CHILDREN’S ROOM REPORT
DECEMBER - 2011

Story Time
Preschool Story Time – 8 sessions – Adults 32, Children 38
Books and Babies – 4 sessions – Adults 33, Children 36

Botanical Garden – no usages
Children’s Museum Pass – 7 usages
Dundee Park Pass – closed for the season
Maine State Park Pass – no usages
Maine Wildlife Park Pass – closed for season
Planetarium Pass – 1 usage
Willowbrook Museum Pass – closed for season

PASS USAGE SAVED PATRONS $148

On Thursday, December 1, the Bank of Maine event *Focus on Philanthropy* was held in Freeport. As representatives of the Friends of Maine Libraries, Nancy McGinnis and I heard from folks in the non-profit sector about teamwork, recognition, and support. A representative from Newman's Own spoke about the company and Angus King moderated the speaker panel.

The second of my monthly visits to Mrs. Nickerson’s fifth grade class took place on Friday, December 2. A lively discussion took place about what had happened in our “book worlds” since my previous visit in November. It was interesting to hear one young man say when I held up the book *Fanklin and Winston* that they were bad men. We spoke about how smoking was viewed very differently in the 1940’s and how much health knowledge we have gained since then. It was interesting to see what conversation that cover began.

The Lupine Committee, which recognizes Maine authors, illustrators, and books set in Maine, met in Topsham on December 7. The committee meets three times during the fall and winter to complete their work. Their final meeting will be held in January at the Windham Public Library.

The Cornerstones of Science partners were invited to a meeting at the Jameson Tavern in Freeport on Friday, December 9. The first ten years of COS were celebrated and Jocelyn Hubbell, the first executive director, was honored at the luncheon. Plans for the future were discussed, new programs were introduced, and two libraries presented short programs on best practices. The watchable wildlife monarch butterfly program here in Windham was one. It was quite a challenge to pick 10 slides and short narrations for them from our four year participation in raising the monarchs.

Tea on December 13 celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Windham Public Library. A beautiful “book” cake was made by Carol Clark. Also served were strawberries dipped in dark or white chocolate, two types of crackers, and three types of cheese. When tea was finished all that remained of the food was two sleeves of Ritz crackers. The guest book was signed by 48 people.

Wednesday, December 14 was book review in Portland followed by Izzy Booth’s annual tea at Manchester School. Izzy offers a rare opportunity to visit with the staff at the school in a relaxed setting.

Thursday, December 15 the children at the Little Log Cabin Montessori School enjoyed stories about the upcoming holidays and seeing many books from the library which have “red” in their title. During the afternoon Mrs. Whidden’s and Mrs. Miller’s second grade classes from Windham Primary School came to the library for a visit. We shared a traditional Jewish story and a short poetry book. Nice big thank you notes were delivered a few days later that are currently on display on the Children’s Room Door.

Story times during the week before Christmas included making a holiday ornament followed by a small party with juice and goodies for all. Everyone who came to story time stayed to enjoy a few minutes of socializing after the craft projects were completed.