FEBRUARY 2026

Good Afternoon, Whitefield Public Library Friends,

In a few weeks, the groundhog(s) will emerge and predict how soon spring will arrive. I was curious about the accuracy of Punxsutawney Phil (the weather-predicting groundhog that I am familiar with), so I did a little research. Turns out, Phil tends to be wrong a lot more than he is right, according to NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). Sadly, it seems that Phil only gets it right 35% of the time, so we can just say, according to Phil, spring will arrive early, so it is more likely that it will be late. (I have always wondered if all those lights, cameras, and people negatively impact his ability to predict accurately). It does sound like there are some much more reliable groundhog weather predictors, though, so we can see what Staten Island Chuck has to say, with an accuracy rate of 85%. To read the article by NOAA, visit https://www.noaa.gov/heritage/stories/grading-groundhogs.

February brings the celebrations of Valentine's Day and Carnival. Spend some time at the CREATION STATION creating a CARNIVAL MASK. A variety of decorating supplies and eye masks will be available at the table. *Please ask a librarian for a full face mask when you are ready to decorate yours, as supplies are limited to 1 per patron.

February is also the time of year when gardeners and farmers begin looking forward to their upcoming season, plan for planting, and begin to start their seeds. To help all of you gardeners prepare, books on GARDENING, garden planning, and raising vegetables and flowers will be on display. We also have a large variety of donated seeds that patrons may take to begin their seedlings.

Although the days are beginning to lengthen, snow is still heavy on the ground, keeping crafters busy at work creating. Check out some of the CRAFTING books available and give something new a try. Join in on the Friday afternoon crafting (knitting, crocheting, handiworks) group and connect with other crafters. Sign up for the Introduction to Machine Sewing class with Kelly Blais, which will be held at 5 PM each Thursday in March ($60 fee for all 4 sessions).

We will be CLOSED on Monday, February 16th for PRESIDENT's DAY.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS for ADULTS & TEENS

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP & LOVED ONES LIVING WITH DEMENTIA PROGRAM
With Cate DiBlasi & Jeannie Jacobs, with support from Mary Bates
Friday, February 6th (First Friday of the month.)
9-10 AM
For those living with Dementia and their Caregivers

This is an opportunity for caregivers to meet and share about their experiences, share some ideas and strategies, provide some understanding, support, and connection with other caregivers, and connect with Jeannie and Mary. Separately, loved ones will enjoy a program with Cate to stimulate their minds and move their bodies.

PRACTICAL 3D PRINTING with TANNER THOMPSON
Saturday, February 7th
1:30 PM
Open to adults & teens
Sign-up Requested: https://forms.gle/syz3QdFxLkqCtKoD8

There are so many household items and replacement parts that can be pricey if purchased, but can easily and cheaply be 3D printed. Knobs, rulers, clamps, phone stands, cable clips, car cup holders, etc, can be printed. Tanner will show participants how and where to find files for various items, how to operate a 3D printer, and how to make sure the items print with the proper supports. What replacement parts or household items might you need to print? Join Tanner to learn all about practical uses for 3D printing, then come use the library's printer when you need to print an item.

OLD LIFE SKILLS REVIVAL – ALL THINGS SOURDOUGH with Buzz from A NOTCH ABOVE BREAD
Tuesday, February 10th
(2nd Tuesday of each month)
4:30 PM
Open to adults & teens
Sign-up Requested: https://forms.gle/YXAnKdyT9vHWYubVA

Are you interested in learning all of those skills that our ancestors relied on in daily life that have become obsolete for most of us in the modern day, such as sewing, mending, making food from scratch, basket weaving, etc.? Join Teresa on the second Tuesday of each month to learn some of these skills.

In February, Buzz, bread maker extraordinaire from A Notch Above Bread, will present on all things sourdough. You may be familiar with Buzz from the Lancaster Farmer's Market, where he sells his baking in the summer, or from the early 2000's when his shop was open in the Allard building. Buzz will share his vast knowledge and understanding based on years of experience working with sourdough. Participants will go home with starter and an understanding of how and why to bake with sourdough.

