



Library: Henrietta Public Library

Title of Program or Event: Family Beach Party

Age level: all ages

Description of Activity: An afternoon of activities intended to “take you away” to a tropical vacation. Activities included hula lessons with professional Hawaiian dancer, Victoria “wikolia” Visiko from Gallery Kauai Dance Studio, children’s games and activities, and a performance by the John Marshall Steel Drum Band. Tropical refreshments were served including pineapple punch, fruit kabobs, coconut cookies, and goldfish crackers.

Objectives / Goals: To invite families to come and “get away” from the winter blues for a Sunday afternoon.

Suggested setting: Throughout the library.

Time required: 2 ½ hours for the actual event. Plus many, many planning hours.

Materials and Staff needed: Hawaiian dancer, steel drum band, activity sheets with a beach theme for children, decorations, prizes for children’s games, refreshments, leis and bead necklaces to hand out to library patrons,

Advanced Preparation: Schedule dancer and band, plan children’s activities and games, buy decoration supplies, refreshments, and prizes. Set up different areas of the library for the various components of event.

Procedure: 1:30-2:30 Hula Lessons, everyone joins in and dance. Performance was held in the children’s library area. 2:30 – 3:00 Tropical refreshments were served in the community room, 2:30 – 4:00 Children’s games were held in the community room to

include a library treasure hunt throughout the library. 3:00 – 4:00 The John Marshal Steel Drum Band performed in front of the check out desk.

Modifications: There were several choices of activity sheets children could choose to complete; from a library scavenger hunt to a word search. Every child won at least one prize even if he/she did not play any games. The fishpond game was geared toward young patrons. Families were encouraged to work together to finish activity sheets.

Evaluation: The afternoon beach party was a great success. Everyone seemed to have a good time. There were only a few children with developmental disabilities (that we were aware of) that attended this event. The program transitioned smoothly from one activity to another. We feel there is a need to assess how we can reach more families who have children with disabilities. It is important to brainstorm how we can ensure families know they can bring their children to the library, regardless of their needs or abilities.