

Know Your Library: Programming

If you like free, fun activities for yourself, children or the family to enjoy, the New Glarus Public Library has something to offer you.

Programming has always been a part of the services offered by the library, but continues to grow and with the promise of more space and hopefully increased funding, expanded programming for all ages is what the library most looks forward to offering. The library board and staff are constantly thinking about possible programming, such as classes teaching how to use various electronic devices, using the genealogy databases available via our membership in SCLS and more, but the severe space limitations of the New Glarus Library restrict the possibilities.

The programs are funded through a portion of the operating budget for the library, grants and generous donations by local businesses and residents. One of the many strengths of our library's staff is fostering partnerships and finding grants that offset the costs of programs. For example, each year several local businesses donate to the Summer Reading Program, and the library has been the recipient of several New Glarus Community Foundation grants, which helped support the Dome Theater this past summer and the current 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.

The library is fortunate to have a talented Children's Librarian, Ignacia Boersma, who leads a very popular hour of story telling and activities designed for younger children where families, homeschoolers, and daycares are frequent attendees. The library also focuses on its youngest patrons with 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. This program encourages reading and the enjoyment of literature before children enter school. Currently, approximately 15 children attend the weekly story hour and 71 children are enrolled in the 1,000 Books program.

For school age children, the most popular program is the Summer Reading Program, which encourages children to continue to improve literacy skills through the summer. In addition to encouraging reading, there are weekly programs offered in the summer. One example from this past summer is the Dome Theater, which was attended by 198 children. In addition to the summer programs for children, the library often offers free movies on early release school days.

Family and adult programming includes traveling shows, such as Ben Franklin, Abraham Lincoln and the Storyteller. The Seed Savers Program was started this year, along with a series of informative sessions featuring local master gardeners. In addition to special adult and family programming, there is the regular Scrabble afternoon and the evening Book Club.

There are truly too many programs to list. All upcoming programs are announced on the library website, via flyers at the library and in the Post Messenger Recorder. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a friend! Our library is a great source of learning and entertainment for the entire community. If anyone would like to share their comments about a memorable program offered by the library, please submit them to the library for inclusion in a future article.

Submitted by the New Glarus Public Library Capital Campaign