



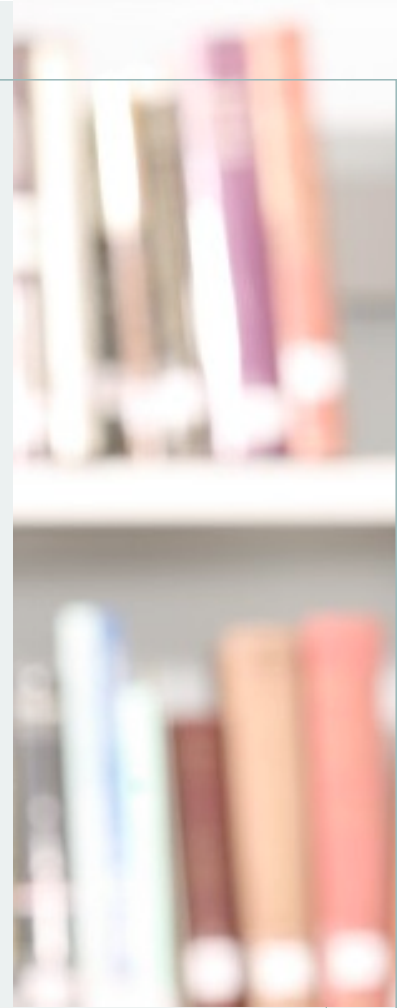
From the Chair...

As I look out the window it seems that old man winter has taken a nap and that has caused warmer weather. No complaints hear. As with ever year, it is hard to believe how close we are to the start of the summer reading program. One area that I wanted to focus on this year is developing a program for the storytime age group. The summer reading manual provides a lot of good information that I was able to build on. After some work, I created a weekly board game for this age group that focuses on early literacy behaviors. The goal for me was to ensure parents and children that they can work together to learn the skills of reading. Each week they come into the library they will be given a sticker and then every other week a larger prize. Please let me know if you are interested in seeing the log sheet.

I have read some great literature lately. The last novel I read was by John Green entitled "*The Fault in Our Stars.*" This is a young adult book and it tells the story of two individuals who are faced with the battle of cancer and their discovery of love and life. Green writing is both graceful, poetic, and he adds a touch of humor to a sensitive subject. One of my new favorite picture books I have read is entitled "*Chilly, Milly, Moo*" by Fiona Ross. This is a funny story about a cow who really wants to make milk but cannot because she is too hot. However, once the cold temperature starts to start Milly starts to make something else...no spoilers!

If anyone has questions or comments for me please email me.

Zachary Stier
YSS Chair
Ericson Public Library



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

YSS Goal Setting Minutes.....	2
Kids Tech Club	3
Teacher-Librarian.....	4
YSS Gmail Group	5

YSS GOAL SETTING MEETING MINUTES

February 13th, 2012

The meeting was held online via Adobe Connect

Zachary Stier facilitated the meeting and Denise Ballesteros provided oversight.

Those in attendance were

Arielle Loy (Ericson Public Library)

Jenna Ehler (West Des Moines Library)

Karen Neal (Drake Community Library)

Katie Dreyer (Pella Public Library)

Kelly Munter (Kirkendall Public Library)

Sherry Schlundt (Kirkendall Public Library)

Attendees introduced themselves before starting the goal meeting.

Reviewed and discusses changes to the proposed goals for 2012.

At the start of the meeting on February 13, 2012 the 2012 goals included:

YSS Goals for 2012 **(Draft)**

YSS Goals for 2012

Goal 1: In conjunction with the State Library of Iowa, develop strategies, that incorporate early literacy into storytimes.

Goal 2: Continue to enhance the mentoring program by creating an Excel spreadsheet that will give members contact information for youth librarians wanting mentorship.

Goal 3: Make buttons with YSS logo and a bookmark to introduce new members to YSS.

Goal 4: To increase membership by 10% by the 2013 registrations.

After the discussion of changes of the goals, the proposed goals for YSS 2012 are:

Goal 1: In light of the current conversation around education reform, work with Iowa Library Services to develop strategies that incorporate early literacy into storytimes.

Goal 2: Continue to enhance the mentoring program by creating a Gmail account that will give members contact information for youth librarians wanting mentorship. *This has been approved. Please see <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Avlm9DogOiSzdDN2Mo1INXQ2UUpIdnh6ZllNVTdmZoE#gid=0>*

Goal 3: Make buttons with YSS logo and a bookmark to introduce new members to YSS

Goal 4: To maintain our membership numbers.

Adjournment

Within the next months, the buttons and bookmarks will be developed and members will be provided updates on the progress.

Zach

KIDS TECH CLUB

Computer literacy is an increasingly important skill. We have long offered multimedia games and Internet access for children at the Iowa City Public Library, but instructional programs have been few and far between. Inspired by Kathy Kaldenberg at Solon Community School District and Claire Moore at Darien Public Library (CT), the Library began Kids Tech Club for Grades 4-6 in Fall 2011. As I write this, we are in the midst of our second session of what has been a very successful program.

