

Youth Services Monthly Report for April 2020

From: Joshua Carlson

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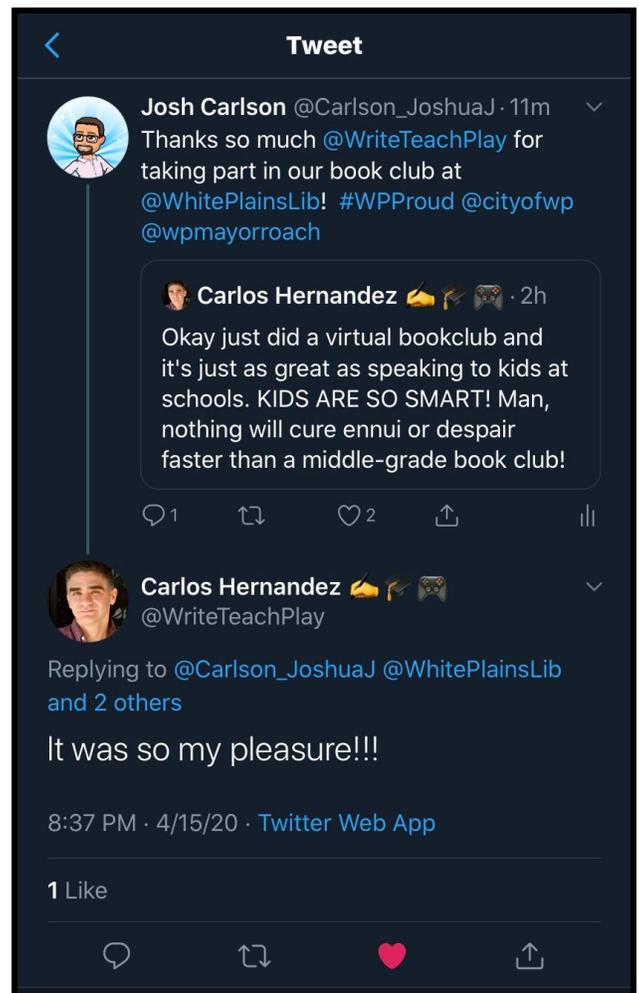
Working from home continued. Virtual program offerings in April were well received.

Trove staff offered **Virtual Storytimes** on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Tuesday evenings.



Among programs that had been scheduled in-house, but became virtual were **Life Skills for Teens** and **Mindfulness for Teens**. Erik and Anett Barrett offered the Life Skills for Teens program. She covered a variety of topics including how to shake hands with someone, applying for a job, discerning fake news, table etiquette, finances, and decision making. The program included virtual activities involving the best course of action for different situations, videos and a short discussion. During the virtual Mindfulness for Teens session on April 8, a small group of teens gathered online for an hour of mindfulness practice. Cristina Ortiz led the teens in breathing exercises, shared information about the impact of breathing on body and mind, and helped the teens create their own positive mantras.

Another program that has transitioned into the virtual realm is Book Bunch, the Trove's book discussion for upper elementary and middle school students, lead by Ashley and Deb. Author Carlos Hernandez comments on Twitter following his appearance at April 15 **Virtual Book Bunch**. The group discussed his Pura Belpre Author Award winning, *Sal & Gabi Break the Universe*. Ashley noted, "We were so lucky that the author joined to discuss his book with us and to answer any questions we had! The kids really liked talking with him as well as his book! The children rated the book either 4, 4.9, or 5 out of 5!"



Dungeons & Dragons for Teens may be working even better in the virtual sphere than it was in-person in the Edge. Part-time Staff member Ben runs the program, with Josh overseeing and helping out, using two phenomenal online tools - Roll20 and Discord. Between the two pieces of software, the seven teen participants are able to view maps, see rooms, hear the sounds the fantasy settings, and easily make use of the various resources their characters have. It's been a lot of fun and will be continuing virtually through June!

Raquel offered a **Virtual Outreach Storytime** for families in the WJCS ParentChild+ program. Their annual in-library visit had been scheduled during the Week of the Young Child in April, and we were very happy to be able to still provide them a program virtually. Jessica, of WJCS, responded following the program:

Today's virtual story time was wonderful. It really brightened up a rainy day of social isolation for our ParentChild+ families. The White Plains Public Library has been an amazing resource during this Covid-19 crisis. Families with young children truly appreciate all of the virtual programming you have available. You are an inspiration to all of us who are trying to regroup and continue to serve families in need in Westchester in new and creative ways. Thank you for everything you do!

We are actively organizing more virtual outreach events, including story programs for White Plains School classes in May.