MAHJONG
Wednesdays, February 11th & 25th
(2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month)
10 AM
Open to adults & teens
Sign-up Required: https://forms.gle/87xWcSFVT7rps3xK7

Are you an experienced Mahjong player and looking for a group to join? Are you a beginner and looking to improve your skills? Are you interested in learning though you have never played before? Join our twice monthly Mahjong group. All skill levels are welcome.

BOOK GROUP
Wednesday, February 11th
(2nd Wednesday of each month)
6:30-7:30 PM
Open to adults & teens

This month is a read your own book and share your thoughts opportunity. For those who attended the January meeting and received a gift book, you will read and discuss that book. If you did not attend in January, please come with a book you read that was recently recommended to you and share about that book.

RECIPE CLUB for VALENTINE'S DAY ❤️ 🩷 💜
Saturday, February 14th
(2nd Saturday of each month)
5 PM
Open to adults & teens
Sign-up Requested: https://forms.gle/MsJwk2SXQBrnDzEs7

Do you enjoy cooking? Do you enjoy trying and learning new recipes? Join Teresa on the second Saturday of the month at 5 PM for the RECIPE CLUB. Bring a dish to share and copies of the corresponding recipe to distribute. Sit down for a potluck and try all of the dishes. Discuss cooking techniques, suggestions for how to improve or change the recipe, what works best for you, etc.

FASCHING with Teresa
Tuesday, February 17th
4:30 PM
Open to adults, teens, and pre-teens
Sign-up Required: https://forms.gle/Qspp5sNhtpHTz4xd7

Fasching is the German pre-Lenten celebration of Carnival. Carnival is celebrated all over the world, with the more widely known celebrations taking place in Brazil, Trinidad, Venice, and for those in the US, the celebration of Mardi Gras in New Orleans, LA. Feasts, parades, music, and colorful costumes are common aspects of Carnival. Fasching has both common elements of Carnival, as well as its own unique traditions and activities. Join Teresa to explore this European experience.

LADDERS (Library After Dark: Deliciously Entertaining Romance Social-Club)
Wednesday, February 18th
(3rd Wednesday of each month)
6 PM
Open to adults
Sign-up Required: message Earth2Sunshine on Facebook or tell a librarian by February 13th

Looking for a book club with a little more spice, swoon, and laughter? You just found your people! Join us for LADDERS, a new romance book club!!! We'll be exploring swoony page-turners full of love, drama, and just the right amount of spice; all in good company!

Our February pick is Funny Story by Emily Henry: witty, heartfelt, and the kind of book that makes you laugh out loud and then randomly punch you in the feelings. If you've read Emily Henry before, you already know. If you haven't... this is such a good one to start with. Optional cozy add-on for this month: If your favorite book or series has a map, feel free to print a copy at home and bring it with you, and we'll have a relaxed little coloring moment going while we chat.

No map? No problem. Bring any bookish printable you want to color (a generic fantasy map template, a bookshelf coloring page, a quote page, etc.). 📌 RSVP is required by February 13 so we have enough snacks, seats, and supplies.

THE CLASSICS BOOK GROUP
Tuesday, February 24th
(4th Tuesday of each month)
4:30 PM
Open to adults & families
January & February: Demons by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
Sign-up Requested: https://forms.gle/LxoecGQi4iZkYtNy8

Are you interested in reading some of the CLASSICS and discussing them with a group of other interested individuals? Join Teresa for a monthly exploration of the classics. Each book will be read and discussed over two or three months. The first book to be explored is Demons by Dostoyevsky. Pick up a copy at the library and get started!

GAME NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY
Friday, February 27th
(4th Friday of each month)
6 PM
Open to adults, teens, and youth
Sign-up Requested: https://forms.gle/g6mXEstFHtEiA5ez9

Do you LOVE board games? Do you kind of like board games? Do you play board games to make your family happy? Do you want to learn some new ones or enjoy some old favorites? Join us for our new monthly board game night. Come on your own, with a friend, or as a family. Try out some new games or stick to your go-tos. Bring your own, or see what is available here. Some options include Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Azul, Really Loud Librarians, Apples to Apples, DiXit, Ouisi, etc.

