As I am sitting here thinking about the theme for 2023 and thinking about “All Together Now”, I am struggling to figure out decorations and crafts that go with the theme on one hand. On the other hand I am in awe at how much our library does in our community and how we really are working “all together now” to make this area a better place.

For several years, I have entered the contest for the “Best Small Library in Kansas” and every year we never win. It has been so frustrating because I know that we have a fantastic library. Just today a lady walked in and she said, “I couldn’t figure out why you guys were building on in 2020, but having watched over the last few days, you are really busy and it’s not a wasted site. People are using it!” I smiled to myself and thought yes, people are using the library every day and we are working with our community partners to offer things that our community wants and needs.

In the month of September we were extremely busy. We offered a spot for LifeLine Screenings to help folks check on their health. We offered programs from Marais des Cygnes Extension. We had the Linn County Health Department here as they did a “new siblings” training. We met the needs of Home School Families in the area by putting together a program including history, science, reading and math for them to enjoy with a group. We continue to work on kits to help the parents provide the best educational opportunities for their children. We started Story Hour programs, Toddler times, STEM times and partnered with Parents as Teachers to do a PJ’s and Pancakes Program. The seniors were excited to get back to lunches and playing BINGO and having programs.

As I contemplate the month, I realize that the theme is what happens daily in our library. We work with various businesses, the school, the museum, the churches, local and county government to provide the best opportunities for our patrons and communities. Seriously, we are living the theme of “All Together Now!”

If it was not for the fact that everyone works together, we would not get anywhere. If we stayed inside our little four walls and tried to do it all by ourselves, we would not amount to much.

The second week I was invited to participate in a program by Kansas Department of Health along with a professor from North Carolina and one from Emporia State. The topic was “Closing the Gap: Public Libraries and Public Health” and I was invited to represent rural libraries in Kansas. At first I wasn’t sure, but as I sat down to develop my slides, I knew we were the Best Little Library Around. BUT that wasn’t a title we earned on our own. It was a title that has grown with us since we started to work with partners across the community, region, and state. While we may never win the title, we are “All Together Now” working harder than ever to Close the Gap! What have we done? Medicare Part D—with K-State Research and Extension Provided health information through State Library & Databases Used medical and dental personnel for “Career Days” Hosted LifeLine Screening Partnered with Linn County Health Department on several programs including county baby shower, tooth fairy day, new sibling class Partnered with United Methodist Church Healthy Congregations program to provide fitness for kids & community garden donations.

Geri-Fit exercise program twice a week for those over 50 Senior meals—programs and Bingo on Thursdays Summer lunches for kids and caregivers Cross-generational programs, just to name a few! Libraries are NATURAL partners. We have space, people, we host programs, we are a “safe” space and the often the hub or community center. We promote working all together all the time. Now to figure out decorations, programs and crafts to fit the theme!
OCTOBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Oct. 1—NO MOVIE
Oct. 2—4-H Fiber Arts Quilting 101: The Basics—3 PM Swan Room (contact Extension for information.
Oct. 3—9:30 Virtual Story Time: Facebook 11:00 Geri-Fit in Great Room
12:00 Lunch
3:45 STEM Time in Great Room—4H program with MDC Extension.
Oct. 4—9:30 Preschool Story Time—Swan Room with Ms. Veda
5:00—Board Meeting
Oct. 5—9:30 Virtual Story Time: Facebook
Oct. 6—9:30—Parents as Teachers Play
11:00—Geri-Fit in Great Room
12:00—Lunch, Program & BINGO
Oct. 10—9:30 Virtual Story Time: Facebook
11:00 Geri-Fit in Great Room
12:00 Lunch
3:45 STEM Time in Great Room
Oct. 11—9:30—Preschool Story Time—Swan Room with Ms. Veda
Oct. 12—9:30 Virtual Story Time: Facebook
9:30—Parents as Teachers in Great Room.

Oct. 21—Board Meeting
Oct. 22—9:30 Virtual Story Time: Facebook
11:00 Geri-Fit in Great Room
12:00 Lunch
3:45 STEM Time in Great Room
Oct. 23—10:00 Preschool Story Time—Swan Room with Ms. Veda
Oct. 24—10:00—Parents as Teachers Play
11:00—Geri-Fit in Great Room
12:00—Lunch, Program & BINGO
Oct. 24—9:30 Virtual Story Time: Facebook
11:00 Geri-Fit in Great Room
12:00 Lunch
3:45 STEM Time in Great Room
Oct. 25—9:30—Preschool Story Time—Swan Room with Ms. Veda (Halloween Party)
Oct. 26—9:30 Virtual Story Time: Facebook
Oct. 27—9:30—Toddler Time in Playroom
11:00—Geri-Fit in Great Room
12:00—Lunch, Program & BINGO
9:3—Medicare Enrollment with Kathy Goul (fill out paperwork to get an appointment) 1:30—Read for the Record with LES 1st Grade in Great Room.
Oct. 28—Trunk or Treat—Broadway—starting at 6 PM. Contact Kim Beckman or Chamber for information.
Oct. 31—9:30 Virtual Story Time: Facebook
11:00 Geri-Fit in Great Room
12:00 Lunch
NO STORY TIME because No School
Nov. 1—NO STORY HOUR—No School
5 PM—Board Meeting

Home School Day @ the Library
Our first Home School Day @ the Library went well, so we are on to number two. It will be held on Wednesday, October 19th from 10 to 12:30. Our theme will be “Leaves and Scarecrows”

We need you to sign up….so we know how many of each age group, and how many we are going to feed that day, and how many craft supplies we will need. To start out, my focus is on the younger group ages 5-12, but older children are invited and as Steve Lambert said we can do a lesson and they’ll just do something a bit more complicated.

Please respond to the library by October 17th with the following information. Parent name, children’s names and ages/grades, and whether you will be eating lunch with us.
Birth to 3 can play and socialize in the Play Room, during the learning activities. This is not a Drop & Go Program, parents will need to stay with their children or help with activities. Hope to see a lot of you at the library on Oct. 19th for our SECOND HOMESCHOOL ADVENTURE.

What is VIRTUAL STORY TIME? Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday at 9:30, the library hosts a story time on Facebook Live with Miss Janet. This is so your children can connect with the library even if they can’t be there. Craft packs will be available to go along with story times. Call and reserve yours!