

ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES

Annual Library Service Review
2019-2020

OUR MISSION

Athena Public Library is a bold and vibrant part of Athena, Oregon. We support and develop programs and collections that contribute meaning and value to community life.

WHAT WE PLANNED

BUILDING ON EXISTING MOMENTUM

We went in to fiscal year 2019-2020 with excellent momentum and existing programs we hoped to build on. Fiscal year 2018-2019 had seen an almost 80% increase in annual visits to the library over the previous fiscal year, a 111% increase in programs and a 274% increase in program attendance. We were excited to build on that momentum and continue to build exciting and meaningful programs for the city of Athena.



2019-20 GOALS

INCREASE SERVICES TO K-12 POPULATION

We planned to build a teen advisory board, open a new teen room, continue weekly programs for elementary students and start up weekly programs for teens.

INCREASE ADULT ATTENDANCE AT LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Our goals included building a monthly adult book club, develop adult programs to complement the summer reading theme, participate in community events and build health related programming for adults.

CREATE A VIBRANT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our plans were to work with ALFA to participate in community events, build ALFA's name recognition, help ALFA create priorities and develop an annual budget and work with ALFA to present a large program/event as part of their annual meeting.



Successes



TEEN ROOM

The teen room is open and was used nearly constantly in the after school hours until the beginning of March.



ALFA GROWTH

ALFA had a fun annual meeting and brought in an author to speak at the event. They now have a core leadership group that is committed to growth and deepening community engagement.



TEEN PROGRAMMING

We started a twice monthly teen night that was tremendously successful, averaging 10 teens each evening. We had a student from EOU commit to helping plan and implement those nights as part of her education degree requirements.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Summer Reading 2019 featured a Moon Landing Party in honor of the 50th anniversary.

