

# 2020 Annual Report: Community Library Liaison

**Students at Hadfield Elementary's after-school program work together on an activity from the Social Emotional Learning Outreach Kit focusing on Mindfulness (February, 2020).**



2020 promised to be a year of continued momentum in the partnership between Waukesha Public Library and the School District of Waukesha. Large-scale efforts, such as all-school field trips and a collaborative project with Title I first grade classes, as well as programming targeted to special education and middle school students, were well underway.

The March pivot to virtual learning and limited Public Library services fundamentally changed the way both of our organizations addressed the needs of children and families in our community. Along with the myriad challenges we faced, we found new ways to meet children and families where they were, and to connect our community to vital library resources.

# JANUARY – MARCH/ ordinary time

- **Sensory story-times/library visits:**
  - Special education class from Les Paul Middle School visited the library weekly, alternating sensory story-time programs and using other resources at the library. Five story-time programs, 18 student contacts.
- **Horning Middle School "Library Lunch Bunch:"**
  - CLL and Teen Librarian facilitated biweekly lunch-hour programming, including board games and Valentine cookie decorating. 86 student contacts at two CLL-led programs.
- **Book discussions at Lowell Elementary:**
  - Twelve fifth-grade students participated in two book discussions.
- **National Read-Aloud Day at Heyer Elementary:**
  - Read to 45 students in two classrooms.
- **Meadowbrook Elementary Literacy Night:**
  - Shared information about library programming and library card registration with 22 children and 16 adults.
- **Giggly Hugs after-school programs at Hadfield and Whittier Elementary Schools:**
  - Biweekly visits to drop off books and offer read-alouds and activities; had 154 student contacts.
- **Heyer Elementary all-school field trip:**
  - 380 students attended; 210 received library cards.
- **First Grade Book Buddies:**
  - Worked with Trish Goodspeed, Title 1 coordinator, and Malena Koplin, school librarian, to plan grant-funded field trips to library for Title 1 first graders. Prior to school/library closure, 188 students visited the Public Library.
- **Launched school van delivery and pick-up service:**
  - Twice-weekly pick-ups allowed the Public Library and schools to conveniently share resources.

**26 events, 905 student contacts**

# MARCH-AUGUST/ pivot to virtual learning & programming

- **School District of Waukesha shifted to virtual learning and Waukesha Public Library temporarily closed as of March 16.**
- **First Grade Book Buddies project suspended:**
  - DPI extended deadline into 2020-2021 school year. Library cards delivered to schools that cancelled field trips.
- **Created and shared follow-up read-aloud video with Title I first grade classes.**
- **Created screencast video outlining Public Library resources and shared with School District.**
- **Heyer High-Interest Day shifted to virtual event:**
  - Created and shared instructional baking video.
- **Waukesha Public Library shared video promoting Summer Reading Club, in place of spring school visits.**
- **Remained in contact with elementary principals and School District librarians, planned and implemented visits to six lunch distribution sites:**
  - Distributed books and literacy-based activity packets; books purchased with donation funds and donated from Friends of Waukesha Public Library used book sale. Visited each site twice.
- **Participated in Whittier Drive-Through Open House:**
  - Distributed activity packets and library flyers, and had socially-distanced contact with students and family members.

