



THE OPEN BOOK

Forrest Public Library
Semi-Annual Newsletter
August 2021



I SURVIVED PROJECT



Left: Carter Brown and his I Survived the California Wildfires of 2018.
Right: Treyton Zimmerman and his creation of I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916

Towards the end of the school year the Forrest Library had an I Survived contest for students grades 3-6. The I Survived books are a series that written from the perspective of a child around 12 years old. They are all from a historical moment in US history. They are great introduction to historical fiction for children. Our contest had 15 students who participated and made an diorama. Their projects were judged by the PCE and UE school principals. Carter Brown won 1st place and Treyton Zimmerman won 2nd place.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

This spring we had two ladies night out events at the library. We are looking forward to many more! Please watch the monthly newsletters for our next events. We had a great turn out for each of them. We stamped tea towels and made macrame pot hangers.



Pictured on the left: Laura Kerber is finishing up her plant hanger. Everyone had fun learning how to macrame! Pictured on the right: Val Stoller is stamping her tea towel. This was our first event and we learned alot! All of the ladies were very creative with their designs.

JOIN US FOR STORYHOURS



Currently we are offering two different story hours at the library. Starting again in September we will have our **Rise and Shine with Storytime** for kids 0-5. This will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10 am. Kids will have story time and then we will either make a craft or play a game. Our K-2nd grade children can look forward to our **Wiggle Worms Storyhour** beginning again in September as well. Please watch our newsletter for dates and times. We will finalize plans after school routines have settled. Some of our past events have include our Respect Garden, Birds and Trees and Snake Bubbles. We look forward to seeing our kids at both storyhours!

Pictured are some of our Wiggle Worms around their Respect Garden. Kids learned the importance of manners and respect towards others.

Left to Right: Avery Brown, Elaine Schmidgall, Ellie Brown, Beau Tremmel, Jesse Stoller, Lincoln Kerber, Sawyer Kerber, Easton Tremmel, Emir Garcias, and Jericho Nagy



Pictured Below:

Jackie Medina had fun making Snake Bubbles! It was great to see our Wiggle Worms kids enjoying some fun outside. Sawyer Kerber is showing off his birdfeeder from our Trees and Birds program. The kids were excited to hang them up when they got home.



READING COLORS YOUR WORLD

This year our Summer Reading Program was a huge success. 133 children participated in three different age groups. Our kids ages 0-PreK read 5 books each week, while our K-2nd graders read 10 books or chapters. Kids grades 3rd-8th read 100 minutes each week. The staff at the library was very excited to see that kids not only read the required amount, but often times they exceeded it! This year we did something a little different and asked that kids included some special categories in their reading.

Some of the categories included biographies, history, animals, and science. We held several programs during the 4 weeks of Summer Reading and had great time getting to know the children in the community.

Our summer reading program started with a kick off event at the library. We had games, face painting, and a balloon artist. Kids were able to sign up for the programs and pick up their supplies. We all enjoyed the evening!



Pictured to the left: Hallie Stephens and Ashlynn Mueller are making their tie-dye shirts. This was a big event! We enjoyed seeing all the shirts being worn at the library this summer!



Pictured above: Lane and Sophie Wenger show off their Jack and the Beanstalk projects in front of our giant's castle.



We really appreciate SELCAS visiting our library. Kids got to tour an ambulance while they were here. To the right: Hunter and Andrew Thilmont practice the Heimlich Maneuver



Pictured above patrons enjoyed our kickoff night. Left to Right: Blake Stuckey, Elliott Meister, Val Stoller with children Brynnley and Jesse, Sawyer Kerber, Elaine Schmidgall and Lincoln Kerber



Mr. Joe Delaney was our guest for our Who is Betsy Ross and the History of our Flag program. Kids started with painting American Flag tote bags. We then went through the history of the flag and respect and honor it deserves. On the left: Emmitt and Whitney Bachman along with Nora Mueller work on their bags. On the right: Ty Mueller, Carter Brown, Taylor Stork and Violet Kerber show us how to fold a flag with Mr. Delaney.

