

Laconi YSS General Meeting

Chicago, Illinois

November 16, 2018

Stuck in the Middle: Programming for Tweens in Your Library

At 9:45 a.m., President Jason Driver called the meeting to order. Jason read the LACONI YSS mission statement and introduced current board members.

The Secretary's report was read by Dawn Zauner. Jason Driver moved to approve the minutes and Marissa Elera seconded. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion; ayes carry the motion.

The Treasurer's report was read by Janice Bodja. She reported that the current balance in the checking account as of September 1, 2018 is \$2,338.24. The ending balance as of October 31, 2018 is \$2,745.94. Dawn Zauner moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Shelley Sutherland seconded. A voice vote was taken to approve the motion; ayes carry the motion.

Old Business

Amber Creger shared details about the IYSI Conference in March. She reminded everyone that it's a great opportunity to get together and learn from each other.

New Business

Shelley Sutherland asked everyone in attendance to consider being on the board. She told attendees that half sheet flyers were available with information on joining the board and to check-in with her if interested.

Upcoming Programs

Marissa Elera and Tabatha Anderson invited everyone to the February program, which will be an interactive UnConference, held in Schaumburg. They also informed attendees that an email with more information will be sent out soon.

Jason noted that there was an error on the agenda. Lunch will be provided; it is not on your own.

Jason then turned the meeting over to Tabatha to run, as he had prior commitments at CPL to attend to.

The business meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Tabatha introduced the first presenter, Kylie Peters, Middle School Librarian at Geneva Public Library. She presented, "Tween Brains: A Guide for the Rest of Us." Kylie began by showing the group a video called, "Being 12: The Year Everything Changes." The video is part of a series by WNYC, which is a public radio show in New York City. Kylie then went into her PowerPoint presentation which focused on adolescent psychology. Some highlights from her presentation include:

- Tweens rely on the amygdala, or the "reward center" more often than adults do.
- There is nothing wrong with tween brains if they are doing something that confuses you. Chances are it is a normal process in their brain.
- Tweens act on impulse and they are mostly interested in the here and now.
- Don't say, "Because I said so." They need a good reason to follow the rules.
- This is a time of heightened emotions, mood swings, and rejecting the things of childhood.

- They are looking for non-parental role models and it is important to be accepting of their “tween-ness.” They really like when adults want to hear what they have to say.

After Kylie’s presentation, Tabatha introduced the next group of speakers who were from the Indian Prairie Public Library. Natalie Williams, Head of Youth Services, Monica Dzierzbicki, Mid-Kid Librarian, and Jack Schultz, Youth Technology Librarian, presented, “Mid-Kids in Mind: Planning for Grades 1-6.”

They began their presentation with a brief overview of the evolution of their Youth Services staff and space. In 2013, Indian Prairie created specific librarians who focused on programs and collections for specific age groups. They also decided that they needed a space that was specific to mid-kids, so they created one from furniture and shelving that they already had. Their goal was to create a space that would reflect the kids. Their Makerspace was created in the Summer of 2014, and evolved into the Wouldshop, which opened in January 2018. The group discussed their Prairie Patch, which began as a community garden project. They offer special programming in the area just for mid-kids. They reminded attendees to:

- Use what you’ve got
- Grow when you can
- Keep Mid-Kids in mind

After their presentation, they invited the other presenters to come up for a panel discussion. Natalie moderated the discussion and posed questions for the group to answer. Highlights from the discussion are as follows:

1. Why do you plan programming specifically for tweens?
 - a. They are a fun group
 - b. A group that can be easily lost
2. How do you identify their needs?
 - a. Talking to them
 - b. Translate what they are learning in school if it interests them
 - c. Reading kid’s magazines
 - d. Looking at what other libraries are doing
 - e. Twitter
 - f. Talking with teachers, school librarians, parents and caregivers
3. What are some of the needs you have identified?
 - a. Responding to trends
 - b. Including them in both younger and older programs because they are at different levels- some are aging up and some are aging down
 - c. Develop a relationship with after-school tweens by letting them play games and watch movies
4. What are the challenges of planning for this age group?
 - a. Getting the right description for the program
 - b. The timing- it’s not that they don’t want to be there, it’s that they can’t be there due to conflicting schedules
5. What are the trends and how do you keep up?
 - a. Look to see what 5th graders are into right before they graduate
 - b. Disney, Nickelodeon, and Kid’s Choice Awards
 - c. What are other libraries doing
 - d. What are authors and publishers planning

- e. Trends in genres
- f. Play with their toys- find out why they are cool and fun
- g. C2E2 Convention and Toy and Game Fair
- h. Movies out now and coming soon

After lunch, Tabatha introduced Tina Rousal from the Youth Services Forum (YSF). Tina told attendees about their website, The Soup, and she said that presenters can add their slides to the site. If anyone is interested in joining the YSF, they can contact her. The group meets 4 times a year and ILA is one of the times they meet.