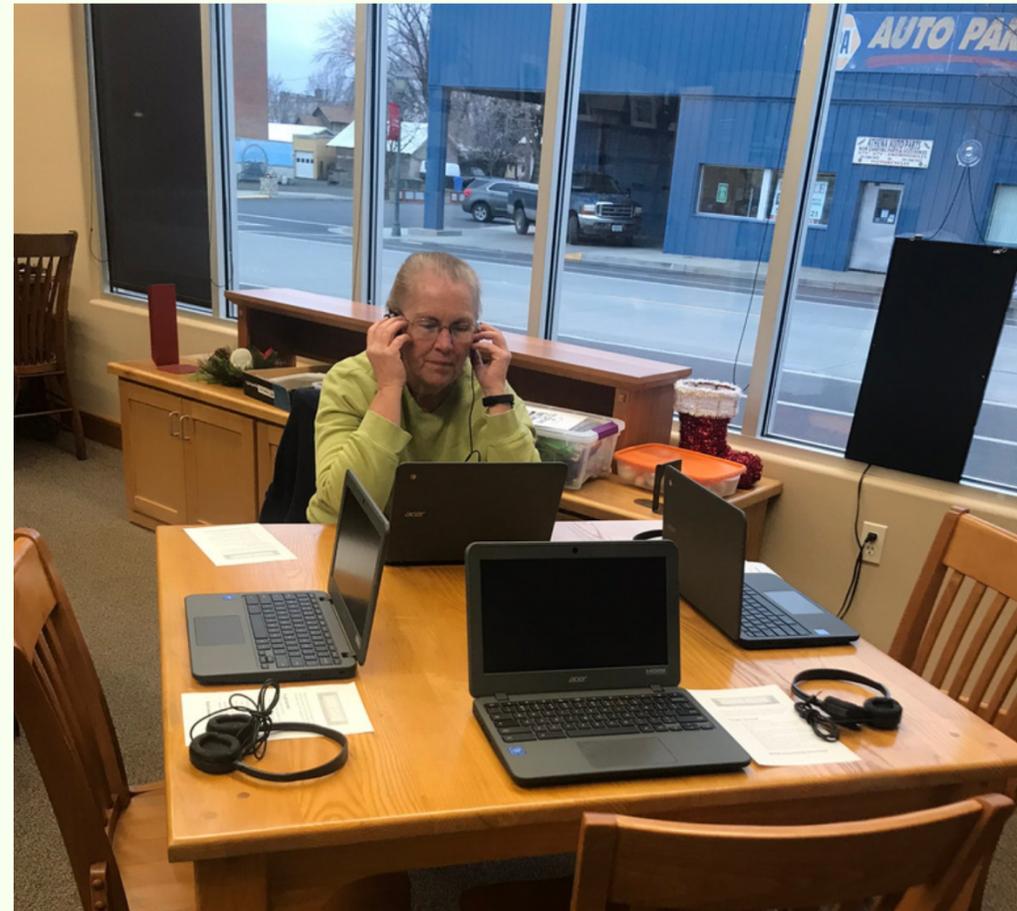
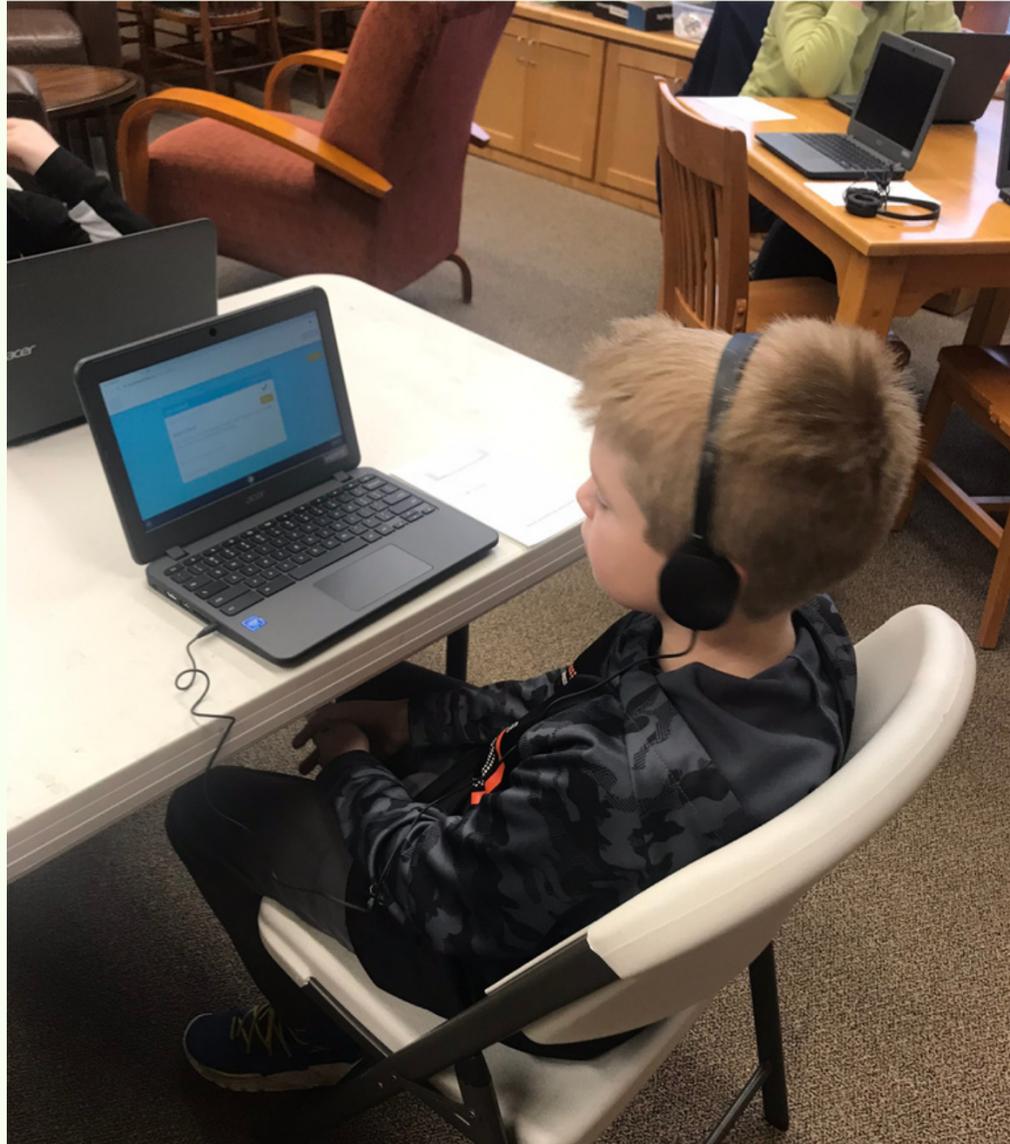
Participating adults shared their memories of that night with the kids who attended. We also had a faithful group attending monthly book club meetings through February 2020.