**13 events, 711  
student/parent  
contacts.  
Distributed 942 activity  
packets & 515 books.**



# SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER/ staying connected

- **Hadfield after-school program:**
  - Visited weekly when weather allowed; dropped off books for rotating classroom library, did read-alouds, left activity kits for students to complete with their leaders. Continued to drop off books biweekly after outdoor programming ended.
- **Contacted School District of Waukesha about re-starting van delivery.**
- **Coordinated library card registration for fifth grade class at Heyer Elementary.**
- **AVID video:**
  - Contacted AVID coordinator and worked with Teen Librarian to create screencast video highlighting Public Library resources for secondary students, including HelpNow live tutoring.
- **Title 1 guide and video:**
  - Revised resource guide and shared instructional screencast video with Title 1 coordinator and teachers.
- **Kids' Choice reading program:**
  - Created Kids' Choice introduction video and worked with Public Library staff to create book-talk videos to share with fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classes, in place of traditional classroom visits. Added Kids' Choice to Beanstack virtual reading programs.
- **Created Diverse Book Talk videos for Public Library programming and shared with Demetri Beekman, Director of Equity.**
- **Launched virtual programming for special education students:**
  - Coordinated WebEx biweekly read-aloud program with two special education classes at Waukesha South High School.
- **Connected with Nancy Roncke, Horning Middle School Literacy Instructional Coach, and participated in intergenerational book discussion.**



# GRANTS

- **Connect and Create Grant (awarded 11/19, administered early 2020.) "Social Emotional Learning Outreach Kits," \$980.00:**
  - Purchased materials for five outreach kits, each focusing on one area of SEL: Mindfulness, Self-Awareness, Empathy, Managing Emotions, and Decision Making. Each kit included six read-aloud books (three aimed at K4- grade 2, three aimed at grades 3-6), two games incorporating the social-emotional skill, writing/discussion prompts, and directions for other activities. Each kit is contained in a large canvas tote bag, and is available for Public Library staff doing outreach activities.
- **Public Library/Public School LSTA Grant (awarded 1/23, project partially administered March 2020, anticipated continuation March 2021.) "First Grade Book Buddies," \$4654.00:**
  - Partnered with Trish Goodspeed, School District of Waukesha Title I Coordinator, and Malena Koplin, School District librarian, to plan Public Library field trips for first grade classes at six Title I schools. Participants had opportunity to sign up for library cards prior to field trip. On visit, first graders listened to story-time featuring diverse books and toured the library. Students received a book bag with First Grade Book Buddies logo, and "passport" that would be punched when they visited the library. After three visits, first graders would be able to choose a new book to keep.
  - Project suspended halfway through scheduled field trips due to school and Public Library closure. DPI extended grant into 2020-2021 school year, providing additional funding to include entire 2020-2021 Title 1 first grade cohort. Project will likely need to pivot to virtual field trip to complete project this spring and include virtual learners.
- **East Asia in Wisconsin Grant (awarded 11/6, project will be administered January through March 2021.) "Virtual Book Discussions," \$473.00:**
  - Facilitating three virtual book discussions for fourth- and fifth-graders at Title I elementary schools. Students will receive three books to keep, along with an activity connected to each book, and will participate in book discussions via WebEx.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Continuing WebEx story-times for special education classes- exploring opportunities to expand to other schools.**
- **Contacting schools to make final Kids' Choice push:**
  - Will share information about online voting.
- **"East Asia in Wisconsin" virtual book discussions:**
  - Sending books and activities to 15 participants, facilitating discussions beginning in February.
- **Collaborating with Nancy Roncke, Literacy Instructional Coach at Horning Middle School:**
  - Participating in intergenerational book discussion.
  - Creating screencast video sharing list of discussion read-alikes, and demonstrating how students can access books on Hoopla and Overdrive.
  - With Teen Librarian, participating in and helping promote virtual authors event.
- **Restarting First Grade Book Buddies project:**
  - Likely using virtual format - will record library "tour," schedule live story time featuring diverse books via WebEx.
- **Coordinating Summer Reading Program school visits:**
  - If library staff cannot visit schools, we will explore scheduling virtual visits using WebEx.
- **Participating in Project READY, Reimagining Equity and Access for Diverse Youth:**
  - Meeting biweekly with cohort of public and school librarians from across the state, reading about and reflecting upon issues of race and equity in youth library services.
- **Scheduling outdoor visits with after-school programs, depending on weather and School District/Public Library guidelines.**
- **Connecting with School District of Waukesha to restart van delivery service:**
  - Materials for First Grade Book Buddies and virtual book discussions need to be sent to and from schools - visitors not currently allowed in buildings.
- **Participating in Les Paul Middle School cafeteria naming committee.**