

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

### A Busy Year in the Teen Space

As the school year winds down and the library switches gears to run summer programs, it's nice to take a moment and remember the fun we have had here in the teen space.

Our high school book club started this year and we're finding our footing, though with everyone's busy schedules, we have to be flexible with the days we meet. We usually meet on a Sunday afternoon at 3:00. High school students who'd like to participate in a friendly, fun, and sometimes off-topic book club are encouraged to contact the library. I'll make sure you get a book and know what day we're meeting.

The library also hosted regular programming that coincided with Columbus Public Schools' early release schedule on Wednesdays. When the middle school dismissed at 2:35, young people could meet their friends at the library and participate in an activity.

One of our regular after school visitors, Lily Sherman, age 12, agreed to write about her experience at CPL this school year. She talked to some of the other young adult patrons in the library while she was writing down her memories and I enjoyed listening to what they remembered. I have Lily's permission to share what she's written with you.

Lily says, "At the teen space, I love to hang out with my friends. On Wednesdays we do fun activities such as "Dream Rocket Project" and cookie frosting. These give the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade something to do on Wednesday. Other days we just hang out, talk and laugh. The teen space is a safe and fun environment."

"My two friends Claire and Miya love to talk, laugh, and hang out. Claire finishes her homework, does activities, and loves to make her friends laugh. I like to hang out with Miya and Claire and Rachelle and do the activities. Reagan likes to do her homework and hang out with friends she never sees. Miya likes to finish her homework and do some activities. Thea likes to finish her homework."

Lily also recalled some of the crafts we've done with duct tape. One afternoon we used Van Gogh's "Starry Night" as inspiration for our own watercolor paintings. Other after school activities included making ice cream and Minecraft papercrafts.

"... and one time on a Saturday we splatter painted the walls in the teen space," Lily writes.

Lily is one of several new young adults who have a new library card. She says, "When I got a library card it was better to leave with books I enjoy."

The after school activities will wrap up in May with pin-back button making and a scavenger hunt.

If you have questions about young adult programs, please contact Rachelle at 402-562-4201. To see the Dream Rocket Project Lily referred to, visit the teen space through April 30 to see an exhibit of art from CPL patrons and people around the world.