

## **April 2025 Children's Department Report**

### **Children's Programming Highlights**

**Easter Eggstravaganza** was a success once again, hosting 123 patrons for pictures with the Easter Bunny (played by our TAB member Bella Davidson), crafts, and a scavenger hunt.

**LEGO Club** has been so successful (with 62 participants this month) so we started a separate **Teen LEGO Club**. With 9 attendees at its first meeting, it was well accepted and they are looking forward to it next month.

To celebrate **National Library Week**, we gave our youngest patrons the opportunity to be a Mini-Librarian. When they visited the library on April 12<sup>th</sup>, they grabbed a time card and punched in to start their training. They were given a nametag and learned how to organize books by Dewey Decimal, process books with barcode and spine labels, host their own story time, and sat at the circulation desk to check-out their own books. When all was done, they punched out for the day and took home a certificate of completion. I'd like to thank Angela for helping me put this program together. The families really enjoyed the day!

### **Day of Advocacy at the Indiana Statehouse**

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, five of us (Laura, Christina, Angela, Ashley, and I) traveled to the Indiana Statehouse to advocate for libraries and show our support during deliberations on HB1001 and SB1. While I can't speak for everyone, I personally found the experience incredibly powerful. It was invigorating to be surrounded by so many passionate advocates who truly believe in the importance of libraries and what they represent for our communities.

We participated in a peaceful protest inside the Statehouse and remained there throughout the day, staying as long as we could to observe the proceedings. Although the voting was postponed multiple times—likely in an attempt to reduce the size of the crowd—we stayed until around 6:00 p.m. and were back in Whiting just after 8pm. I continued watching the live vote at home, where I learned that SB1 had passed just after midnight.

While at the Statehouse, we handed out letters to senators that highlighted the critical role our library plays in the community and the potential impact that funding cuts could have on our patrons. I was also interviewed by the *Indy Star*, which helped further amplify our message (yay WPL!). That article is attached.

In all, it was a meaningful and impactful day. We were able to give our library some valuable exposure and stand in solidarity with our peers across the state. It was well worth the trip.

### **Indiana Library Passport Program**

Whiting Public Library is now part of the Indiana Library Passport program! I saw the opportunity in the Wednesday Word (a weekly email from the state library) and contacted them to put us on the list. Users who visit participating libraries will be entered into a drawing for a prize package. Prizes include restaurant gift cards, movie tickets, historical tour tickets, Indiana State Parks passes, restaurant gift certificates and more! What's better than visiting libraries and winning prizes? Sign up for the passport by scanning the QR code below or visiting the Indiana Library Passport website:

<https://passport.library.in.gov/>

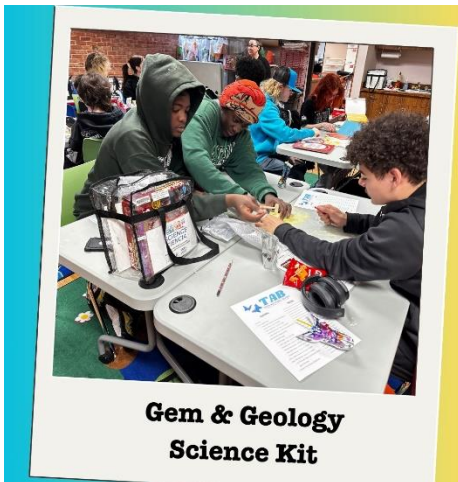
### **Upcoming Partnership**

I reached out to the Oilmen President & CEO, Don Popravak, about sponsoring free tickets to take the Teen Advisory Board to a game as a thank you for volunteering throughout the school year. Our continued conversation led to a **June 18<sup>th</sup> Library Night at Oil City Stadium** to celebrate literacy and highlight the library. As more details become available about the event, I will share them. In the meantime, pencil it in your calendar to join us for an evening of baseball!

**Children's Program Attendance**

Date	Children's In-Person Programming Attendance	Ages 0-5	Ages 6-11	YA	GA
4/1/25	Night Owls		11		
4/2/25	Preschool Storytime	14			
4/2/25	Teen Advisory Board			18	
4/4/25	Little Explorers	19			
4/5/25	Easter Eggstravaganza				123
4/8/25	Family Bingo				31
4/9/25	Preschool Storytime	23			
4/9/25	LEGO Club		62		
4/10/25	Tween/Teen Makers			19	
4/11/25	Itty Bitty Storytime	11			
4/12/25	Be a Mini-Librarian		30		
4/15/25	Teen Lego Club			9	
4/15/25	Easter Cookie Decorating				31
4/16/25	Preschool Storytime	14			
4/16/25	Wheelie Wednesday		19		
4/22/25	Pride Social Club			3	
4/23/25	Preschool Storytime	17			
4/23/25	Barbie Club		10		
4/24/25	Gutsy Gourmet		40		
4/25/25	Itty Bitty Storytime	12			
4/25/25	Teen Anime			0	
4/29/25	Sticker Swap		8		
4/30/25	Preschool Storytime	15			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>185</b>

**Teen Advisory Board:** This month, they played with and reviewed our STEAM kits that are available in the Children's Department. Their favorites were the Human Body Experience, ALL of the engineering kits, and the gemstone discovery.



**Gutsy Gourmet:** This month was all things SOUR! They made their way through 7 different sour candies and drinks. So much fun!!