Tech Club meets one hour each Wednesday afternoon for six weeks. Space is limited to fifteen children. Each child supplies information about their tech skills, what they would like to learn and what they are comfortable teaching to help with planning. The emphasis is on learning free web-based no-registration-required tools so that the children can continue to use their new skills at home or on our public computers. Of course, this keeps costs down for the library as well! iPiccy, Picfull, Wolfram Tones, Voki and Kaywa QR Code are some of the sites we have used.

While I plan a rough outline for each six-week session, we adjust based on each child's interests and abilities. The Kids Tech Club is an opportunity to not only learn technology skills, but also for children to share what they know with each other. Children share projects they have worked on outside tech club as well as favorite websites. Last session we added a session on blogging based on members' interest; this session we will make time to learn Prezi.

Tech Club also takes advantage of some of the Library's equipment such as flip cameras and staff iPads to expose children to these tech tools as well. While most of the sessions involve sitting at computers, we mix it up with some videotaping and a QR code scavenger hunt as well. Running around the Children's Room taking pictures and looking for clues was a big hit! We even left the building one day. To expand exposure to technology in the community, after the fall session ended, we took an amazing field trip to see the 3D printer and scanner at the University of Iowa College of Engineering. With high interest and an everflowing stream of new online tools and technology to introduce to children, Kids Tech Club has a bright future!

Andrea Flemming
Children's Librarian
Iowa City Public Library
@aflemming





NEVER UNDERESTIMATE CHILDREN

In the last few months I'd read that many teacher librarians in Iowa and the country think that the Dewey Decimal system is too difficult for elementary students to use. Our Ed-Co second grade students are developing their skill of using the Alexandria card catalog to locate books in the easy and fiction sections of the library, and our third grade students are using the catalog to locate nonfiction books on subjects they're interested in at their AR levels. It's pretty exciting to hear seven and eight-year-olds shout, "I found it!" It made me remind myself to never underestimate the intelligence of children.

That memory came back when I was looking at the standards and benchmarks listed in the 21st Century Skills of the Iowa Core Curriculum. I was pretty surprised to see the following standard for kindergarten, first and second grades:

Utilize predetermined digital resources and tools to answer questions or solve problems.

OK, "predetermined", I can see that, but one of the benchmarks listed with that standard is

Locate and organize information from a variety of sources and media.

Sound OK? Well, as I said, I've been teaching second grade how to locate information, but how about this one?

Review provided resources, explain why they are or are not useful, and use information appropriately.

Whoa, this is heady stuff. I typically start teaching evaluation of resources with fourth grade. And using digital resources with kindergarten? At first I balked, but then I thought of the eagerness of our kindergarten students to view the e-books that are available to them. I thought of my grandson in second grade soaking up the *TrueFlix* e-books provided by Iowa's AEAs and his little brother in first grade absorbed by the *Bookflix* site also provided by the AEAs. They love them and always tell me about what they've learned. Well, there you go. *Never underestimate the intelligence of children.*

Ed-Co's lower elementary teachers are working with me to modify projects we already do so that they line up with the expectations of the Iowa Core. It's pushing us to rethink how we do things and at what ages we introduce skills and information to our students. While we'll have to shift gears, I don't doubt that we'll hear "I found it!" when our students locate the information they're looking for. They'll just be in front of a computer screen.

Marsha Hauser
PK – 12 Teacher Librarian
Edgewood-Colesburg CSD

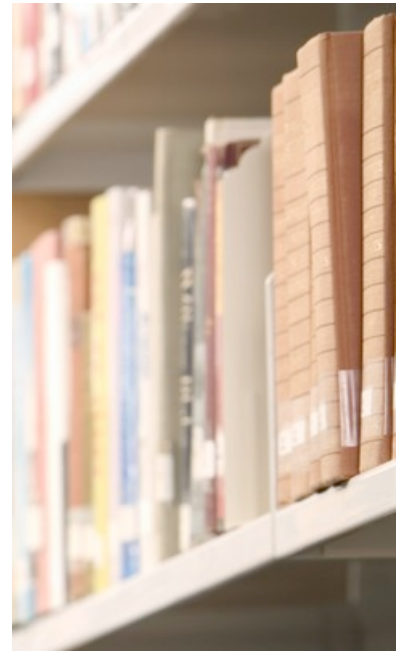
YSS GMAIL GROUP

The Youth Services Subdivision has a new Gmail email group:
yssiowalib@gmail.com

This allows us to create an online spreadsheet for those of you interested in mentoring another librarian in Iowa or becoming a mentee yourself.

Please check out the spreadsheet link at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvIm9DogOiSzdDN2M01INXQ2UUpIdnh6ZIINVTdmZ0E>



PROGRAM IDEAS AND SUCCESSES

Had a successful program that you'd like to share with the membership?

Email us and we'll put it in the next newsletter!

