The students in Karen Hamilton’s second grade class finished their Junior Achievement Our Community classes on April 5 and 6. This was the fourth class that completed the program with me this year. On Friday, April 6 poetry books were shared with Mrs. Nickerson’s fifth grade class at Manchester School. A Child’s World preschool was hosting a visit featuring Maine author/illustrator Chris Van Dusen on April 10. It was a great opportunity to get him to sign copies of his books that the Children’s Room owns. On Thursday, April 26 the children at the Little Log Cabin Montessori School were excited to share books about Australia and the ocean.

Monday, April 9 the annual Maine Student Book Award Ice Cream Party was held in the meeting room. With lots of help from cataloging and processing, we had the new list of books in house and ready to go.

Reading Round-Up for children and youth librarians was held at the Augusta Civic Center on Thursday, April 12. The winners of the Chickadee Award, Maine Student Book Award, Lupine Awards, and the Katahdin Award were all announced. As a part of the Lupine Committee for the last two years, it has been a privilege to help recognize the Maine authors and illustrators who produce exceptional books for children and young adults.

At the Maine Library Association Youth Services Section annual meeting during Reading Round-Up I became the chair of the section. On Friday, April 13, I attended my first MLA Executive Board meeting representing YSS. This provided a chance to visit the Oakland Library and to share time with the representatives from around the state who offer great opportunities for professionals to gather.

Tea for You @ the Library on Tuesday, April 17 featured Betty Crocker “poke cakes.” Four flavors were offered: strawberry, raspberry, peach-mango, and key lime. A few middle schoolers came by with their families (we most often see them after school and not during vacation week) and we had about 25 folks enjoy the afternoon. Tyler Ward was a great help setting up the room and offering to run whatever errand needed doing. It was his first time attending tea. He’s helped behind the scenes many times with preparation and clean up after teas are over.

The Friends of the Windham Public Library at their April 19th meeting voted to support attendance at the upcoming Libraries United Conference as well as the library’s summer reading programs for adults, teens, and children. Many “extras” are offered thanks to their generosity.

April 23 was World Book Night. 500,000 books were given away across the United States. Five people volunteered to pick up a box of 20 books at Windham Public Library and give them to light or non-readers. A reception was held on Thursday, April 19 so that book givers could meet each other. One person was not able to get their books so they were donated to the Maine Correctional Center. I gave my books out at Sneaky Pete Billiards and at the beauty salon in the same plaza. It took less than 30 minutes to give them away. Included in those copies were the information sheet Inese prepared about the services the library offers and the handout about passes available to seven Maine venues.