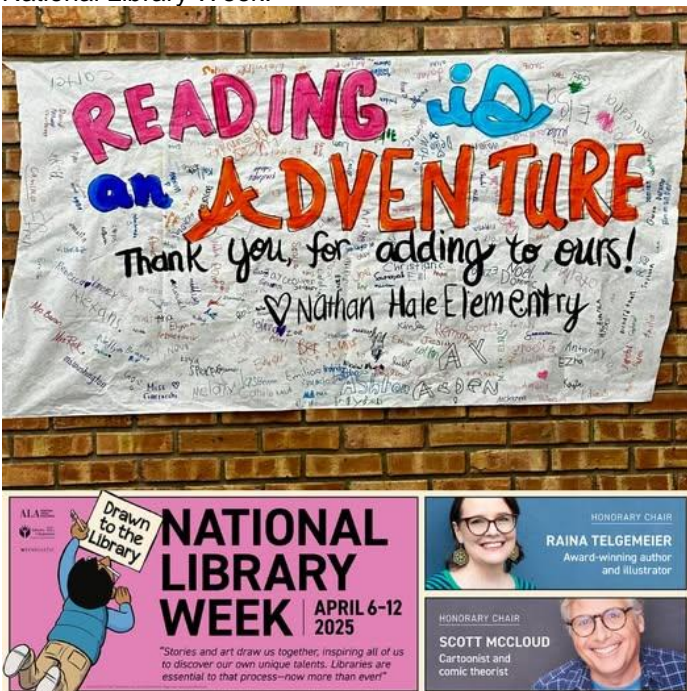
**Family Bingo:** This month we turned the lights down low, got out our party lights and turned the Children's Department into a DISCO!



### Easter Eggstravaganza



**National Library Week:** Nathan Hale librarian Mrs. Holland brought us a banner to hang in the Children's Department, signed by teachers and students! And the Carrillo family, regular patrons of Storytime brought the staff pizza to enjoy for National Library Week.





## Library Passport:



Make sure to sign up for Indiana Library Passport & Check-In on your next visit! You could win a prize!



Coming up in May:

# WHITING PUBLIC LIBRARY

## CHILDREN + FAMILY PROGRAMMING

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

GET CAUGHT READING + PHOTOGRAPHY MONTH!

Take a photo reading in your favorite spot and post or share with the library

1

2

10am: Little Explorers  
18m - Preschool w/ adult

3

4

5

6

6pm: Night Owls Story Time

7

10am: Preschool Storytime  
2:30pm: Teen Advisory Board  
Must be a registered T.A.B. member, gr. 7-12

8

3:15pm: Tween/Teen Makers; Essential Oil Blends & Lip Balm

9

10am: Itty Bitty Storytime

10

10am: Craft at Wolf Lake Greenhouse

11

12

3:15pm: Creativity Club DIY Sidewalk Chalk

13

6pm: Family BIRTHDAY BINGO  
Happy Birthday Ms. Ashley!

14

10am: Preschool Storytime  
2:30pm: Lego Club

15

16

Ms. Adrienne's Graduation Day!  
10am: Little Explorers  
18m - Preschool w/ adult

17

18

19

20

3:15pm: Teen Lego Club  
6pm: Knit & Crochet Meetup

21

10am: Preschool Storytime  
2:30pm: Wheelie Wednesday

22

3pm: Gutsy Gourmet (8th-12th Grade) registration required

23

10am: Itty Bitty Storytime  
3pm: Teen Anime (7th-12th Grade)

24

11am: Storytime with Award Winning Author Rebecca Mullin

25

26

LIBRARY CLOSED

Memorial Day

27

6pm: STEAM SQUAD  
6pm: Pride Social Club (7th-12th gr)

28

10am: Preschool Storytime  
2:30pm: Barbie Club

29

30

6pm-8pm: Teen NERF Wars! 6-10 Grade registration & waiver required

31

2pm: Chocolate Bingo

[www.whiting.lib.in.us](http://www.whiting.lib.in.us) | 
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# IndyStar.

## Library workers push back against SB 1, say services to kids could be cut

Caroline Beck

Library workers from the Whiting Public Library in Northwest Indiana came to the Statehouse on Monday to also push back against SB 1, saying that the cuts proposed under the bill would be devastating to the one branch that serves their town of around 5,000.

Adrienne DeLuna, who works at the Whiting Public Library branch said that they see about 25 to 50 students in their library every day as a safe place for them to go after school while their parents are still at work.

“We could lose staff to be able to support those kids, and they don’t have anywhere else to go,” DeLuna told IndyStar. “We’re their adults and we are their safe place.”



Over the next three years, the Whiting Public Library would lose over \$340,000 under [the latest version of SB 1](#).

Deb Lambert, chief collection management officer for Indianapolis Public Library, said that the impact that SB 1 will have on libraries will impact the amount of services they are able to provide from work force development to youth literacy.

“Schools have a very important role, but libraries also have a very important role in making our community knowledgeable in order to live their lives,” Lambert told IndyStar.

IndyPL would lose around \$3 million in the next two years under the latest version of SB 1 but then would gain around \$2.2 million in the 2028 calendar year.

Beck, C. (2025). *Library workers push back against SB1, say services to kids could be cut*. Indy Star.

<https://www.indystar.com/live-story/news/local/2025/04/14/ista-protest-indiana-teachers-union-statehouse-property-tax-senate-bill-1/83078655007/#glc83086771007>