

### Winterfest

Kids of all ages had a blast at the library's recent Winterfest Virtual Reality Experience! This program featured a variety of activities to teach people about penguins.

The program kicked off with a storytime about penguins, then kids could write in their Antarctic Scientists Journal as they visited different stations around the room. Some featured fine motor skill activities, like making penguins



**Comparing height to a penguin**

out of foam and forming penguin nests out of mini marshmallows. Some featured kinesthetic learning techniques like tobogganing on scooters to move like a penguin.

Kids could also compare their height to life-sized models of different species of penguins, play a game about the food chain, and make observations about the landscapes where penguins



**Learning about the food chain**

live. The highlight for many participants was the virtual reality game "Waddle," which lets you act like a penguin. Programs like this featuring a variety of activities engage children in many different ways and make learning fun!

### Valentine's Day Programming

This February, the library offered a few different programs to celebrate the season.

On Saturday, February 10, the library had a

Regency Romance High Tea, which featured tea and snacks, valentine making,



**Regency Romance High Tea**

and a Choose Your Own Adventure romance novel activity! Participants were also encouraged



**Regency Romance High Tea**

to get fancy and dress up in historical costumes, which was a highlight for many. Everyone enjoyed a

delightful afternoon in a sunny space with tea and good company.

On Tuesday, February 13, Keri Olson, a local flower enthusiast, gave a presentation to the Baraboo Buds Garden Club about Floriography, the secret language of flowers. The group learned about the symbolic meanings of many different flowers, many of which centered around love and friendship. Thanks, Keri, for a lovely presentation, and to the Sauk County Master Gardener Association for co-sponsoring the presentation!



**Floriography presentation**

## Lecture Series Collaborations

The library has been pleased to collaborate with two organizations to provide lecture series this late winter, all of which are taking place in the library's new auditorium.

Paul Wolter of the Sauk County Historical Society has presented two out of three total parts in the series "Baraboo 101: From River to Ringling." Part 1, "A River and Its People,"

gave the history of the site that would become Baraboo from its earliest settlement



**Baraboo 101**

thousands of years ago. Part 2, "From Dams to Downtown 1840 -1870," talked about the early days of Euro-American settlement in Baraboo.

Part 3, "From Railroads to Ringling 1871-1884," will take us up to the advent of the Ringling Brothers Circus. Paul will deliver this final talk in the series on Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 PM in the library auditorium.



**Cabin Fever Lecture**

In collaboration with the Baraboo Range Preservation Association, the library is hosting the Cabin Fever Lecture Series, a four part series featuring different speakers on a variety of topics related to conservation and the natural world. The first part of the series was "Adventures in Africa: A photo safari to Botswana and Kenya" presented by Dr. Robert Rolley and Dr. Karen Mesmer.

The next installment of the Cabin Fever series will be "Indigenous Art: A Local Artist's Perspective," presented by Melanie Tallmadge Sainz, Cultural Arts Educator and Artist, on Wednesday, March 6 at 7 PM. After that will be "Whole Land Management: The Key to Responsible Stewardship," presented by Jeb Barzen, President of the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council, on Wednesday, March 20 at 7 PM.

## Recurring Youth Programs

There have been a lot of fun programs for youth of all ages lately, many of which occur on a regular schedule.

For kids 0-5 and their caregivers, "Cuddle Up and Be Cozy" is a special once a month storytime that treats kids to a snack and story, all while wearing their comfiest



**Cuddle Up and Be Cozy**

clothes. "Cuddle Up and Be Cozy" will continue this spring on the last Monday of the month at 6:30 PM, with the next one on Monday, March 25.

For kids 6-11, the *Who Would Win?* Book Club based on the popular book series has been loads of fun. Each

Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 PM, the club meets to read a *Who Would Win?* book and do a



**Who Would Win?**

fun and educational activity about the animals featured in the book.

Teens have multiple ways to enjoy programming at the library. In addition to the ever popular Teen Tuesday (every Tuesday from 4-5 PM), teens can play Dungeons and Dragons on the second Thursday of the month, 5:30-7:45 PM, and *Magic: The Gathering* on the third Thursday of the month, 4-6 PM. Teens can also participate in



**Teen Book Club**

the Teen Book Club, which features a book discussion and craft project, on the fourth Thursday of the month, 4-5 PM. In February, the group read the book *The Robber Girl* and made paper flowers.