The beginning and the end of April brought the completion of Junior Achievement for Joyce Whidden’s second grade class and the start of the program for Elaine Hawthorne’s second grade class. This year was the first time I used the Smart Board technology available in the classroom to assist with the presentation. “Our Community” lessons share with the class the opportunity to learn about businesses, the role of government, methods of production, making informed choices, and how money moves through the community.

Three visits were made to groups beyond the library. Creative Expressions Preschool on Wednesday the third, Mrs. Nickerson’s fifth grade class on Tuesday the ninth, and Little Log Cabin Montessori School on Thursday the 25th. Classes have done well being responsible for the books left each month and returning them at the following visit. When children do come to the library it is a very comfortable situation when they see a familiar face in the Children’s Room.

Special programming this month included two sessions lead by Mrs. Currier during school vacation week. Birds nests were crafted on Wednesday, April 17 and on Friday, April 19, the Cornerstones of Science trunk about creativity was shared with children and adults. On Monday, April 22, Joline Avery from Norway Savings Bank lead a session for Money Smart Week for children. That same evening the Maine Student Book Award annual Ice Cream Party celebrated the program and offered attendees the opportunity to check out the books on this year’s list.

The Early Literacy Conference at Thomas College in Waterville on April 4 focused on the statewide Literacy for ME initiative. Both Diana Currier and I were able to attend the 24th Reading Round-Up in Augusta on April 11. Having been a part of the RRU committee this year was a great experience. A highlight of the day was the announcement of the Lupine Awards and acceptance by the authors and illustrators.

On Wednesday, April 10, Dave Carpenter from Cornerstones of Science stopped by to learn about our monarch butterfly program. His insights formed an article for the most recent COS newsletter about the growth of our program and how it demonstrated a true citizen science project. Longfellow Garden Club, in thanks for a program presented last November, made a donation to WPL. The funds have been used to register “Chrysalis Corner” and to purchase a Monarch Waystation sign that will be added to our garden this spring.

Tuesday, April 23, brought over 35 people to the library for Tea for You @ the Library. In celebration of Money Smart Week, Million Dollar Cookies and Million Dollar Cake was served. Double batches of each had been prepared and there were very few goodies remaining at the end of the tea.

The Windham/Gorham team assembled by Amy Valentine and Sabrina Nickerson, which received a grant for a project with the Maine Memory Network and the Maine Humanities Council, attended the Civil War Symposium at the University of Maine on Saturday, April 27. The grant will focus on the Gunpowdered Mills and the pivotal role they played in that historical time. Both Windham Public Library and Baxter Memorial Library will be involved.