

Children's Department

January - April 2026

Submitted by Terri Jersey, Allyson Macci

Collection Development

We are constantly working on shelf reading and weeding other sections of the library to make room for new and updated materials, as well as keep the room looking tidy.

Outreach Programs

In April, Miss Terri visited Through The Looking Glass Center for two consecutive days in the morning and afternoon. We shared books about Earth Day and the letter E. The children enjoyed hearing about the library and had fun with some books, flannelboard stories and songs!

Program Highlights

We have hosted multiple craft programs as well as our usual story times, book chats and music programs with lots of attendees. Some of our highlights include:

In January we welcomed Kinosaito to host art workshops on Sunday afternoons. The programs ran each Sunday as a "drop in" from 1-4pm. Each week the children learned a new art technique that was inspired by the art display in the Constance Dyckman Community Room. It was very successful and we look forward to partnering with them again next winter.

During the school February break, we hosted many programs - a puppet show, board game bonanza and a Lunar New Year Party. Jan Aiello (retired HHHS art teacher) presented *The Little Mermaid* as a puppet show with puppets that she made herself. Children enjoyed seeing a character they were familiar with come to life on the puppet stage! Our "Board Game Bonanza" was a big hit! We set up our program room with many different board games such as Uno, Chess, Checkers, Candy Land, Sorry, etc. and families were encouraged to play together. Adults and children enjoyed their quality time together free of "screens"! Miss Allyson and Miss Terri also hosted a Lunar New Year Party. This year we celebrated the year of the horse with a horse craft, a story about Lunar New Year and some delicious spring roll snacks! Everyone enjoyed our festive decorations and enjoyed a fun afternoon.

In March, we invited one of our patrons, Kana Mahadavan, to host a cookie decorating class. Kana pre-baked cookies and taught our patrons different decorating techniques! Everyone enjoyed a sugary afternoon!

In April, we celebrated National Library Week with many fun activities and crafts. One of the highlights was Miss Christina creating clay mosaics with air dry clay and hand dyed seeds and beans!

Battle of the Books

Miss Allyson is the coach for our Children's Battle of the Books team. The 2026 Battle of the Books competition will take place on Saturday, October 24th at Anne M. Dorner Middle School in Ossining, NY. This year's information meeting will be hosted on Wednesday, May 13th with the hope of recruiting new and returning members to the team. Weekly practices will start in September and will increase to twice a week in the month of October leading up to Battle day.

Reference Report January-May 2026

New Additions:

- We have added the **Lincoln Depot Museum** in Peekskill to our Museum Pass Program. It has already been checked out. We also added an **additional Mohonk Preserve pass** because of its popularity. These passes are given to us by the preserve to use at our discretion at no cost to the Library.
- Our Library officially launched a **Seed Library** on Earth Day (April 22). We have had over 30 patrons take advantage of it so far. Seed varieties include vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers.
- We added an **Optelec Reader** to our Library of Things. This has been used repeatedly by the community so far.

Programs:

- **The Coffeehouse Concert** in April was Lisa Tannenbaum, a local harpist. It was well attended and featured discussions on the historical and cultural backgrounds of the pieces she played. In May, the Hudson Bells performed. They brought a lively multigenerational crowd. They enjoined the venue and were very well received. We discussed their potential return in the fall.
- The historical presentation on Lost Annsville drew over 50 people. **The Lost Estates of Peekskill** was another popular lecture with nearly 100 people in attendance.
- For **health** we had Ageless Strength: A Beginner's Workout Program for Ages 65+, Qi-Gong for health, Root and Realign Yoga as well as Tai Chi.
- In the **arts**, KinoSaito came and led a series of workshops using various mediums. We also had classes on resin jewelry making, water color values, and beading earrings for women's shelters.
- The mobile shredding truck visited in April, helping 130 families safely dispose of their files.
- Other popular programs include our various book clubs, Italian classes, and film screenings.

Outreach:

- Cheri/Our Programming Librarian visited the Verplanck, Town of Cortlandt, and Buchanan **seniors** to make crafts for each season.
- Students from the Hendrick Hudson High School came to a special Indie Pop-up **screening** of "The Inquisitors".
- Colette/The Teen Librarian was able to attend the **Career Fair** held at the Hendrick Hudson High School. Students commented on how usable our Library is and shared the ways they take advantage of library services with other students. They especially noted Libby, our AP books, and study rooms.