

BCL S U P D A T E

SPRING 2016

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS SPARK CREATIVITY THROUGH PLAY



Altoona Robotics

The Blair County Library System has two exceptionally innovative programs for children, Lego Club and Robotics Club. The Robotics Club program is designed to foster creativity, build critical thinking, spark curiosity and encourage team work.

The Robotics Clubs in 8 BCLS libraries use Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot sets and HP laptop computers for children ages 10 to 14. Each session focuses on a particular robotic sensor and a team building exercise.

For the Blair County Library System the Lego Club program is unique in that it is a cooperative effort of all eight libraries to target the 6 to 12 year old age cohort with a non-book based program.

The program expands the range of library programs to include the active creation of participants as opposed to passively listening to storytime.

The program provides a model of sharing that ensures an efficient use of a popular and expensive resource and also an effective use of a librarian's time.

The children in the program learn through play in a relaxed environment, in a non-threatening manner. It sparks creativity. It's free and makes Legos accessible to all. There are no income guidelines and no library card is required to participate in the program.

Both of these programs are based on play as a way of learning. Play is a route to developing creativity and it incorporates cognitive companions like wit, humor, and laughter.

Lego and Robotics Clubs are very popular and are filling up all over the county!



Bellwood-Antis Lego Club



Hollidaysburg Robotics



Martinsburg Robotics



Claysburg Lego Club



Tyrone-Snyder Robotics



Williamsburg Robotics



Roaring Spring Lego Club

HOLLIDAYSBURG LIBRARY, UKULELE GROUP ANNOUNCE LENDING PROGRAM



Kids' Ukulele Crash Course at HAPL. The kids learned to play their first song after only 14 minutes.

The Allegheny Ukulele Kollektive (AUK), a ukulele group based in Altoona, announces their Ukulele Library Lending Program currently active in Blair and Centre Counties and scheduled to reach Bedford County in February. Beginning in 2014 with a pilot program at the Hollidaysburg Area Public Library and since bolstered by a grant from the PA Council on the Arts and support from Ohana Ukuleles, the Ukulele Lending Program aims to reach over 30 public libraries in Central Penn-

sylvania over the next year. Library patrons can check-out the a ukulele from the library just like any other item in the collection or can join-in a "jam" at a local library. Currently in Blair County Libraries, ukuleles are available to be checked out at Bellwood, Claysburg, Hollidaysburg, Martinsburg, Tyrone and Williamsburg.

Melanie Ramsey, Hollidaysburg's Children's Librarian, is an enthusiastic promoter of the program, "Having ukuleles and ukulele books for our patrons to check out has definitely attracted people from all over our area and beyond. Ukuleles are a community builder and they're a very approachable instrument."

The community programming held by the Allegheny Ukulele Kollektive, including the upcoming Allegheny Ukulele Soirée (soiree.alleghenyukes.com), helps to support the Lending Program. The third annual Soirée to be held **April 15-17, 2016** at Laurel Lodge, Duncansville, is the longest running ukulele festival in Pennsylvania, providing education and entertainment opportunities for ukulele enthusi-

asts and our local community. Over 100 participants will have access to 18 different workshops over the course of the weekend as well as concert performances by guest artists and teachers. Donations for the upkeep and replacement of library ukuleles are also welcomed and more information can be found at alleghenyukes.com or by calling 814-826-4232.

Represent a public library in Pennsylvania? Learn how to join the Ukulele Library Lending Program at <http://alleghenyukes.com/join-our-program>.



Adult Ukulele Crash Course at HAPL

TYRONE-SNYDER TAKES ITS PROGRAMMING OUTDOORS!



The first session of the Heroes of the Natural World Outdoor Activity Series was called Critter Club and allowed Tyrone

Tyrone-Snyder Public Library moved their summer reading events outside with the **Heroes of the Natural World Outdoor Activity Series** at local parks and nature trails. Kids participated in lessons, games, hands-on activities, and stories.

The first session, Critter Club, was held at the Railroad Park at the end of Pennsylvania Avenue in Tyrone. The caregivers

were invited to attend with their children and to bring a lunch and drinks for the day. Each program was free and part of a Summer series. At Reservoir Park, they held a Creek Exploration with a stream study. The goal of that program was for the kids to find out "who lives in the water". Putting old clothes and boots on and getting right into the water was part of the appeal of the program.

The Heroes of the Natural World program also took them to Albemarle Nature Trail for a habitat hike where the kids explored a forest, meadow, and wetland while meeting some of the plants of our region.

The final session of this series was a Tree Adventure back at the Albemarle Nature Trail. It centered around asking kids to be a part of a real adventure while learning about trees along the way.

All of the programs were fun, free, local and designed for children ages 6-12 and their caregivers to get them outside and close to nature.

Albemarle Nature Trail allowed the kids to hike and explore different habitats while looking out for different animals.

