

Announcements

- One Book, OWWL Kids
 - Program in a box developed by Sarah Matthews and Krystina Dippel
 - Contents: 1 hardcover, 25 paperbacks, program guide, 25 handouts, supplies for 25 crafts, one full color poster, access to graphics on Google Drive)
 - Book: Finding Kindness by Deborah Underwood
 - Craft: Painting kindness rocks
 - Every library will receive a box, but participation is voluntary
 - Program to be held anytime between March 1 to April 30
 - Program box delivered to libraries mid February
- Eclipse: April 8, 2024
 - Each county has an OWWL Eclipse Ambassador: Ontario/Krystina (VIC), Wayne/Amanda (SOD), Wyoming/Luke (WAR), Livingston/Kasey (AVO)
 - Last OWWL Libraries Virtual Eclipse Forum will be 2/13/2024 at 1 pm
 - Email your ambassador your plans to share with the group. Ambassador's will share out the programs going on in their counties.
- Take Your Child to the Library Day: February 3, 2024
 - A day to promote going to the library!
 - Find additional promotional graphics on the Google Drive
 - Each library already received from OWWL:
 - 1 full sized poster (Send tubes back right away. Please leave the stickers on!!)
 - 25 stickers
 - Contact Suzanne if you need additional materials
- Summer Reading 2024
 - Theme: Adventure Begins at Your Library
 - Go to Cslpreads.org and use **Code:** NY24@TF32 to access the Cooperative Summer Library Program (CSLP) manual of ideas to get you started. (There will *not* be a again USB this year).
 - OWWL's Summer Reading Workshop on March 15th.
 - Full day program with guest speaker on how to make your all of your summer reading programming even more accessible.
 - Each library will receive from OWWL:
 - ❖ 1-34x90 vinyl banner
 - ❖ 3 different posters 17x23
 - ❖ 1-43x29 stand-up display
 - These can be picked up at our Summer Reading Extravaganza on March 15
 - Teen posters may come a little bit after the adult and children's poster.
 - OWWL Library System is also sponsoring a passport program that will encourage readers to take an adventure to other libraries, complete with rewards. Details to come.
- Smokey the Bear has a Reading Challenge for his 80th birthday
 - Voluntary, free reading promotion program that NYS is participating in
 - All libraries are already registered and will get a 'toolkit' of materials sometime in January to use
 - More information here: <https://smokeybear.com/library-reading-challenge>
 - Toolkit here: <https://smokeybear.com/library-toolkit-reading-challenge>

- Look for a webinar on March 7th

➤ Bilingual Books Partnership Program

- OWWL is looking to partner with 20 libraries to provide them with 33 bilingual titles published by Lectura Books.
 - Apply before February 2, 2024 to be a participating library <http://tinyurl.com/5n8f5ru9>
- Timeline
 - Application Process - January 2024- February 2, 2024.
 - February 2024: 24 bilingual Easy Readers sent out (Levels 1-4, six books for each level)

➤ June 2024: 9 bilingual board books will be sent to the selected libraries.

➤ See OWWL post for Upcoming Workshops to Consider Attending [OWWL Post January 12 44 2024](#)
[2023 YSAC Dates Register through LibCal](#)

2/13/2024	1 pm	OWWL Libraries Virtual Eclipse Forum (Zoom)
3/15/2024	9a-4p	Summer Reading Extravaganza (OWWLHQ)
4/16/2024	1 pm	YSAC meeting (Zoom)
9/17/2024	1 pm	YSAC meeting (Zoom)
11/12/2024	1 pm	YSAC meeting (Zoom)

[Discussion with Ron Kirsop: Unattended minors & privacy in library: best practices and ideas.](#)

*Disclaimer: This is for informational purposes only. Refer to **your** policy, director, and/or Board of Trustees for specifics regarding individual library practices and procedures.*

➤ Legally

- Libraries can make their own rules, set age restrictions, including not allowing minors to be in the library alone.
- There are no state laws regarding the age at which children can be left alone, only guidance provided by NYS Office of Children and Family Services <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/>

“There are no straightforward answers to these questions. All children develop at their own rate, and with their own special needs and abilities. Some children are responsible, intelligent, and independent enough to be left alone at 12 or 13 years of age.”
- Policies = risk management regardless of the industry

➤ ALA says

- Follow the Library’s Bill of Rights <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>
 - “A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.”
 - “All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people’s privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.”
- The interpretation of Minors’ Rights <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/minors>
 - Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources available to other users violate the *Library Bill of Rights*. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users. Amended 2019
- Libraires cannot be put in a parental capacity

➤ Best Practices

- Involve Youth Services staff in developing/defining policies
- Clearly define 'minor' and 'unattended child' in your policy. (IF you are going to have an 'unattended child or minor' policy.)
- Include steps to take should a staff member need to take action.
 - Consider what do if a child is being disruptive or if the patron is under mental duress.
 - Do not say that staff will just "handle it accordingly."
 - Be specific with steps. E.g. Will they call the parents? Call police?
- Document if a patron is asked to leave and why.
- Be sure that staff and parents know your policies; especially staff in charge of youth or responsible when the director is out of the building.
- Have reasonable expectations. i.e. What is appropriate developmentally?

