

February 2025 Children's Department Report

February may have been short, but it was packed with activity! We hosted **21 programs** this month, drawing a total of **402 attendees** across all events. Highlights included Take Your Child to the Library Day, Family Bingo, Gutsy Gourmet, Teen Advisory Board, and a Class Visit, all of which brought lots of excitement to the library. We also gave out 68 Grab & Go crafts throughout the month and our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program saw 1 new sign-up and one completed!

Take Your Child to the Library Day – Library Magic

We kicked off the month with Take Your Child to the Library Day, a national celebration promoting library visits for families. To mark the occasion, we hosted a magic show featuring Kalita the Magician, which drew **67 patrons** of all ages. Kalita's interactive performance was a huge hit, entertaining both children and adults alike. Due to the overwhelming positive response, we're already planning to bring him back for another show later this year!

Family Bingo – Dog Man Edition

February's Family Bingo night featured a Dog Man theme, inspired by the popular book series-turned-movie. **39 patrons** enjoyed rounds of bingo interspersed with fun activities, including DIY comic kits, Dog Man-themed games, and a snack of "dog food" (cereal). The excitement around the theme made for a lively and engaging evening.

Gutsy Gourmet – Exotic Jerky Taste Test

Our second Gutsy Gourmet session challenged **19 tweens and teens** to step outside their comfort zones with a blind taste test of 15 unique jerky flavors, including pork, beef, elk, ostrich, wild boar, and alligator. Participants rated each flavor before learning what they had actually eaten—leading to some surprising revelations! The event encouraged adventurous eating in a fun, interactive way and the kids could not get enough of it. Our next session is in April and will be all things sour!

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting

Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) continues to grow, with **26 active members** ranging from 8th to 12th grade. At this month's meeting, we discussed upcoming teen programming and brainstormed ways to boost teen participation in Summer Reading. After the discussion, members enjoyed a life-size Hungry Hungry Hippos game and a nacho bar. The energy and engagement of this group are inspiring, and their input is invaluable for shaping teen services at the library.

Class Visit – Nathan Hale 2nd Grade

On February 28th, we welcomed Nathan Hale's second-grade classes for a field trip to the library. Ashley read a story to the students before we led **60 students** in a scavenger hunt designed to teach them how to locate books. Working in pairs, they used slips of paper with book titles, call numbers, and shelving locations to find items throughout the children's department. Their reward was a treasure chest prize, but more importantly, they gained hands-on experience with book organization and library navigation. The teachers provided fantastic feedback, and we look forward to welcoming the class again next month!

We're excited to keep the momentum going as we head into spring!

Children's Program Attendance

Date	Children's In-Person Programming Attendance	Ages 0-5	Ages 6-11	YA	GA
2/1/25	Take Your Child to the Library Day; Magic Show				67
2/4/25	Night Owls Storytime				
2/5/25	Preschool Storytime	11			
2/5/25	TAB Meeting			18	

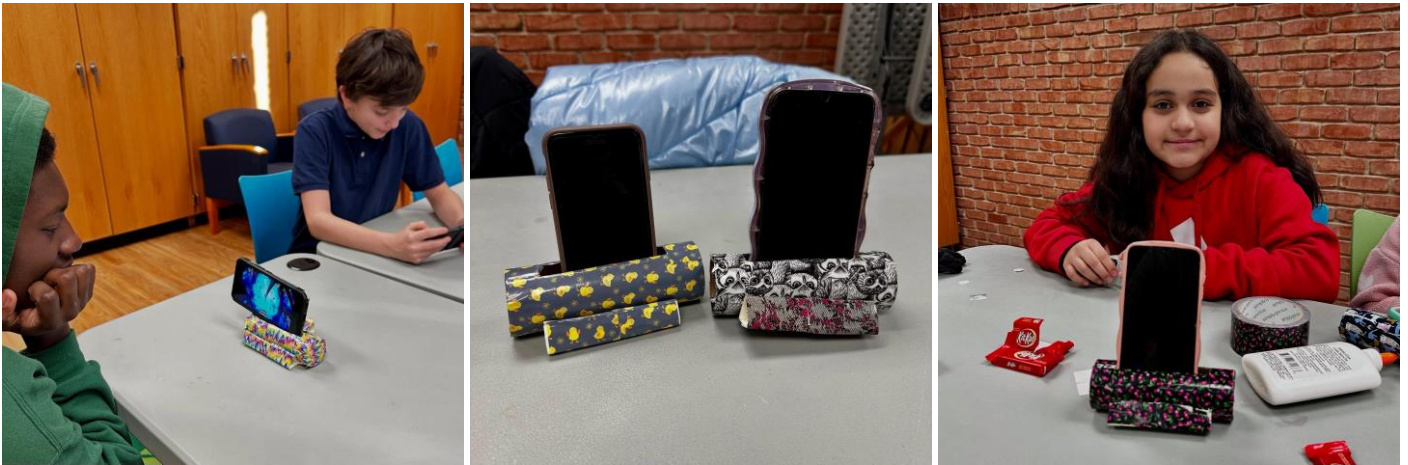
2/7/25	Little Explorers	14			
2/11/25	Family Bingo				39
2/12/25	Preschool Storytime	6			
2/12/25	Lego Club				4
2/13/25	Tween/Teen Makers; Phone Holder			18	
2/14/25	Itty Bitty Storytime	10			
2/19/25	Preschool Storytime	5			
2/19/25	Wheelie Wednesday		21		
2/21/25	Little Explorers	17			
2/24/25	Mind-Bender Monday		25		
2/25/25	Pride Social Club			2	
2/26/25	Preschool Storytime	21			
2/26/25	Barbie Club		14		
2/27/25	Gutsy Gourmet		19		
2/28/25	Itty Bitty Storytime	12			
2/28/25	Nathan Hale 2nd Grade Class Visit		60		
2/28/25	Teen Anime			19	
	Total	96	139	57	110

Library Magic:





Tween/Teen Makers: In February, teens made phone holders out of paper towel tubes and duct tape!



