

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

### Thankful for Young Adult Patrons at the Library

The week before Thanksgiving, I invited Teen Space visitors to write down what they were thankful for and post it on a "wall of thanks." This is a heartwarming thing to do at this time of year and it was fun to see what they say.

"I am thankful for food."

"I am thankful for my parents."

"I am thankful for life."

"My family and my homies because they're the real MVPs."

I am thankful I have a super fun job that challenges and inspires me in new ways. In the last three months at the library, I have had fun crafting and learning alongside our community's young people.

In September, we made bread in a Ziploc bag, crafted and raced robots made out of toothbrushes, and explored the art of stop motion animation. In October, teens made cool bracelets out of safety pins and hundreds of tiny beads. We made hideously healthy veggie monsters out of small pumpkins, loads of fresh veggies, and cheese cubes.

Michael Fitzsimmons, a musician from the Omaha area, kicked off our activities in November. He shared several unique instruments with us and filled the teen space with his original music. After his performance, he led our young adult patrons through several drumming activities. More than thirty young people played homemade drums together.

In the weeks that followed that exciting event, after school visitors decorated and made their own drums out of wooden frames and packing tape. They also made simple thumb pianos out of small tins, craft sticks and hair pins.

The coming weeks are full of fun, too. On December 10, patrons in grades 6-12 are welcome to drop by after 3PM to make last minute gifts for either themselves or family and friends using our collection of boredom buster activity boxes.

Young adults who would like to make a gingerbread house on December 17 at 3PM should visit the Teen Space and sign up on the registration sheet near my office. This was a fun and yummy event last year, using graham crackers and a variety of candies to construct wintery retreats.

Know a young person who can't make it to the library on Wednesdays to join the fun? Let them know about our winter break programs! For the third year in a row, CPL will offer two events for patrons in grades 6-12 when school is out. On Monday, December 29, young adults are invited to bring their bean bags, pillows and blankets to the library at 10AM for a movie marathon. We will watch three movies that day. Popcorn and lunch will be provided. Some movies may be PG-13. Please visit the Teen Space or call the library for specific titles and rating information.

On Monday, January 5, we will once again read-in the New Year from 10AM – 3PM. Wear comfy clothes, bring those pillows and blankets back to the library, and curl up with a good book in the Teen Space. Quiet crafts will be available for those who need a break. Snacks will be available throughout the day and lunch will be provided.

Thank you for sharing your young people with me, Columbus. It is a privilege to work with these thoughtful, funny, and energetic people. If you have questions about young adult events or how to support teen programming, please call me at 402-562-4201 or stop by the library.