SUMMER READING 2019

WE HELD A ROCKET
SCIENCE CLASS FOR
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS,
3 ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK
AND PARTICIPATED IN THE
CALEDONIAN GAMES
PARADE!

CODE CLUB



We received a grant from Prenda for software complemented by a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation for hardware that allowed us to start a code club. Code Club started the first week of December and had 28 people of all ages signed up and participating through the end of February.



Teens were participating in more library events. The teen room was seeing increasing use (like this winter night when a group gathered to play Monopoly!)

Teens were also volunteering (like these two elves that helped out with our Santa visit).

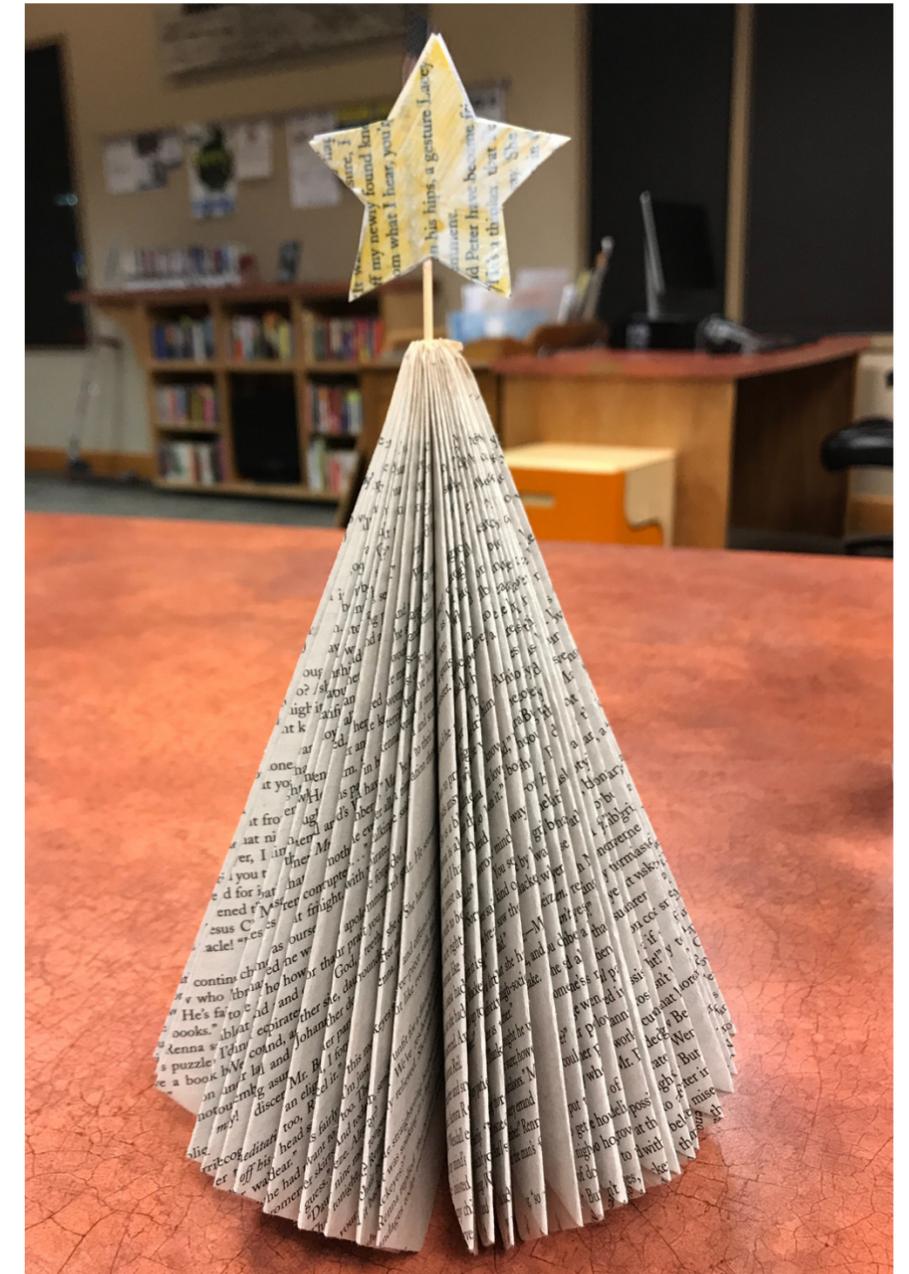


Crafternoon

One of our most popular programs is our weekly Crafternoon, which we held every week through the end of February. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce kids to the library and provide a safe, free and fun afterschool activity.



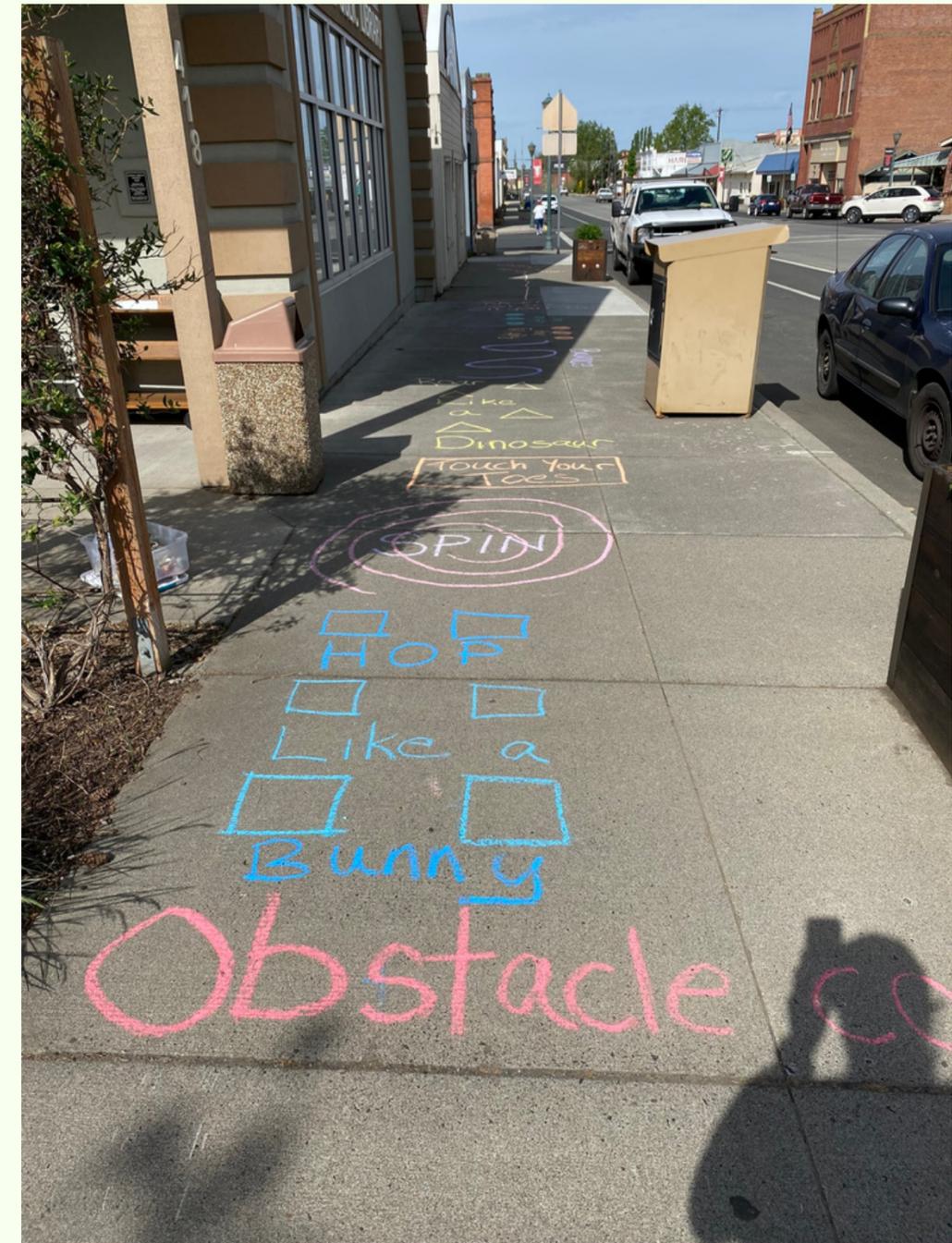
Our new 3D printer helped make crafternoon exciting, like with this Kobe Bryant memorial designed by some of our kids. We also tried to do seasonally appropriate projects, like the cyanotype fabric designs and paperback Christmas trees!



