Pied Piper Award
2015

It's Time To Be Appreciated
For Your Brilliant Ideas

The Pied Piper Award recognizes excellence in the creation of promotional materials for a
library program, or the creation of an individual program that promotes service to the young
people of New York State Libraries. Send us a description of your creative program or copies of
your promotional materials. You may be one of the dedicated librarians to be awarded the
2015 Pied Piper Award from the Youth Services Section of NYLA! Please review the criteria for
submission and send all required information including the form below to:

Beth Zambito
Newburgh Free Library
124 Grand Street, Newburgh, NY 12550
bzambito@rcls.org   845-563-3623

Entries must be received by December 5, 2014 for items produced between
January 1, 2014 and December 1, 2014.

Name: Maria Muhlbaier

Library: Pioneer Middle School

Library Director: Sharon Huff, Pioneer District Superintendent

Address: 12132 Old Olean Road

Phone: (716) 492-9363 Fax: Email: mmuhlbaier@pioneercsd.org shuff@pioneercsd.org

By my signature below, I attest that all materials submitted for review are free of any and all
copyright restrictions:

Maria Muhlbaier 12/4/14
Signature Date
Program Instructions/Implementation
2014 was the third year in which the four Pioneer Central School District librarians implemented a free, district-wide Family Reading Night. The district librarians involved with this event were: Maria Muhlbaier (YSS member), Stephanie Hogan, Elizabeth Brisky, and Kristina Pierce. Although the theme was different each year, the steps taken to implement this program remained the same for each event. Here are the instructions associated with the implementation of this program.

September 2013/October 2013
- Decided on an event theme and speaker/entertainment related to the theme. When deciding on a theme, it is important to see if the theme relates to district curriculum and if there will be appropriate activities for the K-12 population related to the theme. For the 2014 event, we chose a music theme, “Reading is Music to our Ears,” and selected community musicians and Pioneer student music ensembles as the event’s entertainment.

November 2013
- Brainstormed activity stations related to the event’s theme. The activity stations that were offered during the event included: Book Fair, Book Swap, Name that Tune, Instrument Making, Trivia, Jan Brett Games, Piggie and Elephant Dance Along, Bookmark Making, Recording Studio, T-Shirt Bags, Storytime and Crafts with Yogi Bear, Wii Dance, Guitar Hero, Rain Stick Making, Origami Yoda Paper Arts, Coloring, Guitar Pick Decorating, Bacon Photobooth, Food Demonstration, and Zumba.

- The date was confirmed with the Pioneer district office. The building use reservations were also sent to the middle school office staff.

- During November, a “Save the Date” email was sent to district employees letting them know about the date of the event.

December 2013
- Many of the grant applications were due either at the end of December or the beginning of January. December is devoted to preparing grant applications for the event. The grants applied for included the Walmart Community Grant Program, the Sallie Mae Foundation, and the 4Imprint Charitable Foundation.

- A “Save the Date” flyer was created and distributed to promote Family Reading Night to students.

- A Scholastic book fair was confirmed.

- Pioneer staff members received an email outlining the craft supplies needed for the activity stations. Many staff members donated craft items for the event.

- Pioneer librarians divided the task of finding music groups for the evening. Each librarian talked to the music department in their school to confirm the presenters for Family Reading Night.

January 2014
- A flyer publicizing the annual Family Reading Night logo contest was distributed to all K-12 students. The winner of the logo contest received a $20 gift certificate to the evening’s book fair.
• A “Permission to Fundraise” form was submitted to the Pioneer district in order to solicit donations from local businesses.

• A spreadsheet of local businesses was compiled using data provided by the area’s Chamber of Commerce.

• Letters to local businesses were sent out. These letters requested monetary donations or gift items for the event’s raffle.

• An email was sent to all district employees and Board of Education members asking for volunteers for the event. Sixty-two people volunteered to assist during Family Reading Night.

• The advisors of National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society were contacted in order to secure student volunteers for the evening. The student volunteers helped serve refreshments and run activity stations.

February 2014
• An event flyer including a student-generated logo was posted in all school buildings.

• An article about Family Reading Night was included in the district newsletter and on the school website.

• Grant funding was received. The funds went towards the creation of 200 family reading bags to be distributed to event attendees.

• Materials were purchased for the reading bags. Using the student-generated logo, 200 custom bookmarks, tote bags, and earbud carrying cases were printed. Books were also ordered from a local bookstore for the bags. Four music-related titles at a variety of reading levels were ordered. At the event, parents could select the title that was most appropriate for their family.

• Donation items began coming in. The donations were organized for the gift raffle.

March 2014
• Informational brochures were distributed to all students to take home.

