Books and Bites
Let’s look back... 2015
Let’s look back... 2016
Let’s look back... 2017
Lessons Learned

- Programming Matters
  - Collaboration to have the best possible programming
  - Choose strategic times for meals and programming
    - Ensure one flows into the other
- Community Collaboration
  - Outreach partners
  - Programming partners
PROJECT BREAD AT LUNENBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER EATS
FREE MEALS FOR KIDS & TEENS
INITIAL QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

- Do we need this type of program in Lunenburg?
- Do we have enough staff to manage this program?
- We are a medium sized library with a small staff and our busy summer program already stretches us to the max.
  - What are the logistics of getting food to the children?
  - Who manages set up and clean up?
FROM THEORY TO REALITY

- Approached by Rosemarie Caward from Project Bread
  - Informed of food supplementation need in our community
- Met with David Semenza and Program Director from Sodexo
  - Looked at space, discussed logistics
  - Found Sodexo to be well organized and timely in answering our questions and concerns.
- Discussed program with LPL Board of Trustees & Staff
- After approval was given, established a calendar and routine
MARKETING

- Posters and bookmarks provided by Project Bread
- Website/Facebook postings
- E newsletter and Event Calendar postings
- Outreach to area schools, day care programs and Teen Center
Day one Challenges & Solutions
- Bigger response than we anticipated - not enough food!
- Posted contact info near phones
- Worked with Sodexo to adjust our meal numbers going forward
- After that first day, there was never a time when there was not enough food for everyone.
We had some of our SRP student volunteers help out at meal times. The Sodexo staff made them feel very welcomed and appreciated. In turn the servers got some help in organizing the kids and making sure they got a full lunch in an efficient friendly manner.
Program attendance on our “Make it Mondays” and “Wow, Wednesdays” increased because there were families waiting in the Children’s Area for lunch to be served who might not have previously been aware of the other programs offered.

Families were delighted to have their children enjoy a healthy meal in a clean, cool environment.

We were impressed by the friendly, well-prepared, flexible servers who showed up each day right on time and quickly went to work providing meals for the children.
This program worked for us here at the Lunenburg Library in part because our actual hands on efforts were minimal. What we discovered was while we provided the space and basic cleanup everything else was taken care of by the very competent people that were involved in the actual, day-to-day implementation of the program.

The community understood and appreciated the thought behind this program and enthusiastically participated. However due to transportation challenges, we were not confident that we were reaching all the children that really needed the meals.

- We let the Summer Meals Program people know of some potential areas in town that might be best for reaching the children that would benefit from the meals but do not have transportation.
Mattapan, Massachusetts 02126

[Map of Boston and surrounding areas showing Mattapan]

[Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition logo]

[Image of Mattapan Community Center]
Worked with Mayor’s Office of Food Access (OFA) and partnered with local non-profit Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition (MFFC)
Books & Bites at BPL - Pilot Program

www.meals4kids.org
July 10\textsuperscript{th} – August 25\textsuperscript{th}

- Served an average of 43 meals to children and teens each day
- Monday through Friday, 1 – 3 pm
- Special thank you to Alan Siggers and Robyn Gibson!
Books & Bites: Kick-Off Event
BPD’s Operation Hoodsie Truck
Celia Contelmo, Mattapan Branch Library
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Vickey Siggers, Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition
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Thank you!
Books & Bites: Summer Meals at Libraries

Christi Farrar
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Massachusetts Library System

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- Christi Farrar – christif@masslibsystem.org
Summer Library Program (SLP)

SLP is a natural fit for Summer Meals!
Meals Have Impact

“Without summer meals, we couldn’t have summer programming.”

- Cate Merlin, Teen Librarian at Peabody Institute Library
Keys to Collaboration

• Explore Commonalities
• Build Relationships
• Strong Communication
• Outside-the-Box Thinking

Photo by Sidharth Bhati on Unsplash
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Thank you

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“Just One More”

- For this summer, can you think about incorporating just one more...
  - Library or branch
  - Programming or outreach partner
  - Activity or program
  - Staff or volunteer (maybe a teen?)
  - One more meal (add breakfast!)
  - One more day of the week
Maybe just one more.

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