PUZZLE RACE
Saturday, February 28th
1 PM
Open to adults, teens, and families
Sign-up Required: https://forms.gle/jQcbZAcbEEwb6bNt8
Join us for a puzzle assembling competition!

Teams of up to 4 participants may register.
There are two categories available – family & adult.

Family category teams must include at least one participant under age 12.
Family teams will complete a 200-piece puzzle.

The adult category is for teams with participants ages 12+.
Adult teams will complete a 500 Piece puzzle.

Each team in the category will receive the same puzzle. Puzzlers will work together to assemble the puzzle. There will be a time limit of 90 minutes to complete the puzzle. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest team to complete the puzzle in each category.

INTRODUCTION TO MACHINE SEWING with KELLY BLAIS
Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, & 26
5-6 PM
Open to adults & teens
$60 fee
Space limited to 8 participants (minimum of 3 to hold class)
Sign-up Required: https://forms.gle/qdXvzsM3QPybkJK98

Curious about sewing but not sure where to start? This 4-week beginner-friendly class is designed for absolute beginners who want to learn how to confidently use a sewing machine and complete simple, practical projects. Over four weeks, students will learn essential skills step by step, with plenty of hands-on practice and guidance. Students will provide their own machine and thread. Fabrics and notions provided in class.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS for YOUTH

OPEN LEGO PLAY
Tuesdays
3-4 PM
Suggested ages 5+ years

Come create with LEGOS. Build scenes, creatures, etc., using the available LEGO pieces. Create robots or other creations using the Lego Spike App, then code them to move. *Due to limited numbers of batteries and computers, building and coding may need

to be done with a partner or in teams, depending on participation.

STEM DAY with St. Johnsbury Academy Robotics Team
Saturday, February 7th
10 AM – 12 PM
Suggested ages 6-10 years
Sign-up required: https://forms.gle/VcUBxLm6mtd967jT6

This program, organized by the Saint Johnsbury Academy Robotics Team, Techstorm 2523, is designed to engage kids with fun, hands-on STEM activities, with no prior experience required! From beginners programming to Lego building design, there are activities for every interest and ability. This is a free event for youth ages 6-10 who want to learn more about the fascinating world of robotics and engineering.

ALPHABET SOUP GROUP
Thursdays, February 12, 19, March 5, 12, 19, & 26
3-4 PM
Suggested ages 3+ years (and their caregivers)
Sign-up required: https://forms.gle/Kjg1NHxSNV9iAS6y8

This initial Alphabet Soup Group is an introduction to concepts of pre and early literacy. This 6-week program will introduce fun activities and ideas for incorporating pre and early literacy skills into daily life, as well as highlight what those skills are, and how to help your child build and strengthen them. We will sing songs, read stories, play games, do some writing and drawing, and learn activities to practice letter names, letter sounds, rhyming, alliteration, syllabication, and phonemic manipulation. Caregivers will be offered information about the role of these skills in literacy development.

DOLL CLUB with AMY – Winter Hat with Pom Pom
Saturday, February 21st
10 AM – 12 PM
Suggested ages 8+ years
Space limited to 6 participants
$15 fee (paid directly to Amy upon arrival)
Sign-up required: https://forms.gle/yqoPAXXwL69dTSLH7

Make your doll its very own winter hat with a pom-pom. Each participant will learn how to use a small hat loom and a pom-pom maker, which they will get to take home at the end of

the session. Amy will teach the participants how to knit a doll hat on the loom, create a pom-pom with the pom-pom maker, and attach the pom-pom to the hat.