• A reminder flyer was sent home with students on the week of the event.

• Information was included on all buildings’ morning announcements about the event.

• Emails were exchanged with event volunteers and presenters. Volunteers were told what their role would be during the event and when they were to arrive.

• Gift raffle was finalized.

• Custodians received setup information for the event location. Chairs, tables, and garbage cans were placed in the appropriate locations. Activity rooms were unlocked.

• Refreshments and supplies were purchased.

• Materials for the reading bags arrived and were assembled by student volunteers.
• Boxes with the activity stations were packed and ready to place in the activity areas.
• The event program and map were created and printed for distribution during the event.
• Surveys were created and printed for the event.
• PowerPoint presentation was created as a scrolling marquis for the school's wall-mounted televisions.
• Book fair and activity stations were set up.
• *Family Reading Night took place on Friday, March 28, 2014.*

April 2014
• Thank you email was sent to district event volunteers and presenters.
• Thank you letters were sent to all community businesses that donated to the event.
• Blog posts and an article were placed on the district website about the success of the event.
• Reusable items were packed for next year.
• A tentative Family Reading Night 2015 was set.

**Intended Audience**
The intended audience of this program was vast - all K-12 Pioneer students, family members, district staff, and community members were invited to attend. In order to reach a vast intended audience, the activities for the evening appealed to both younger and older students. The older students had additional opportunities to participate in the program as event volunteers or musical presenters.

Parents were motivated to attend the event not only because of the activities, but because their children might have been performing in the musical ensembles that evening. District staff attended as event volunteers or brought their own children to enjoy the event’s activities. Community members, especially business owners, came to the event in order to help with activity stations or to provide refreshments. For instance, the Jellystone Campground employees from Java, NY attended to assist with the Yogi Bear storytelling activity room. The Subway employees from Arcade, NY attended the event to distribute hundreds of free cookies to event attendees.

**Publicity Generated about the Program**
Prior to the event, Family Reading Night was publicized by including articles on the district homepage, library websites, and printed district newsletter. After the event, articles and blog entries appeared on the district website and library pages.

In previous years, Family Reading Night had been publicized in the local newspapers. However, by the 2014 event, Family Reading Night had already become a highly-anticipated event in the local community. The publicity surrounding this program was more than sufficient in attracting a large number of attendees.
Results Achieved
Over 600 people attended the 2014 Family Reading Night. This was a huge achievement given the socioeconomic challenges facing the population of the Pioneer Central School District. Our rural district encompasses 250 square miles and includes four counties. Approximately 53% of our students receive free or reduced lunch. Family Reading Night is a valuable, important event for the community members in our district for two primary reasons. First, including family members in school-related events is crucial. It is vital to acknowledge and celebrate the role that families play in promoting literacy and a love for lifelong learning. Families that may not otherwise have access to new books were able to take home a reading bag filled with materials. Secondly, Family Reading Night instills a sense of community among the families, students, and staff of the Pioneer Central School District. This event was a great opportunity for the community as a whole to come together for a free and enriching evening.

Promotional Materials Included in Application
- Save the Date promotional flyer
- Logo Contest Flyer
- Informational Brochure
- Reminder Flyer
- Newsletter article from Pioneer Connect
- Event Program/Map
- Bookmark with student-generated logo (handed out in reading bags and at district libraries)
Family Reading Night Is Coming!

Friday, March 28th 6 - 8:30pm
Pioneer Middle School

Come to a fun filled night of student musicians and activities such as No-Sew T-Shirt bags, Guitar Pick Decorating, Wii Dance, Bookmark Making, Recording Studio, Musical Instrument Making, Elephant & Piggie Dance Off, and more! There will also be a Book Swap and the Scholastic Book Fair!
Family Reading Night Logo Contest

Your logo should be approximately 5 square inches with black and white graphics ONLY. Your name and homeroom should be on the BACK.

Prize: One winner will see their logo on Family Literacy Night materials AND receive a gift card to the book fair happening that night!

The theme is “Reading is Music to our Ears”

Due: 1/31/14
Drop off your entry in the LMC
The Pioneer Central School District Music Department is pleased to be coordinating the evening's musical guests for the third annual Family Reading Night.

Pioneer offers many exciting music opportunities which supplement the General Music Program. These opportunities include Recorder Karate and Keyboard Lab for elementary students and band, chorus, orchestra, and musicals and the middle and high school level.

Please join us for the Family Reading Night musical performances showcasing our talented and hard-working music students.

For more information on the Music Department, visit http://www.pioneerschools.org/domain/41.