➤ Possible solutions

- Create a policy that states that parents must stay *in the library* for programs.
- Create a policy that dictates what is allowed, rather than not allowed.
 - *i.e. Patrons can be in the library if they are being respectful of others in the library and library materials; using a volume, tone, and language that is not offensive....* Regardless of age, if someone is acting in a way that makes you question their ability to be unsupervised in the library, what policy are they breaking? That is the reason to take action, not their age.
- The first time a policy is violated or when behavior starts to become an issue, print out the library's policy and give it to the person/ group. Highlight the behavior in question and say "Just so you know, these are the expectations in the library. Those that want to be here need to follow these policies. Not everyone is aware we have these policies, so I am sharing them with you and they are also on our website. We love that you are here and want you to return again, but we also need you to respect our policies and procedures to keep everyone safe here at the library." *This will work on any age and supports the previous bulleted possible solution.

➤ Food for thought

- The library may be safer than any other place the minor could be.
- You will need to tell/remind youth repeatedly of the policies; this is developmentally appropriate.
- What are the other types of code of conduct policies are in place already?
- What is the ultimate goal/mission of your library and will this policy uphold it?
- What should you do if a child is unattended and the library is closing?
 - Can a patron drive them home?
- Under what circumstances, if any, should the police or Child Welfare Services be contacted?
 - What are the criteria to call? Who places the call?
 - What are the indicators or warning signs to recognize?
- Put a policy in place **before** you need it!
- Be careful regarding sign-in sheets
 - Using one creates a local record of usage and that is protected information.
 - You will need a policy that states when: the sign-in sheets are destroyed, who can see who has signed in, what can they be used for, etc.?
- Remember teens will be adults in a few years; future adults making decision in town. (just sayin')

➤ Scenarios

- Q: What to do with teen patrons that you have no information on and they break the code of conduct?
- A: BEFORE it gets to the 'enforce a policy stage', ask them if they have a library card and/or would they like to sign up for one? Make signing up for a card easy and not a hindrance.
- Q: A parent calls the library looking for their child. Can you tell them they are there?
- A: Are you sure that it is that child's parent? Does this parent have custody? Is it unsafe for the child to be with the parent at this time? None of these things you can tell from a phone call, plus it creates a privacy issue. Solution: "I will look and see if they are here. If they are, I will have them call you. They can use the library phone if they do not have a phone or it is not working at this time."
- Q: The teens repeatedly leave messes and when the last one or two members of the group are asked to take care of the mess before leaving, they claim it was the others in the group.
- A: Say "The library is a community space. If the 'community' that you came in with is leaving before you, it is your responsibility to remind them to pick up after themselves, otherwise you will be responsible for returning the community space back to how you found it before you leave. That is the expectation of all library users and groups, not just teens."
- Q: A seemingly young person wants to check out a book you believe to be too racy or inappropriate for them. Do you tell the parent?
- A: Try instead to provide reader's advisory as opposed to reader restriction. "Just a heads up that this has some mature content. Be sure that this is your speed before you read too far in."

Good bye Mary Ferris. She is retiring after 50 years of being the children's librarian at Wood Library in Canandaigua. Congratulations and enjoy retirement!

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 pm

[Next Meeting](#)

➤ 4/16/2024 at 1 pm via zoom

[Attendance](#)

Meghan Bailey

Melissa Bond

Molly Budziszewski

Megan Clement

Mary Conable

Luke Conley

Deanna Davis-Wiltsie

Krystina Dippel

Mary Ferris

Shamika Fusco

Ron Kirsop

Suzanne Macaulay

Sarah Matthews

Bernie Maurer

Jessica Purvis

Kasey Rovito

Brandi Rozelle

Sheryl Saxby

Katie Smith

Danielle Tcholakian

Cindy Tipp

Joe O'Toole

Becky Sloane

Kate Karnisky

Tye Vilanne

Tanya Taylor

Patti Alexander

Sandra Hysten

Shelia Koeberle

Tammy Hopkins