HOMESCHOOL MATH
Tuesday, February 17
11 AM -12 noon
Suggested ages 5-12 years
Sign-up requested but not required: https://forms.gle/yojzLZojpLCqfYt19

Do you have an elementary-level student who could benefit from "seeing" math? Join us once a month for a hands-on math program! This program will include a tiered mathematics problem, mathematical thinking-based games and puzzles, and other interactive math activities targeted toward a variety of math topics and learning levels. Led by an experienced high school math teacher, Amy Green, this program gets your students engaged in problem solving and seeing math in concrete form, and moving to abstract.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

PRE-K STORIES & PLAY
9:30-10:30 AM
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Preschool & Kindergarten age children & their caregivers
Program Room
Suggested ages 3-6 years
Join us for stories and activities, including games, songs, movement, and crafts.

TODDLER TALES & TUNES
11-11:30 AM
Thursdays
Program Room
Suggested ages birth-3 years
Join us for stories, songs, and movement that are developmentally appropriate for children under 3.

KNITTING, CROCHETING & HANDICRAFTS GROUP
1:00-3:00

Fridays (may be intermittent, so call ahead 837-2030)
To be added to the email list for this group, please email Lyn at whitefieldpubliclibrary2@gmail.com
Front Reading Room
Teens & Adults

Are you a seasoned handicraft person? Do you want to learn? Do you have a project in the works or something you have dreamed of creating? Adults & Teens of all skill levels are welcome to join others while you knit, crochet, needlepoint, sew, etc. Please call first in case a session has been canceled if you plan to participate for the first time – (603) 837-2030.

WEEKLY MATH CHALLENGE PROBLEMS
All Ages
Program Room

Look for the weekly Math challenge problems in the program room. Multiple levels will be available. Beware! Some problems may even get you to think differently about mathematical concepts you have known most of your life. There will be open middle questions separated into three categories – early elementary, middle elementary, and late elementary. Open middle questions challenge your thinking and math reasoning. Odd One Out problems will be available in two levels. For odd one out, you determine which of the 4 images does not belong. The ultimate goal is to have fun while building spacial reasoning, pattern recognition, number sense, and problem-solving skills.

WHITE MOUNTAIN HERDSMEN 4-H
2nd & 4th Saturdays – February 14th & February 28th
9-10 AM
Stop in and check it out to see if it's for you, then join if you are interested!

White Mountain Herdsman, a newly formed 4-H group led by Jessie Ingerson, will meet on the second and fourth Saturdays from 9-10 AM in the program room. Youth aged 5 to 18 years are welcome to participate. To join, please follow this link (https://4h.zsuite.org) and sign up under the White Mountain Herdsman. For questions, contact Jessie at jessieingerson4H@gmail.com.

OTHER OFFERINGS at WPL

FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS through DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

According to the World Literacy Foundation, "Home Libraries are inextricably linked to student success and achievement. An in-depth analysis of 31 countries found that, "reading volume and exposure to books outside of school have a positive effect on students' reading achievement and are powerful contributors to a variety of academic skills." When children have books readily accessible at home, they gain a significant academic advantage. Books are sources of infinite learning, exposing children to new ideas and vocabulary that they can apply when in the classroom. These positive academic effects are long-lasting: children who grow up with access to books benefit in a myriad of ways, lasting into adulthood. Evans, author of Scholarly Culture and Occupational Success in 31 Societies, says that, "The academic impact of home access to books and reading materials continues long after these early experiences. We know that when books are part of a home environment, children are more likely to read for pleasure and have a better vocabulary. Studies show they also have increased access to information and a more comprehensive 'cultural toolkit' that positively impacts educational achievement."

Introducing books at home can boost a child's academic success regardless of their parents' educational background. In many ways, books can be the greatest teachers for children when their parents are unable to attend to their academic needs. A 2019 study found that "the difference between being raised in a bookless home compared to being raised in a home with a 500-book library has as great an effect on the level of education a child will attain as having parents who are barely literate (3 years of education) compared to having parents who have a university education (15 or 16 years of education)."

