

JUNE 2023

THE LIBRARY LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SKOWHEGAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



UPCOMING EVENTS

CLOSURES

6/19 – Juneteenth
7/4 – Independence Day

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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6/12 – Summer Reading Program registration begins  
6/13 – Kid's Comic Club @ 3:45 - 4:15PM  
6/15 – Coding Club (Group 3, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM  
6/20 – Coding Club (Group 1, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM  
6/21 – Coding Club (Group 2, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM  
6/21 – Tim Caverly - So You Think You Know ME @ 6PM  
6/27 – Mudpies & Fireflies Slime Workshop (@ Margaret Chase Smith Library) @ 1 - 2:30PM  
6/29 – LEGO Club @ 3:30 - 4:30PM

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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
7/16 – Coding Club (Group 3, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM
7/19 – Coding Club (Group 1, FULL) @ 3:30 - 5PM
7/20 – Coding Club (Group 2, 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

SUMMER, HERE WE COME!

May was a busy month, and June is set to be even busier. As we move from Spring into an as-ever exciting Summer, we are getting ready for our annual youth & adult reading challenges, programs of all types, and so many other fun things we have planned! We hope you'll take a look at everything we've got coming up.

WEEKLY-STORYTIME NEWS

As many of our regular attendees may have noticed lately, our weekly Wednesday storytimes are becoming *quite* popular, to the point of everybody being packed in like sardines. Now, this is not what we would consider a bad problem to have, but it is a problem that requires a solution!



Storytime kiddos staying busy!

So, in order to make sure we've got enough space for everybody during story hour, we've decided to add another weekly storytime on Fridays at 10:30am - both of these weekly events will have the same stories, songs, and crafts, so you're not missing anything by only going to one! Our hope is that families will be able to pick the day that works best for them and our two programs will be a little bit more manageable for our staff and our small space.



2023 SUMMER READING - FOR KIDS

We've got our programming all lined up this for summer - everything from nature walks in the park to slime making fun and a visit from Mr. Drew and His Animals Too. Ask for a copy of our SRP brochure to see everything else we have planned over the summer months - registration for SRP starts this month, beginning June 12th!

2023 SUMMER READING - FOR TEENS & ADULTS

And what about those folks who think they're too old for summer reading programs? Fear not, we have a program built for you too! Just like last summer, we've got a summer reading bingo board for you to mark off your reading goals in order to win prizes throughout the summer as well. You can win up to three \$5 gift cards to local businesses (one per bingo, up to three total) and 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!



Some of last year's 2022 Summer Reading Program fun!



SUMMER READING PROGRAM INCENTIVES

Matchbox Cars	Puzzles
Costume Jewellery	Frizbees
Slime	Jump Ropes
Small Art Kits	Glow Sticks
Beach Toys	Earbuds
Chalk	Pool Toys
Bubbles	Coloring Books
Kites	Diaries/Journals
Balls	Fingernail Polish
Lego Minifigures	Yo-yos
Water Bottles	Card games
Fidget Toys	Tattoos
Silly Putty	Games

BASICALLY ANYTHING NEW AND NON-EDIBLE THAT YOU THINK KIDS WOULD BE EXCITED FOR!

LOOKING FOR SUMMER READING PROGRAM DONATIONS

Our Summer Reading program is almost upon us (this year's theme is Pinecones & Pages), and we could still use donations of incentives for the kids who reach their reading goals every week! Check out the list on the left for ideas of items that are always a hit each year.

Once registration begins for SRP, we'll also be starting our annual food drive! We'll have a food drop box in the lobby of the library, where we'll be looking to collect non-perishable *BREAKFAST* foods all summer long that will then be given to the Skowhegan Food Backpack program at the end of the summer.





WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

May was filled with a lot of professional development for our staff members, including the annual multi-day Maine Library Association Conference and a workshop on tools and programming for the upcoming 2024 total solar eclipse that Maine is lucky enough to be squarely in the path of. These sorts of workshops and conferences are always a great opportunity for our staff to gather new insights into programming, policy-making, and networking with other professionals and organizations, among other things.

Our technology librarian, Josie, and our Director, Angie, went down to the Wells Public Library for that workshop on the solar eclipse, where they learned about solar viewing tools and programming supplies that are being given to the Maine State Library system for checkout to other system libraries in the coming months. They learned how to use solar glasses, solar binoculars, solar telescopes, and sunspotters, and worked with other librarians from around the state on ideas for programs related to the sun and upcoming eclipses.

During the MLA conference, the staff was lucky enough to attend a fundraiser dinner with Stephen and Tabitha King, hear keynote addresses by American Library Association exec. director Tracy D. Hall and Maine author Monica Wood. We also were able to attend workshops on everything from building solid library policies to dealing with book banning to programming ideas, reader's advisory, and making sure that our libraries are safe and welcoming places for all. It was, as it always is, a fantastic few days spent with our colleagues from around the state.

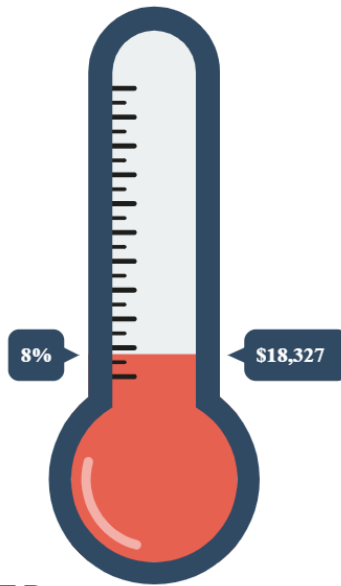




HVAC FUNDRAISING

As I'm writing this newsletter, the temperature tomorrow on June 1st is going to be in the mid 90's... That is HOT for a library that currently doesn't have working A/C! We're still raising money for a new heating & cooling system, and while we have managed to raise a total of \$18,327 so far between fundraising events, personal donations from community members, and last year's annual appeal, we've still got a ways to go. If you'd 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 - *Camp Sylvania* by Julie Murphy (not out just yet, but who doesn't LOVE a new Julie Murphy book!)

Bree - *Dead Man's Wake* by Paul Doiron (also not out until the end of the month, but we all know it's gonna be great!)

Josie - *What Moves the Dead* by T. Kingfisher

Gabrielle - *Opinions and Opossums* by Ann Braden

Lydia - *Iron Widow* by Xiran Jay Zhao

"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