Pioneer Central School

Contact a district librarian for more information:

Arcade: Mrs. Pierce  716-492-9439
Delevan: Mrs. Brisky  716-492-9475
High School: Ms. Kosmerl  716-492-9324
Middle School: Ms. Muhlbaier  716-492-9383

March 28, 2014
6pm—8:30pm

Pioneer Middle School
FAMILY READING NIGHT
Featuring performances from school musicians!

Other activities include:
- Book Swap (Please bring books to swap!)
- No Sew T-shirt bags (Please bring a t-shirt)
- Recording Studio (Read & records poems, songs, etc.)
- Bookmark Making • Music Trivia • Name that Tune
- Wii Dance • Elephant & Piggie Dance Off
- Healthy Snacks • Origami Yoda • Rain Stick Making
- Make Your Own Instrument • Jan Brett Activities
- Story Read-Alouds with Yogi Bear • Guitar Hero
- Coloring • Guitar Pick Decorating • Book Fair

FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH
6:00 — 8:30 P.M.
PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
12132 OLD OLEAN ROAD, YORKSHIRE

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In This Issue:

- Valedictorian & Salutatorian
- "It's Academic"
- Fighting Hunger
- Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- "Let's Move"
Darling Named Valedictorian, Ramsey is Salutatorian

The Pioneer High School Class of 2014 top academic achievers are led by Walker Darling and Dillon Ramsey (shown at right IN PHOTO BELOW). Walker was named valedictorian with an average of 100.008 percent. Dillon is the salutatorian with an average of 99.400 percent.

The rest of the top 10 students are: Krystina Jones, Ryan Merlau, Benjamin Juchniczewicz, Zachery Buresch, Cole Connelly, Nova Casillo, Maria Darling, and Summer Phillipson.

Achievement Night is Monday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m., while Commencement for the Class of 2014 is Saturday, June 28, at 1:00 p.m.

Darling Also Named to All-WNY Academic Team

Pioneer senior Walker Darling (shown AT LEFT in dark shirt) has been chosen for Second Team honors on Business First’s 2014 All-Western New York Academic Team. The journal’s eight-member selection committee determined that Walker is one of the 50 most outstanding high school seniors in all of Western New York this year.

The Academic Team is designed to spotlight students who pursue excellence both in and out of the classroom. The committee said it chose Walker because it was greatly impressed with his record of academic achievement, school leadership, and community involvement.

Walker’s selection makes him a member of a very exclusive group. This year’s honorees include 25 students on the First Team, another 25 on the Second Team, and 50 Special Mentions. That’s 100 in all, accounting for just 0.5 percent of Western New York’s 20,000 high-school seniors.

Photos of all 100 of this year’s winners will be featured in Business First’s Guide to Western New York Schools (perhaps better known as its annual school rankings issue), which is scheduled to hit newsstands on June 13.

Family Reading Night Slated for March 28

By Maria Muhlauer, Library Media Specialist

On Friday, March 28, the librarians, teachers, and staff of the Pioneer Central School District will present the third annual district-wide Family Reading Night at the Pioneer Middle School from 6-8:30 p.m. Family Reading Night is open to all families of the Pioneer Central School District. This year’s event will be structured upon the theme “Reading is Music to Our Ears” and will feature activities related to literacy and music.

The evening’s entertainment will be musical performances from student groups of all ages. Featured presentations include musical numbers from members of the Delevan Elementary chorus and the Middle School jazz band. All music presentations will take place in the cafeteria.

Other activities throughout the evening feature trivia, crafts, reading, and music. Specifically, a “name that tune” trivia station will be offered. Craft activities include origami (featuring the characters from The Strange Case of Origami Yoda series), coloring, no-sew T-shirt bags, bookmark making, guitar pick decorating, and rainstick making. A visit from guest storytellers (including Yogi Bear from the Jellystone Park of WNY), a recording studio, and Jan Brett activities round out the evening’s reading offerings. Meggen Keefe of Z-Party Fitness will be hosting opportunities for students and adults to try Zumba. Additional stations include Guitar Hero, Wii Dance, and a cooking demonstration.

The Pioneer Faculty Association is also sponsoring a book swap during the event. If your family would like to participate in the book swap, please bring in gently used books to swap with other families.

Although the Family Reading Night event is free, books and other resources will be Continued on Page 7
7th Graders Take Leadership Field Trip

By Karch Forward, Seventh Grade Student
Pioneer Middle School

On January 23, myself and other seventh graders along with Mr. Weidner and Ms. Gizzarelli went by bus on a leadership workshop field trip to the Challenger Science Center (located in Allegany, NY). Upon our arrival, Mr. Garity came out to go through a workshop with us. He did some interactive things such as having us stand up, close our eyes and move our right arm around our body as much as we could.

