

Fall Programming for Kids

After taking a short break at the end of summer programming, the library's fall programming is off to a great start! Our youngest kiddos have had the fun, educational storytime they know and love with Babygarten (Tuesdays at 10 AM).

New this fall for kids ages 3-5 is Storytots Art Smash, a storytime that encourages creativity and literacy through stories and art. Kids have loved getting messy while also learning! Storytots Art Smash is on Wednesday mornings from 10:00-10:45 AM.



Craft project with glitter at Storytots Art Smash!

Older kiddos have been able to return to the popular Builders Club, for kids ages 6-11. This weekly event happens on Wednesdays during early release (1:30-3:30 PM) and allows them to play with building blocks and to check out a controller to play Minecraft.



Building catapults at S.T.E.A.M.ers Club!

S.T.E.A.M.ers Club! Every week, kids get to learn about and experiment with a different STEAM activity. The S.T.E.A.M.ers Club is on Fridays from 3:30-4:30 PM.

These fun programs for kids will continue weekly through the end of the fall!

For kids ages 8-11, the library has began a new club that gets them excited about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math, the

Games at the Library

The library offers numerous ways to play games, both familiar and new. Back by popular demand, we are once again offering a space to gather to play chess on Wednesday nights (every week from 6:00 to 7:30 PM). This is a great chance for people to meet other chess players, or even to learn the game from scratch! An expert chess player attends these weekly events and is happy to help foster a love of chess in people of all ages.



Chess players of all ages enjoying the game

Also weekly, the library holds a space for people to play Magic: The Gathering, Dungeons & Dragons, and other tabletop games. Teens and adults have enjoyed this program; it gives new players a chance to learn these games in a relaxed, supportive environment, and also provides a space for established D&D groups to meet to play. This program will continue every Thursday this fall from 4-6 PM.



Adult participants play Magic: The Gathering in the foreground while teens enjoy a raucous game of "Exploding Kittens" in the background

Celebrate Sauk

The library was thrilled to participate in the second annual Celebrate Sauk event, which was a celebration of the many diverse cultures in Sauk County. There was Latin music, a shared community BINGO game, varied cultural cooking and dancing demonstrations, an oral history project, and the library was there giving away multicultural kids books!



Group photo with Celebrate Sauk organizers and the Ho-Chunk dance group, Tribalized Entertainment

Teen Update

In addition to the game programs teens can participate in (highlighted on page 1 of this newsletter), Teen Tuesday continues to be popular. In September, teens got to have a karaoke night with popcorn, they painted pumpkins



Painting pumpkins

to get in the mood for fall, and they got to participate in a perennial favorite, Jackbox Games. Teen Tuesdays continue every week on Tuesdays from 4-5 PM.

Books Afoot

The library's new walking book club is off to a fun start! At the Books Afoot book club, participants meet at a designated location and take a half hour walk while discussing a literary genre or theme. In September, we talked about Fantasy books while walking on the River Walk near Ochsner Park. Books Afoot will meet on Thursday, October 26 at both 10 AM and 5 PM. To get into Spooky Season, we'll be discussing mystery novels while walking around the Walnut Hill cemetery.



Carnegie Building Renovation

Work continues on the renovation of the old Carnegie library building that will eventually be home to our adult collections, reading rooms, study rooms, and conference room. We expect the Carnegie will be open again for public use by the end of November 2023. Our grand opening celebration has been moved back to January 2024.



The glass-walled study rooms and West Reading Room (with original woodwork and fireplace)



Future study rooms, viewed from where the Adult Non-fiction collection used to be



Future conference room in basement