorite night of getting sorted into houses and battling it out with your team for the title of HP Trivia Champions.



2023 SUMMER READING - FOR KIDS

With over 130 kids signed up for Summer Reading so far, we are expecting this to be a busy summer! We've got a whole host of incredibly engaging and entertaining programs lined up for the next two months that we hope to see you all at (check out the list of events on the front page or ask for a brochure next time you're at the library!)

Please note: the slime workshop that was originally scheduled for June 27th has been rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 26th @ 10:30am (still at Margaret Chase Smith Library).



2023 SUMMER READING - FOR TEENS & ADULTS

We've also got more people signed up for our adult and teen summer reading program than we've ever had before! Come in any time to grab a summer reading bingo board for you to mark off your reading goals this summer. You don't need a library card to sign up (only if you want to check out your books from *us* would you need one!) and you can win up to three \$5 gift cards to local businesses (one per bingo, up to three total) as well as be entered into a drawing for the grand prize of a picnic basket backpack, a family pass for Maine state parks, and a Maine state park journal to write down all your adventures.



BOOKS AND BAKED GOODS

We have two fundraising events coming up... a "book and bake" sale and our annual book giveaway.

The book and bake sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 4th & 5th, from 10AM - 2PM. We are still looking for some folks who would like to donate any delicious baked goods they think might sell well! Please give us a call at 474-9072, reach out via Facebook Messenger, or contact Devon at devinmacmichael@gmail.com.

And, as we do every year, we are holding our annual book giveaway (outside along the front walkway, weather permitting, or inside the lobby if it happens to rain) the week of the Skowhegan Fair, from August 14th - 18th. The books we set out during this event are totally free for the taking (though we happily accept monetary donations), as any that don't get taken will be recycled after the event is over. We'd much prefer to give these books a second chance with folks we know will read them!



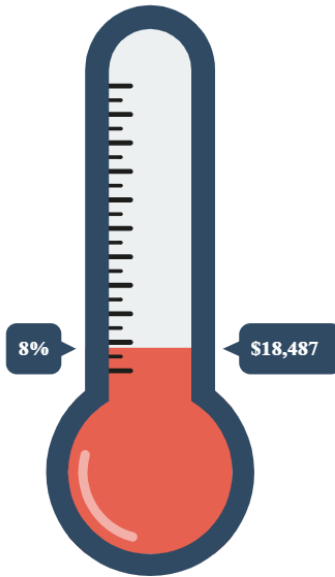
Any funds raised during these two events will be going towards our HVAC replacement project.



HVAC FUNDRAISING

Humid, humid, humid. That seemed to be the theme for June, but we're hoping not for July as well! It has gotten quite stifling here in the library most days, as we are still waiting on new HVAC systems and A/C to be installed. We're still raising money for this project, and while we have managed to raise a total of \$18,487 so far between fundraising events, personal donations from community members, and last year's annual appeal, we've still got quite a ways to go. If you would like to donate towards this goal, please check out our GoFundMe at www.gofundme.com/sfpl-hvacsystem

GOAL: \$230,000



Staff Picks of the Month

Angie - *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune

Bree - *The Road to Roswell* by Connie Willis

Josie - *Pageboy* by Elliot Page

Gabrielle - *Gabe in the After* by Shannon Doleski

Lydia - *Renegades* by Marissa Meyers

Lyn - *The Summer of Us* by Holly Chamberlain

"BLESSING BAG" ITEMS NEEDED

Also please note, we are still collecting items for the free "blessing bags" we hand out on a daily basis. Items like deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes, snacks, soap, & things of that nature are always needed. We put the bags together ourselves, so all we need is the occasional batch of goodies to put in them! We SO appreciate all the help we've gotten for these bags so far.

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT
9 ELM STREET
SKOWHEGAN, ME 04976

LIBRARY STAFF

Director: Angie Herrick
Adult Circulation: Breanna Bussell-Fitzgerald
Youth Services: Gabrielle Hunter
Technology Librarian: Josie Pease
Library Aide: Lydia Dore
Volunteer: Lyn Demchak

LIBRARY COMMITTEE TRUSTEES

Karen Lewia
Patrick Dore
Debra Sterling
Devin MacMichael
Lynn Perry

LIBRARY FRIENDS

Chair: Debra Sterling
Vice Chair: Karen Lewia
Treasurer: Kirk Karkos
Secretary: Lynda Quinn