What's the Story? eNewsletter: The youth and family newsletter is still coming out on a weekly basis. See the archive of content, or subscribe, here: <https://whiteplainslibrary.org/newsletter/>. Josh has received some responses to the newsletter, including images for the *Documenting COVID-19: White Plains Experiences* project, as well as reference and readers advisory help. One such request came from a school-based physical therapist looking for ebooks to support movement and physical activity. Trove staff responded, and we purchased some titles to create this list: <https://whiteplainslibrary.org/2020/04/books-to-get-moving/>.

Daddy-Daughter Storytime: Josh and his daughter are recording read-alouds of picture books, and they are being posted each Tuesday and Thursday to YouTube and as blog posts: <https://bit.ly/wpplDDSTall>. Daddy-Daughter Storytime videos have received 150 views on YouTube and since March the blog posts have been viewed a total of

Erik streamed video throughout the month of April on Instagram and Facebook a variety of **video content for teens:** His videos include "Joke of the Day," "Riddle of the Day," Read Alouds," and weekly crafts at home. The craft videos are based on using materials you can find around your home, improvisation is encouraged. Erik made a lava lamp, beauty products, a small dish, and a Minion character using a toilet paper roll. More information here; <https://bit.ly/wpplEdgevideos>. Some of his videos have been the most engaged posts on our Facebook account, with many views and likes.

Viewership of our video content is increasing. On YouTube, we saw 86% increase in viewership from March - with 681 views and 418 unique viewers. Our most popular playlist was "Trove Virtual Storytimes" and the first storytime video with Ashley had 83 views. As mentioned above, Daddy-Daughter Storytime videos had 150 views.

We keep seeing good traffic to our **blog posts on the website**. Staff have been working hard on creating a wide variety of content - from ebook recommendations, to STEAM at Home projects, to parenting resources, to celebrations and observances of holidays and events, and more. Some of the most popular posts were

 **Cairenn**
@cairennoid

Replying to @Carlson_JoshuaJ @WhitePlainsLib and 5 others

Libraries do indeed ROCK



11:10 PM · 4/29/20 · Twitter for iPhone

 **Tweet**

 **Cayne Letizia**
@CayneLetizia

Exactly @KateScorza ! The @WhitePlainsLib & their twitter engaged staff has been an invaluable resource to the @cityofwp & @wplainsschools during this pandemic as a constant & reliable source of all things literacy, social emotional & mental health, & entertainment!

 **Kate Scorza Ingram** @KateScorza · 4/23/20
It's #NationalLibraryWeek - celebrate the places that house large numbers of arts events all over the country. We miss you @WhitePlainsLib! #TheArtsMatter

10:49 AM · 4/24/20 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets 9 Likes

Peter H. Reynolds liked your Tweet

Huge fan of @peterhreynolds. If you need some positivity today, check him out at 12pmEST. And, my #DaddyDaughter #Storytime with The Word Collector! bit.ly/wplDDST7

A couple of comments from staff:

Kathlyn:

I read about, experimented with, and discussed fabric masks extensively as guidelines changed many times. I found the sheer amount of information overwhelming, so I created a post where I really tried to curate the information to avoid recreating that stress for patrons. I went to the library to pick up our sewing machines, along with fabric, scissors, thread, wire, and other mask-making materials. I met with a representative from the Hastings-on-Hudson Mask Project to lend a couple of our machines and gave her some fabric as well. It was inspiring to see people pulling together to protect essential workers during this time, and I was so pleased that we could help support that effort. Kathlyn's post on DIY Masks: <https://whiteplainslibrary.org/2020/04/diy-masks-and-faq/>

Raquel:

One of my main goals has been to purchase materials for OverDrive/Libby that are not available on Hoopla and grow that collection to bring more copies of bestseller Children's materials and greater diversity to the collection to better reflect the White Plains community as a whole. With those goals in mind, I have purchased bestsellers, summer reading titles, books in Spanish, books on Ramadan, Cinco de Mayo, diverse Mother's Day titles, books about children with autism, and books to celebrate the heritage of many such as books for Jewish American Heritage Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Haitian Heritage Month. I have also started planning for June celebrations by purchasing materials for Juneteenth, and Pride Month. Going hand-in-hand with purchasing these materials, I have written several blogs and virtual book display blogs to highlight these purchases, and the materials available on Hoopla for the newsletter, and I have also been creating virtual displays on OverDrive/Libby highlighting these. On OverDrive/Libby, I have highlighted titles that provide materials for April as National Poetry Month, National Autism Awareness and Appreciation Month, Earth Day, Ramadan, and Cinco de Mayo. I have also put together OverDrive/Libby virtual displays for May events which I will be publishing shortly such as Jewish American Heritage Month, Haitian Heritage Month, Asian Pacific American Month and Mother's Day. My displays seem to be appreciated as I have noticed many of the items have holds on them after I publish the virtual displays.