Tabatha introduced the next presenter, Becca Rutkowski of the Palos Heights Public Library. Becca presented, "Stuck in the Middle with Tweens: Fun Programs to Bring Tweens to Your Library." Becca gave attendees some information about her library and the way her department is organized. Becca gets her programming ideas from tweens, Pinterest, Facebook, blogs, colleagues, TWILL, and other libraries. She publicizes her programs through the library newsletter, website, in-house marketing and word of mouth. Becca then shared some notable programs that have been successful in the past.

- **Zombie Night**
 - Transform into zombies with makeup and eat "brains"
 - YouTube videos show how to do makeup
- **Fantastic Feast**
 - Made food from the Wizarding World
 - Used Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook
 - Made Butter Beer, buttered peas, fried tomatoes and pumpkin pasties
- **Book N'Bites**
 - Used 2019 Bluestem nominees
 - Told kids they didn't have to finish the book
- **Gotham Detective Agency**
 - Planned out a tower using various food supplies
 - Kids worked in teams to build the tower
 - Once it was built, they got to eat it
- **Pop-Up Programming**
 - Tweens can check-out video games or movies
 - The library unlocks the system and lets them watch/play for as long as they want

After Becca's presentation, Tabatha introduced Tom Malinowski of the Glen Ellyn Public Library. He presented, "A Librarian Does That?! Wow!: How Tween Programming Can Be Innovative and Vibrant." Tom began by talking about The Middle, which is the space at Glen Ellyn that's dedicated to 6th-8th graders. The space includes "Tom's Picks" which are books he likes, and also rotating artwork from surrounding schools. Tom then shared a plethora of program ideas.

- **After-Hours Nerf War**
 - 6-8 pm on a Friday
 - Capped at 20 middle-schoolers, and they all usually show up
 - Waivers are signed online and he had some ready to go for parents to sign when the kids arrived in case they missed it online
 - They bring their own Nerf gun and ammo
 - Library provides pizza

- Converting Books into Art
 - Use books, glue, scissors, markers, and crayons
 - Kids go to town and create works of art
 - Use discarded books
- Amazing Race Library Edition
 - Used Dewey Decimal 000-900s with 2 challenges in each section
 - Ex. Mosaic mask out of tissue paper
- The Middle Squad
 - 50 volunteers
 - They clean shelves, pick books for displays, pull books from weeding lists
 - 3 times per year over a 5-week period
 - Always ends with a pizza party and the kids get a T-shirt
- The Middle File
 - Monthly email newsletter that is also on the website
 - Tom writes a blurb for a new book
 - Includes book review from tweens
 - Add link to card catalog for book
- The Rise of the QR Code
 - Readers' Advisory binder with book recommendations
 - Has QR code with the cover of the book
 - QR code leads to a video of Tom talking about the book (could also have book trailer) or 10 second video of a kid talking about the book
 - Give them iPad from desk or they can use their phone to go through the binder
 - Can also put QR codes throughout the stacks

After Tom's presentation, Tabatha introduced Kylie Peters again, who lead the group in a program share. Many good ideas came from the program share. Programs included:

- Stress Beads and Calming Jars
- Cooking Program- No kitchen? Use toaster oven and pizza oven.
- Mystery bags with leftover supplies- Give them a theme like build bridge over water. Have kids compete against parents.
- Young Actors Workshop- Stations with a theme where they learn an acting skill. Try out play together and then parents are invited to see the performance. Also perform things they write themselves.
- Caudill Lunch Club- Go to school during lunch break, kids bring lunches and you bring cookies. They don't have to read the book because librarian book talks or has kids book talk if they've read it.
- Rescue Challenge- Like an escape room. Have missions that they have to achieve and each time they finish they get a puzzle piece. At the end they find out where the librarian that's been kidnapped is and they rescue him/her.
- Oregon Trail Life-size version- 4 stations like knot tying, etc.
- DIY Designs- Don't tell them what they are going to do until they walk in. Décor, accessories, jewelry, hand sewing, gender neutral projects.
- Oreo Taste Testing
- Chocolate Tasting- Watch a few scenes from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
- Food Taste testing as part of Final Four with brackets

- Hot Sauce taste testing/Scary Foods around Halloween- sardines, hot sauces, blue cheese, crickets, also gave pizza so they could top it or cleanse their palate. Then rate the foods.
- Make Ramen- Use hot water carafe. They can add toppings.

Lunch was pizza and salad from Zazzo's.

The program concluded at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Zauner, Secretary