Youth Services Monthly Report for May 2020
From: Joshua Carlson    Date: June 3, 2020

Working from home and virtual programs continued. Staff continued creating an abundance of content for the website. I urge everyone to check out the wide variety and scope of blog posts put up throughout May. https://whiteplainslibrary.org/blog/ From reading lists, to STEAM projects, to promoting virtual programs, and much more, YS Staff have really risen to the occasion to create digital content. In addition to website content and running virtual programs, YS Staff took part in numerous other activities. Some highlights:

**Ashley**
Ran virtual programs including Virtual Board Gaming on Board Game Arena with Erik, two Virtual Book Groups for upper elementary / middle school students with Deb featuring the books *Flora & Ulysses* and *Dragon Pearl*, and virtual storytimes; Planned for summer Virtual Book Discussions featuring author visits by Thomas Taylor and Daniel Isenberg; Zoom host for several programs; website content including Dive into Diversity posts, audiobook recommendations, and on a variety of celebrations and observances; Attended virtual meetings including Battle of the Books, NYLA YSS, ReadSquared training, Evanced training, and planning Summer Reading Game with Lauren and Kathlyn; and more.

**Austin**
Ran virtual programs for parents and caregivers, such as Free Digital Services During the Pandemic; Ran virtual programs for kids and teens, such as Minecraft, Roblox and Chess Live Streams, Designed a Virtual World in Roblox for hosting virtual meetup events for teens; and more

**Caroline**
Ran virtual programs including Virtual Storytimes, Open Mic, and Family Wellness; blog posts focusing on STEAM at Home, and celebrations and observances; Zoom hosted several events; reached out to a few presenters for performances over the summer; and more.

**Erik**
Attended several sessions of the Virtual Maker Faire, including demonstrations for some fun at home projects the Library can do with teens, such as making paper helicopters, paper kites and puppets and also attended sessions that covered teaching virtual programs; Attended Virtual Book Expo American programs, such as publisher announcements, a session on virtual collection development, and virtual reader’s advisory; Hosted a Zoom Career Panel webinar with Sebastian Oddo, who has a background in computer science, and Daniel Isenberg, an entertainment writer, and they discussed their career path that lead them to work at Octagon, a sports and entertainment management company based in Connecticut; Worked on Verisk supported Edge Virtual Summer STEAM Camps, including planning, conducting interviews with Josh, and job offers; Researched new 3D printers to replace ones donated to support local medical face mask production; Ran virtual programs, Hosted Zoom events; and more.

**Josh**
Daily Department Heads meetings; Weekly YS Staff meetings; Weekly newsletter content; Blog posts; Daddy-Daughter Storytime videos and blog posts; Summer Reading program - booking performers and programs, coordinating reading lists with schools; Interviewed applicants for Edge Virtual Summer Camps with Erik; Organized
STEAM Camps in August for grades 4-6 supported by ConEd; Social media; Organizing programs for June; Meetings with school officials; Planning for returning to building and eventual reopening including staffing and phased reopening for YS spaces; Weekly Friday afternoon Dungeons & Dragons for Teens programs; Two author visits with an astronomer; Various other meetings; Attended webinars; In-Library meetings on reopening and safety plans; Worked on Documenting COVID-19: White Plains Experiences project through promotion on social media and to educators and administrators in the schools, and worked on prompts and ideas to solicit submissions; and more.

Kathlyn
Attended meetings: Battle of the Books, ReadSquared training, WP Schools Media Specialists, Edge Reopening, planning for returning to building, and others; ran programs: Mindfulness for All; Virtual Book Club for Teens with Lauren; Zoom Host for ten programs; blog posts; attended webinar: Incubating Creativity at Your Library; planned summer programs; worked on Summer Reading Game planning with Ashley and Lauren; collection development of ebooks, especially summer reading titles in conjunction with media specialists; completed NYS Contact Tracing course; and more.

Lauren
Ran Virtual Storytimes, Virtual Book Club for Teens with Kathlyn which read Truly Devious; Recorded elementary read-aloud videos; Created blog posts on caregivers and parenting, sensory needs, and children with special needs; Worked on next elementary read-aloud, Summer Reading Game planning with Ashley and Kathlyn, planning summer Virtual Teen Book Club series with Kathlyn in conjunction with the school media specialists; and more.

Raquel
Conducted Virtual Storytime for several 2nd Grade classes from White Plains schools; Worked on Summer Reading lists to make sure we have ebook copies and updated; Collection development for ebooks, including increasing Spanish and Bilingual titles; Blog posts for celebrations and observances, reading lists and virtual book displays, Ran programs including several Virtual Storytimes;

Tata
Ran virtual programs including four Virtual Storytimes and a Virtual Socialization; worked on blog posts for celebrations and observances, as well as Bilingual Picture Books; Attended webinar on Hands Free Storytime; Attended all-day Virtual Storytelling Conference; Assisted with translations for the website; and more.