We then tried to move our arm again and this time we moved it even further. This showed that we could go further than we thought we could. Then, he talked about if you only had one hour to live, who would you call and say I love you too?

He talked about being grateful for others. Afterwards, we wrote letters to our family to say how much we loved them. Secondly, he talked about dream boards and we made them out of magazines.

Middle School Welcomes Americorps Counselor

A program aimed at easing eighth graders’ transition to high school has come to Pioneer Middle School. The Board of Education recently approved the appointment of Jessica Washburn of the Southern Tier AmeriCorps Resource Team (START). The school district is partnering for the first time with AmeriCorps to help selected eighth grade students transition to ninth grade.

AmeriCorps is a federal program that focuses on meeting the needs of local communities and strengthening the community’s core through civic engagement. START is a youth mentoring program that places mentors in schools and agencies throughout Cattaraugus and Allegany counties and is overseen by the Cattaraugus County Youth Bureau.

Ms. Washburn recently graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a master’s degree in education with a concentration in childhood literacy. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary and special education. She signed on to work in the AmeriCorps program and will serve as a transition counselor for Pioneer.

“I look forward to a successful new career assisting students at Pioneer,” Ms. Washburn said.

Ms. Washburn’s role as a transition counselor will be to provide individual and group mentoring, discussions, homework assistance, guest speakers, field trips, and involvement in service learning opportunities. Students will be given the tools necessary to help them become positive and effective members of their school and community.

Parents of students who were selected to receive AmeriCorps transition counseling services were sent a permission form for their child’s participation.

After that we had lunch and talked to others from different schools to practice communication. After lunch, Mr. Garity talked about how we could improve our school. That was my favorite part because I like to think how we could always improve our school and think of new ideas for everyone.

All the schools came up with a list and sent up representatives to announce their school ideas. Unfortunately, the time was one o’clock and we had to go.

It was so much fun! I hope next year, the seventh graders will have as much fun as I did.

Reading Night -- From Page 3

available for purchase through the evening’s book fair provided by Scholastic. The book fair will include books for a variety of ages and interests. All funds received through the book fair will be used to finance future Family Reading Night events.

The first 200 families in attendance will receive free gifts, including a tote bag, literacy materials, and a new book. Local businesses have donated many prizes and gift certificates that will be raffled off during the course of the evening. Light refreshments will also be provided.

For more information, please call Maria Muhlbauer, Pioneer Middle School Librarian, at (716) 492-9383 or email her at mmuhlbauer@pioneercsd.org
Welcome to Family Reading Night!

Friday, March 28, 2014

6:00pm  Family Sign-in
6:15pm  Activities begin
6:30pm  Musical Performances begin in the Cafetorium
        Delevan Chorus, MS Jazz Band,
        MS Trombones, Harmony Haven,
        Dulcimer Solo & HS Jazz Band
7:00pm  Storytime with Yogi Bear in room B-113
8:00pm  Door Prize Drawing
         (winners do NOT need to be present to win)

Refreshments are located in the Pool Foyer!
Door Prizes located in the Main Lobby!

Activities

* Book Fair, featuring K-12 material
* Food Demonstration
* Jan Brett Activities
* Instrument Making
* Name That Tune
* Elephant & Piggie Dance Off
* Music Trivia
* Bookmark Making
* Guitar Pick Making
* Recording Studio, Read & record poems, songs, stories...
* No Sew T-shirt Bags
* Rain Stick Making
* Wii Dance
* Coloring
* Crafts with Yogi Bear
* Origami Yoda
* Guitar Hero
* Zumba
* PFA Used Book Swap

C-130 (LMC)
E-146
B-104
B-107
B-103
B-102
B-121
B-120
B-123
B-145
E-101
E-102
B-115
B-101
B-113
B-119
B-105
Gym
Gym

Special thanks to Walmart and Sallie Mae for providing grant funding.

Thank you to the following local businesses and people for their generous donations:

Aurora Theatre
Buffalo Audubon Society
Buffalo Games
Buffalo Museum of Science
Burger King of Yorkshire
Cascade Lanes
Cottrill’s Pharmacy
Creative Elegance Weddings
Explore & More
Just Fun
Kless Boys
Lowe’s of Springville
Main Street Grille of Arcade
Marco’s Pizza & Subs
McDonald’s of Arcade
Merry Meeting Shoppe
Mike & Tonya Dodge (Colour Barre)
Pierce Milling, Inc.
Prestolite
Springville Lanes
Subway of Arcade
Tim & Bonnie’s Pizza
Tim Hortons
Tops of Arcade
Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park of WNY