MOVING THE FUN OUTSIDE



We participated in the community Trunk or Treat. We also decorated the windows for the holidays. During the time of library closure we had a chalk obstacle course on our sidewalk!



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We are grateful to have excellent relationships with several local organizations.

- **Athena Tuesday Market** - During summer 209 we participated with activities for kids and mobile checkout.
- **ABC Preschool** - We host a monthly storytime during the school year and participate in special events at the school.
- **Athena Weston School District** - Brought programs to the elementary school, provide space and services to high school classes, support OBOB at the middle school.
- **Athena Mainstreet Association** - partnered for Holiday Tree Lighting, building partnership for future activities.





UMATILLA COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Strengthening our community libraries

INCREASING AWARENESS OF UCSLD

- Invited Monica to do Storytime at the library once a month
- Submitted events and ideas for the monthly newspaper column
- Submitted events for the online calendar
- Participated in Food for Fines
- Link to the UCSLD website from our website.
- Emphasize the connection between county libraries whenever I sign up a new cardholder.

PANDEMIC TIMELINE

MARCH 2

Umatilla County's first Covid-19 case was confirmed here in Athena.

MARCH 12

We cancelled all in person programming. The library remained open as usual.

MARCH 16

We closed the library to all foot traffic. We started offering curbside pick up during specific hours every day.

MARCH 23

Governor Brown issued executive order 20-12 and we discontinued all curbside services. The library remained totally closed for more than a month.

MAY 18

Umatilla County moved in to Phase 1 reopening and we opened the library with significant restrictions.

Virtual Programming



FACEBOOK STORYTIME

I did my first Facebook Storytime on March 13. Since then I've averaged about once a week.



FACEBOOK TRIVIA NIGHT

We did our first Facebook Trivia on April 21 and are continuing to do it on a weekly basis as of July 22. We're averaging around 10 participants, which I would definitely consider a success if it were in person programming!



LEGO ZOOM

We started a weekly LEGO Zoom party on April 23 and continued it until the middle of June. As soon as school was out the participants decided they would probably be outside too much to enjoy a Zoom party!

SUMMER READING 2020

EMBRACING THE CHALLENGES

WEEKLY ACTIVITY BAGS

Participants could pick up a weekly activity bag. Each themed bag included a challenge, a suggested reading list, a craft or science project and a snack.

BOOK GIVEAWAYS

We joined with Weston Public Library to give books away to more than 350 students in AW School District. The books were sent home in food boxes the district provided.

OUTSIDE PERFORMERS

We kept our regularly scheduled agreement with the Museum of Natural and Cultural History and Traveling Lantern. Both organizations adapted their usual programs to virtual events for this summer.

