

January 2025 Children's Department Report

Happy New Year! January was a fun month, as we freshened up our monthly calendar with new programming. We hosted **23** programs engaging **359** attendees! The new programs we introduced are: Creativity Club which blends the ideas of Art Club and Crafternoons into one. Wheelie Wednesday is a free-play and socialization program using Hot Wheels and other vehicles. Gutsy Gourmet allows kids to try and taste-test new foods and flavors. And finally, Mind-Bender Monday where we will get those brain cells working on trivia and other logic type puzzles. Below are the highlights of the month:

Life-Size Game Day

Families dropped in all day on Saturday, January 4th to play life-size versions of popular family games such as Sorry, Uno, Hungry Hippos, Jenga, Checkers, and Dominoes. Lots of laughter and fun, and we saw some new families stop in for this event!

Family Bingo

January's theme was Lunar New Year. In between bingo rounds, we learned how to use chopsticks, read our fortunes, and learned facts and traditions about Lunar New Year. This year is the year of the snake, and the kids also decorated wooden snakes to take home.

Gutsy Gourmet

A new program for 2025, we taste-tested 12 unique soda flavors ranging from Horchata and Coffee to Buffalo Wing and Mustard. It was as horrifying as it sounds and the kids loved every minute of it. We had a great turnout for the first one – **21!** Next month we're taste-testing different types of jerky.

Little Explorers

While not a new program, we are now hosting this program twice per month due to its popularity. Families were looking for more to do in town with their preschool aged children, so now we have something for them every Friday.

New Year Refresh

In addition to new programming, Angela and Ashley helped me with a weeding project that cleaned up the Young Adult books, purging those with little to no checkouts since 2019. This project opened up space for new materials to keep the selection fresh. It is now much easier to browse and more visually appealing. In addition to the cleanup, Angela changed the checkout parameters for new YA materials that allows them to transit to other libraries right away (instead of us limiting that for the first three months of circulation) to increase our circulation numbers. We immediately saw those books start to go out to different libraries!

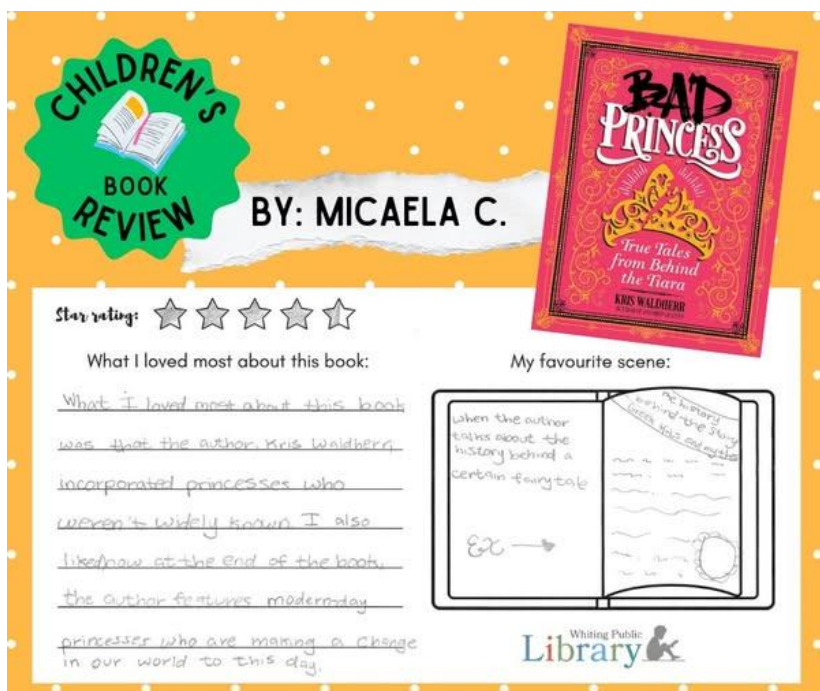
The children's department also received a refresh with a purge of uncirculated materials in the Picture Books location. I also went through the entire Non-Fiction section, pulling out all of the leveled readers. Shelves were then shifted to accommodate new materials and a new section I am very excited about! All of our Phonics and Leveled Readers now live across from the Early Chapter books, making an entire aisle dedicated to new and/or struggling readers. Browsing for these very particular materials will now be easier for families and make it easy for kids to find books that are the right level for their reading abilities. In doing so, we were also able to re-organize our STEAM kits to allow for better visibility. All of these changes will hopefully increase our circulation in the coming year. Stop in and check it out if you have a chance to do so!