Family Bingo: Some pictures from our Dog Man themed bingo! Lots of winners, and a full house!





Preschool Storytime: It isn't often that I get an opportunity to do storytime, but this month Laurie trusted me to take it over when she couldn't be here. It was a lot of fun. We read the classic "Caps For Sale" and made caps to take home. The kids of course asked when Miss Laurie would be back (haha).



Social Media:

February was Library Lovers Month and we prompted patrons to leave messages to the librarians. Here is what our patrons had to say:

"Thank you for providing so many after school programs for our kids and their families to attend! Happy Valentine's Day!" -Lora S.

"Thank you, Miss Laurie, for storytime every Wednesday and to Ms Adrienne and Ms Ashley for making storytime great when Miss Laurie can't be there. We love coming every week! Ben and Peyton ❤️ Happy Valentines Day!! -Stella W.

"Thanks to all the staff @ WPL that make it the BEST around!!" -Lynn M.

"Thank you to all the staff at WPL. Especially to Ms Laurie, for over 30 years, I've been going to story time. At first with my kids, then with all the kids I've babysat through the years. You've always been a smiling, friendly face that welcomed everyone. Never once have I ever seen you not in a good mood. You're my favorite valentine librarian! Christine... and Juliana and Leah and Penny and Lucas and James and Evan and Maddie and Nora, etc..." -Christine S.

"Thank you for providing a safe space for all the kids after school. We are so blessed to have you all!" -Abigail J.

"Thank you for all you do! The kids absolutely love visiting!!" -Kim R.

I also jumped on the SuperBowl meme trend on social media posting these pictures that gained a lot of attention to the library accounts. It brought on quite a few new followers as well, and a few attended programs later in the month!



When you see your favorite Whiting Public Library librarian at the circulation desk



When you just saved hundreds of dollars by borrowing items from the Library of Things.



Ms Adrienne & Youth Services when the after-school crowd clears



Ms Ashley when she sees you checking out one of her book displays.



When you see your favorite Whiting Public Library librarian at the circulation desk



If you're not taking advantage of Whiting Public Library's free materials and services, you're Not Like Us.

Coming up in March:

WHITING PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHILDREN + FAMILY PROGRAMMING

MARCH 2025

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

DID YOU KNOW?

We have Phonics Reading Readiness kits? They include fun games, tools, and leveled books to make learning how to read FUN! Stop in and let us help you find all of the resources you need for your young reader!

<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6pm: Night Owls Story Time</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am: Preschool Storytime</p> <p>2:30pm: Teen Advisory Board</p> <p><small>Must be a registered T.A.B. member, gr. 7-12</small></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10am: Little Explorers</p> <p><small>18m - Preschool w/ adult</small></p>	<p>8</p>
<p>10</p> <p>3:15p: Creativity Club; The Art of Emily Kame Kngwarreye</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6pm: Family BINGO</p> <p><i>Feeling LUCKY</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>10am: Preschool Storytime</p> <p>2:30pm: Lego Club</p>	<p>13</p> <p>3:15pm: Tween/Teen Makers; Macrame Rainbow</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10am: Itty Bitty Storytime</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6pm: Knit & Crochet Meetup</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am: Preschool Storytime</p> <p>2:30pm: Wheelie Wednesday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am: Little Explorers</p> <p><small>18m - Preschool w/ adult</small></p> <p>6pm-8pm: NERF Wars!</p> <p><small>1st-4th Grade REGISTRATION & WAIVER REQUIRED</small></p>	<p>22</p>
<p>24</p> <p>3:15pm: Mind-Bender Monday</p>	<p>Library Closed for In-Service</p>			<p>28</p> <p>10am: Itty Bitty Storytime</p> <p>3p: Teen Anime</p> <p><small>(7th-12th Grade)</small></p>	<p>29</p> <p>64 days 'til Summer Reading!</p>

Carnival Games at the Library! Step right up to test your luck at various games set up in the Children's Department! All ages!

Night Owls Storytime: Get cozy in your pj's, grab your favorite stuffy, and head over for bedtime stories and crafts with Ms Laurie!

The Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.) Monthly membership meeting. You must be registered.

Creativity Club: Learn about new artists and methods after school with Ms Adrienne!

Family Bingo: Bring the family to the library for BINGO! Five rounds with prizes and activities! All Ages

Wheelie Wednesday: Build tracks and roads, race your friends! Grades K-5 *toys provided

Lego Club: Stop in to build with us! All Ages

Tween/Teen Makers: Kids in 6th grade+, stop in after school to make something fun!

Knit & Crochet Meetup: Kids of all ages can meet up at the library to work on projects together!

Little Explorers: Sensory Play for 18m-Preschool. Must be accompanied by an adult.

NERF Wars: It's back! 1st-4th grade. Registration & waiver are required.

Mind-Bender Monday: Trivia for kids in the Children's Department after school!

The library will be closed March 25-27th for staff in-service.

www.whiting.lib.in.us | 1735 Oliver St. Whiting, IN 46394 | 219-659-0269

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