THE FUTURE

PLANNING IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAINTY

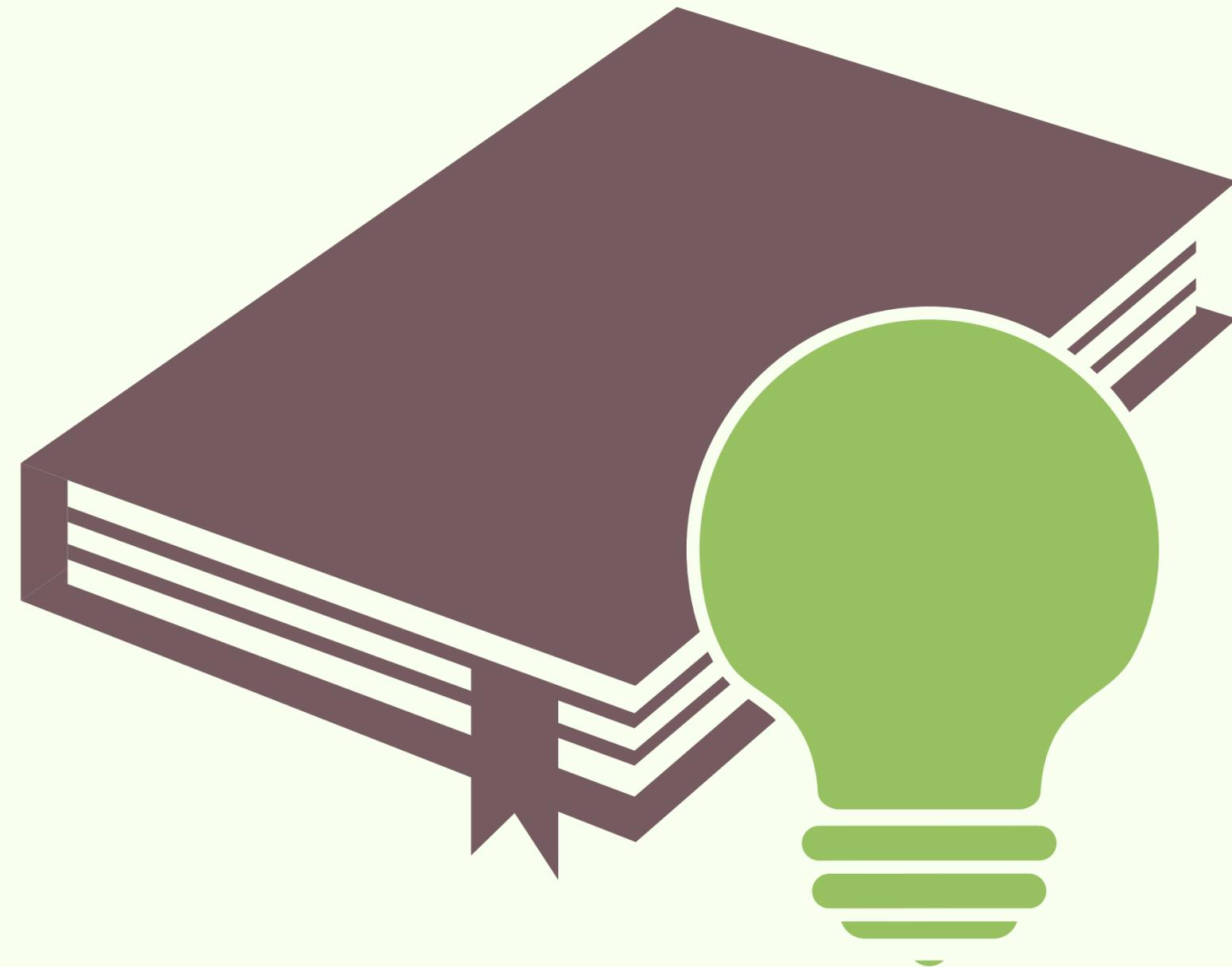
FALL PROGRAMMING

Started Outdoor Storytime in September and plan to continue as the weather holds.

School buildings are not open to us due to district restrictions on volunteers so seeking to support teacher/students in other ways.

Working with the Athena Mainstreet Association to create community connections in safe, distanced ways.

Currently working to start small, reservation only in person activities.



A photograph of a classroom with rows of wooden desks and purple chairs. A map is visible on the wall in the background. A large white text box is overlaid on the image.

“IT IS NOT THE STRONGEST OF
THE SPECIES THAT SURVIVES,
NOR THE MOST INTELLIGENT. IT IS
THE ONE THAT IS MOST
ADAPTABLE TO CHANGE.”

CHARLES DARWIN