HYDE PARK FREE LIBRARY
CHILDREN’S SERVICES
YEAR END REPORT FOR 2021

Although we are not totally back to pre Covid-19 times, 2021 did bring us closer to normality in the Children’s Room. In-house story hours and programs resumed in July while all continued wearing masks and observing social distancing. Prior to that, Mother Goose and Pre-K Discovery Story Times were offered online (January-March) as well as outdoor sessions (end of March-June).

In addition to online story times, Take and Make craft bags were available on a weekly basis, February-April.

For our Summer Reading Program, Tails and Tales, we again teamed up with Staatsburg Library for two programs—our opener with Jester Jim and a Wild Birds of Prey presentation in August. We did not partner with United Pre-K during the school year because of Covid; however, the children attending their summer session walked to the Library for a weekly story time and they attended our BeeBee the Clown show.

Although the Battle of the Books is part of our Summer Reading Program, we do begin reading and discussing the books monthly during the spring. A new format for conducting the competition was inaugurated in 2021. Teams were divided into area pods which then competed in preliminary battles. The winners went on to compete in the final battle for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. 2021’s competition was all done online. Hyde Park had five very enthusiastic and competitive readers, all of whom are looking forward to live battles in September 2022.

Senator Sue Serino made a brief visit on December 21 and read a story to the Pre-K group.

While not meeting in person with book vendors, I ordered titles from 7 book suppliers, either online or through preview boxes.

Weeding continues. Work was done on YA Fiction and Nonfiction as well as Easy Readers, DVDs, and the picture book section.

As always, I thank our Director, the Library Board, the Library Friends, and the greater community for their continued support. It’s such a pleasure working in the children’s room of Hyde Park Library.

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