

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Teen Space News

When the middle school has early dismissal on Wednesdays, the library offers a craft or activity in the afternoon. For patrons who do not attend public school, these programs are usually designed to accommodate late arrivals. Please stop in and join the fun.

In October, the library hosted four Wednesday afternoon events geared for students in grades 6-12 with an average attendance of 16 tweens and teens.

The first event was a visit from Mindy Vyhnaek with the Extension Office. Teens made nutritious tortilla wraps with savory and sweet ingredients and examined the cost of popular prepackaged lunches that include meat, cheese, and crackers.

The following Wednesday, teens made roses and wallets out of duct tape. Duct tape crafts are very popular with young people. If there's a teen in your life who is difficult to buy for, try giving them a roll or two of neon or patterned duct tape. Visit the library and check out, "Stick It! 99 D.I.Y. Duct Tape Projects" by T.L. Bonaddio, or "The Kids' Guide to Duct Tape Projects" by Sheri Bell-Rehwoldt for craft ideas.

Later in the month, Jill Goedeken from the Extension Office brought several laptops and showed patrons a program called "Career Explorer." In this application, patrons selected how much education they planned to complete. They chose different employment options and learned the average earnings for different jobs. A budgeting portion of the program listed monthly expenses and illustrated just how far their earnings would (or wouldn't) stretch.

On Halloween, teens enjoyed popcorn and a spooky movie in the auditorium. Not everyone got to stay to see what happened to Frankenstein and his bride, but it was fun to have something to do between the end of the school day and the beginning of the evening's festivities.

November is packed with fun, too. The first week, I showed after school visitors how to create simple pop-up books. We had so much fun with this that some patrons made two books and the program ran well past its scheduled stop time.

As I write this, we're preparing to welcome Mr. H. into the teen space for the afternoon to show us how to make balloon animals. I anticipate lots of popping, screaming, and laughing.

Patrons who visit the Wednesday before Thanksgiving can play board games with other library visitors. We should be able to play a few rounds of Apples to Apples or UNO before we break for the holiday.

At the end of the month, I will demonstrate how to knit without needles. Teens will be able to make a scarf for themselves or a friend, and should be able to recreate the process on their own once they have seen how it is done.

In addition to the fun we have after school, the library offers a book club for students in grades 9-12. Our next meeting is Sunday, November 18 at 3pm at the library. We will discuss "The

Graveyard Book” by Neil Gaiman and “The Dangerous Days of Daniel X” by James Patterson. If you’re a high school student who has read one or both or even neither of these, you are welcome to join us and see what this club is all about.

Teen event calendars are posted near the elevator on the second floor and in the teen space lounge. Events are also posted on the library’s calendar at www.columbusne.us/library and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/columbuspubliclibrary.