This year we offered several fun programs for our summer readers each geared towards different age groups.

- Summer Reading Colors Your World Kickoff Event
- The Many Colors of Agriculture
- Tye-Dye Shirts
- Jack and the Beanstalk StoryHour
- Basic CPR and First Aid Training with SELCAS
- Who is Betsy Ross and the History of our Flag
- Jack and the Gentle Giant Closing Ceremony

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN AND 500 BOOKS BEFORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Reading is the foundation of our children's education. In fact children learn 4,000-12,000 words each year through reading! Both our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and 500 Books Before Middle School promote reading. All books count! Books read at school as part of AR count as well. Come check it out, we can't wait to see the results! Lyndon and Kambria Steidinger have enjoyed turning in their book counts.



UPCOMING EVENTS

We are planning several big events and programs for the upcoming fall and winter months. This is just a few! Please watch our monthly newsletters, Facebook page and website for more details and events.

- *The Lady with Alligator Purse presents Tales about Tails-Saturday September 11th at 9:00 am
- *Anne of Green Gables Tea-October
- *American Girl Book Club-4 week event in October
- *Train Month and Family Night-November
- *Speech Class and Public Presentation for Kids-weekly for four weeks this winter

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

If you haven't met me yet, my name is Anna Schmidgall. My husband and I, along with our three children, live right outside of Forrest. I'm originally from Clinton Illinois, but have been blessed to become part of such a wonderful community. When I took the position as the Forrest Library Director in January of 2020, I could have never imagined what the next year was going to bring. Just like anywhere else Covid effected the library. We were closed for 4 months, however, this gave us the perfect opportunity to clean, sort and reorganize. Updates and construction projects were completed. It has certainly been busy around here! So if you haven't been to the library in awhile, please stop in and see us! I'd love to meet you and your family. Our next big project will be our reference and history room. I've started sorting, but it is a huge undertaking. I'm anxious to complete the room and learn more of the local history in the process.



One of my main goals is to increase our children's programming. We are well on our way and greatly appreciate the support from our community. I'd like to invite you all to stop in and chat with me. Please let me know if there is something particular you'd like to see in our programs. I'm always up for new ideas and input.



DID YOU KNOW?

Libraries offer a variety of services that you may have never realized. Currently at the Forrest Library we are working towards offering our patrons more. Beyond checking out books we offer magazines and newspapers, DVDs, audiobooks, playaways, games, jigsaw puzzles, STEAM kits, and storybook bags. All of these items with the exception of our newspapers are available for checkout and are free of charge. Our public computers and wifi are available for you as well. For a small fee you can print and send faxes as needed. We also now offer two digital services to check out materials through Axis 360 and Hoopla. Both of these services allow patrons to download digital media to their own devices and an app is available for your convenience. This includes books, movies and music. Simply enter your library card and pin number to set up your account. We are happy to help you get started so please don't hesitate to stop in and ask. Many libraries are now offering unique services for their patrons. In the past we have been asked about cake pans. I never could have imagined checking out a cake pan at the library! If you have a unique cake pan taking up space in our cupboard, consider donating it the library to share with others.

HOW IS THE FORREST LIBRARY FUNDED?

The Forrest Public Library District is funded through tax dollars, grants, donations and memorials. During our last fiscal year our tax dollars amounted to \$134,456.41. We also received an additional \$51,002.18 in donations, memorials and grants. Listed below is a breakdown of our expenses:

- Salaries of 6 employees-\$65,268.43
- Utilities-\$14,126.25
- Operating Supplies-\$11,174.19
- Library Programs-\$5,640.92
- Equipment (ex. shelving, furniture, public computers)-\$12,103.64
- Book purchases-\$12,229.53

Building repairs for the year amounted to \$93,203.23. Special reserves funded these projects. The projects included updating bathrooms, a new roof, window replacement and a fire and water security system.

If you read just **one** book to your child each day they will have read **1825** books by their 5th birthday.

Every Day Counts.
Every Book Counts.

Don't for the Food Pantry is the 2nd Saturday of each month. Volunteers are welcome, please contact them if interested.

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