If you have a child from 0-5 years old who is a resident of upper Grafton or Coos County, enroll them to receive free monthly books delivered through the mail from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Thanks to many generous donors throughout our community and the state, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is fully funded for this region for 2026. Click this link to enroll a child: https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/

YOTO PLAYERS & CARDS

Our library now has 3 Yoto Players and a growing collection of Yoto Cards available to borrow. A Yoto Player is a screen-free smart speaker for kids that plays audiobooks, music, podcasts, and more using physical, interchangeable cards, giving children independence to choose their own content without ads, cameras, or microphones. Kids control it by inserting cards into a slot and turning knobs for volume and chapters, making it easy to use for ages 3+. This means that ALL readers – including emerging readers, struggling readers,

neurodivergent learners, and kids who simply love stories – can enjoy independent access to books at the library and at home. No screens. No reading required. Just stories, learning, and imagination for everyone. This video explains what it is and how it works https://youtu.be/TXLliFFJjec?si=ZVCZZ0ld6pxFMTDX.

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Through a collaboration with Ammonoosuc Community Health Services (ACHS), families of children ages birth through 5.5 years may complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Developmental Screenings (ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE 2). The ASQ-3 asks 6 questions in 5 categories (fine motor, gross motor, speech & language, social emotional, and problem solving) to give you an idea of areas where your child is developing typically and where they may benefit from further evaluation or support. The ASQ-SE 2 focuses specifically on social and emotional development. You can complete one or both of these screenings by clicking here: https://www.asqonline.com/family/832443.

Lyn, who is not just a librarian, but is also an Early Childhood Development Community Health Worker at ACHS, will send you results within a week, as well as ideas for developmental activities that you can do to strengthen and build your child's skills. If you have concerns about your child's development and/or questions about further evaluation, speak with Lyn.

Lyn can also do hearing and vision screenings using the Welch Allyn OAE Hearing Screener and the Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener. To schedule a screening, stop by the library and speak to Lyn, or email lyn.schmucker@achs-inc.org.

3D PRINTER

We have a Prusa MK4S 3D printer available for use in the program room. Bring your own filament, or use ours and pay a nominal fee. *Please note, prior experience or training is needed to use the printer. Sign up for Tanner's class on the 7th to learn how to find files for printing and use the machine.

CRICUT MAKER

A Cricut Maker is available for use in the program room. If you know how to use a Cricut, you may use it upon request and availability. If not, keep an eye out for upcoming training.

FAMILY PASS to FAIRBANKS MUSEUM and PLANETARIUM

The Morrison Communities has sponsored a family pass to the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, VT for library patrons. This pass allows 1 family per day to visit the museum and

attend a planetarium show. To access the pass, please speak with a librarian.

EYEGLASSES RECYCLING at WPL
A collection box for eyeglasses is available in the front reading room of the library, which is monitored and collected by the Whitefield Lions Club.

DAILY & WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS
The library has subscriptions to the Caledonian Record, which arrives daily, and the Coos County Democrat and Littleton Courier, which arrive weekly on Wednesdays. These are available for patrons to read in the library.

LIBRARY OF THINGS
We have a variety of non-book items available for borrowing, including a telescope, donated by the NH Astronomical Society Library Telescope Program, a birding backpack with binoculars and an Identification Guide to Birds, a metal detector, and a tent. We also have 11 Development Kits available to borrow for children birth through 4 years, provided through the Early Childhood Development Program at Ammonoosuc Community Health Services. Each kit includes a variety of developmental toys for young children.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING at WPL
Do you have old or broken electronics such as laptops, computers, phones, tablets, video games, cables, chargers, power cords, Wi-Fi routers, or similar items? Instead of paying to throw them away, you can now recycle them for free in the blue bin near the magazine stand marked “We Recycle Electronics” at the WPL. This diverts them from going to a landfill and generally makes the world a little bit better. If the item has a battery or plugs into the wall, it can probably be recycled. If you have a question about whether an item can be recycled, or if you have larger items that won’t easily fit in the bin, feel free to text a picture of the item to Jonathan at North Country Recycling at 603-684-2425.

Check us out on our website at www.WhitefieldPublicLibrary.org/, on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/WhitefieldPublicLibrary, and on Instagram at www.Instagram.com/WhitefieldPublicLibrary.

We hope to see you at Whitefield Public Library soon.

Cheers,
Lyn