Children's Program Attendance

Date	Children's In-Person Programming Attendance	Ages 0-5	Ages 6-11	YA	GA
1/3/25	Little Explorers	11			
1/4/25	Life-Size Game Day				37
1/7/25	Night Owls Storytime		15		
1/8/25	Preschool Storytime	12			
1/8/25	Lego Club		31		
1/9/25	Tween/Teen Makers; DIY Patches			19	

1/10/25	Itty Bitty Storytime	7			
1/13/25	Creativity Club; Stained Glass		23		
1/14/25	Family Bingo; Chinese New Year				28
1/15/25	Preschool Storytime	12			
1/15/25	Wheelie Wednesday		22		
1/17/25	Little Explorers	12			
1/18/25	Calumet College Class Visit				7
1/21/25	Knit & Crochet Meetup			2	
1/22/25	Preschool Storytime	8			
1/22/25	Barbie Club		2		
1/23/25	Gutsy Gourmet; Drinks		21		
1/24/25	Itty Bitty Storytime	12			
1/24/25	Teen Anime			21	
1/27/25	Mind-Bender Monday; Trivia		24		
1/28/25	Build Your Own Boardgame				21
1/28/25	Pride Social Club			3	
1/29/25	Preschool Storytime	9			
	Total	83	138	45	93

Book Reviews by Kids: On the back of every children's programming calendar, we've added a form where kids can review the books they have read. Here is one from January!



CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW BY: MICAELA C.

Star rating: ★★★★★

What I loved most about this book:

What I loved most about this book was that the author, Kris Waldherr, incorporated princesses who weren't widely known. I also liked how at the end of the book, the author features modern-day princesses who are making a change in our world to this day.

My favourite scene:

When the author talks about the history behind a certain fairy tale.

Library

Tween/Teen Makers: Tweens and teens made patches for their jackets and backpacks this month using fabric, paint, and safety pins!



Family Bingo: Some pictures from our Lunar New Year themed bingo!



Wheelie Wednesday: A new socialization program for elementary aged kids! Whiting schools release at 2:30 on Wednesdays so we made sure to plan programming each Wednesday that can accommodate the large crowds! In addition to this Wednesday program, Barbie Club, and Lego Club are also on Wednesdays.



Gutsy Gourmet: This month we tried different flavored sodas!



Teen Anime Club: They made Manga themed patches and enjoyed a popping boba bar while watching Anime cartoons!



DIY Board Game Night: Families stopped in to design their own board game! They received a blank board and various pieces and pawns to design their own game to take home.



Coming up in February:

WHITING PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHILDREN + FAMILY PROGRAMMING

HEARTS

FEBRUARY 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 3 4 6pm: Night Owls Story Time 5 10am: Preschool Storytime 2:30pm: Teen Advisory Board <small>Must be a registered T.A.B. member, gr. 7-12</small>	 11 6pm: Family BINGO 12 10am: Preschool Storytime 2:30pm: Lego Club 13 3:15pm: Tween/Teen Makers; DIY Phone Holder 14 10am: Itty Bitty Storytime	 22 2pm: Chocolate Bingo 24 3pm: Mind-Bender Monday 25 6pm: Pride Social Club (7th-12th gr) 26 10am: Preschool Storytime 2:30pm: Barbie Club 27 3pm: Gutsy Gourmet (6th-12th Grade) 28 10am: Itty Bitty Storytime 3pm: Teen Anime (7th-12th Grade)	 1 2pm: Magic Show: The Magic of Libraries! 4 6pm: Night Owls Story Time 5 10am: Preschool Storytime 2:30pm: Teen Advisory Board <small>Must be a registered T.A.B. member, gr. 7-12</small>	 1 2pm: Magic Show: The Magic of Libraries! 4 6pm: Night Owls Story Time 5 10am: Preschool Storytime 2:30pm: Teen Advisory Board <small>Must be a registered T.A.B. member, gr. 7-12</small>	 1 2pm: Magic Show: The Magic of Libraries! 4 6pm: Night Owls Story Time 5 10am: Preschool Storytime 2:30pm: Teen Advisory Board <small>Must be a registered T.A.B. member, gr. 7-12</small>

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Communications following the SLJ article:

I was contacted by Kym Kramer of Indiana University Luddy School to collaborate on presentation she is giving at the annual US Play Coalition conference in Bloomington after she read the article and learned I was attending the Luddy school for my MLIS. Additionally, we received an email from East Bridgewater Public Library in Massachusetts and a shout-out on social media after a former patron read the article in the magazine who is currently a school librarian in South Carolina!

Hi Adrienne,

I read the latest SLJ and saw the article in which you were referenced. I was very impressed with all that you offer your afterschool crowd. I was curious about the Break-In bags and was able to find a blog about it which gave me some ideas. Do you have a template that you use, or would you be willing to share how you do it so I can see if it's different so I can formulate my own?

Thanks for any advice you can give. I appreciate your time!

Best,

Anne

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Jen Mandrell

January 9 at 6:42 AM · 🌐

I grew up in Whiting and spent a lot of time at the Whiting Public Library. I'm now a school librarian in South Carolina and ran across this article in School Library Journal which includes the fun things Adrienne De Luna is doing as the youth services librarian! Always great to see the good things happening in my hometown being recognized! [Whiting Public Library](#)



Social Media:

Many of our patrons rely on social media to stay informed about upcoming programs, new materials, and valuable library resources. To effectively reach our community, I dedicate significant time to managing and updating our **Facebook** and **Instagram** pages. However, for our posts to have the greatest impact, we need engagement—likes, comments, and shares—which help boost visibility and extend our reach to more community members.

Your support can make a real difference! If you have a social media account, please consider following the library and interacting with our posts. A simple "Love" reaction, a quick comment, or sharing a post helps ensure more people discover all that our library has to offer.

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Thank you for helping us connect with our community in a meaningful way!