



Welcome to the January 2026 Newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to provide families monthly updates about upcoming trainings, events, and/or groups in their area that they can take part in. If you have an event you would like added in the future please reach out to Melissa Rookman, Community Schools Coordinator at mrookman@boces.com or 315-777-9797 option 3.

In this newsletter you will find (click the blue links if viewing this virtually to go directly to that area):

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Parent Information/Trainings/Groups

Food Support Resources

Do you or someone you know need help with securing food for yourself or your family? Jefferson County has many resources available to help those in need.

- Many communities have local food pantries. Some have income requirements and others do not. But all can usually supply a family with emergency food regardless of income. Contact your local pantry to learn more.
- The Food \$en\$e program is open to anyone and helps lower the cost of some food staple items and has multiple pick up locations.
- A few churches offer local meals open to all in the community.
- The Department of Services can help you apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Currently funding may or may not be available but they can help you apply for when it is available.

To learn more about many of these resources go to <https://www.nnycs.org/services> click on your county and the "Food" option.

Warming Center

Daily 3:00pm - 8:00pm
Emmanuel Congregational Church - Watertown NY

"Come get out of the cold and enjoy a meal too."

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566632625508>

Anger Management Class

Tuesdays January 6, 2026 - 2:00pm
NRCIL - Watertown NY

"Anger Management Class starting on 01/06/2026 Register now for the next round of classes. You must participate in all 10 sessions to receive a Certificate of Completion. To register to request an accommodation to participate email rebeccag@nrcil.net or call 315-785-8703 and ask for Rebecca."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/17yNJMXusQ/>



W.R.A.P. workshop

Thursdays January 8, 2026 - March 5, 2026
NRCIL - Watertown NY

"Wellness Recovery Action Plan - WRAP - Workshop free for community members. Thursdays starting January 8 and running until March 5. From 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Location is CHJC Community Clinic at 211 JB Wise Place, Watertown, NY. WRAP is an easy process that supports people to live the life they want. To request an accommodate or ask questions, please call Maria at 315-785-8703 X 213"

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1Cru8h7fUH/>

Ages 18+ Foster Parent Information

January 14, 2026 - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"Join us to learn more about becoming a foster parent! Representatives from the Children's Home of Jefferson County will be on hand to present information and answer any questions you may have.

Ages 18+ welcome. Event is held in the South Reading Room.

Contacts:
Librarian Ashley P. - 315-785-7714
CHJC - mlowe@chjc.org or 315-412-6904

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/foster-parent-information-session/>

Student Involvement in the IEP for Families

January 22, 2026 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Zoom

"Learn about involving your student in their IEP Process."

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/VII4pdnPQDeitMPtLGrMSA#/registration>



New York State Assessment (NYSAA): Essential Information for Families of Students with Disabilities

January 29, 2026 5:00pm
Zoom

"Learn about the New York State Alternative Assessment (NYSAA) and what it may mean for your student."

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/OrftqSi1Spuu0wgKHA_2JA#/registration



Whole Family Events

Lego Clubs

Dates and Locations Vary see below

January 20, 2026 - 4:30pm - 6:00pm - Evans Mills Free Library - Ages 2 - High School
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/1FosjfMAh4/>

January 28, 2026 - 5:00pm - Evans Mills Free Library - Ages 2 - High School
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/14ULryzGf8U/>

January 15, 2026 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm Flower Memorial Library(Watertown) - All ages and abilities
- <https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/all-ages-abilities-lego-club-19/>

Social Sundays

Sundays starting in January 2026 - 9:00am - 3:00pm
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center - Fineview NY

"All are welcome at this social drop-in that is open from 9am to 3pm!~come hang out, make friends, and enjoy the cozy fire!

>Craft Cafe-Calling all crafters! Let the Nature Center serve as your workshop. Bring your artform and practice in community or casually learn something new! Coffee and tea available.

>Feathered Friends-Get up close with our feeder birds! The quiet, mindful activity of feeding birds by hand (or by head!) will leave you inspired. Birdseed provided. Great for all ages."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1HyUupBuXm/>



Night Sky: Jupiter viewing

January 10, 2026 - 6:00pm
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center - Fineview NY

"Join us for a rare opportunity to see Jupiter! Amateur astronomer Tim Abel will help us to see deep into the night sky and observe Jupiter with its beautiful red spot and many moons in addition to other prominent night sky features. Please dress for the weather and bring a blanket if you like. Please RSVP by 1/08; event subject to clear skies."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1725AVmPXU/>

Adventures in Tanzania Slideshow Presentation

January 10, 2026 - 11:00am - 12:00pm
Macsherry Library - Alexandria Bay NY

"A slideshow presentation of her recent trip to Tanzania presented by Monica LeClerc."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1DRqDHHwVg/>

Robert wehle State Park xC Ski/Snowshoe/Hike

January 17, 2026 - 10:00am
Robert G., Wehle State Park - Henderson NY

"Depending on conditions, we'll explore the park's scenic trails by cross-country ski, snowshoe, or on foot. If there's snow, dress in warm, moisture-wicking layers with waterproof boots, gloves, and a hat. If the ground is bare, wear sturdy hiking boots and layered clothing suitable for cold-weather hiking—traction devices may be helpful if trails are icy. Please meet in the main parking lot to sign in before we begin. To stay informed about any updates or changes, watch our Facebook page, and don't forget to RSVP so we know how many are attending. We look forward to kicking off the new year with you outdoors!"

RSVP requested Email - blackriverodk@gmail.com Call/Text - (315)775-837

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1DciZq2evM/>



guided winter wildlife Hike

January 24, 2026 - 10:00am
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center - Fineview NY

"Join us for a guided hike! Take in all the winter wonder Wellesley Island has to offer. We'll be looking for tracks, birds, and any other signs of active winter wildlife. Be sure to bring your warmest winter gear. Snowshoes will be provided if conditions allow (7+ inches of snow)."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1CBap2yEiZ/>

All Ages & Abilities Family Movie & Craft Afternoon

January 24, 2026 - 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"Join us in the South Reading Room for a family friendly movie, a simple craft, and a tasty treat!

This event is for all ages and abilities

January - Smurfs (Rated PG)

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/all-ages-abilities-family-movie-craft-afternoon-5/>

Sunset Snowshoe & Bonfire Social

January 29, 2026 - 4:30pm - 6:30pm
Thousand Islands Land Trust

"Experience the beauty of Otter Creek Preserve as the sun sets on a guided snowshoe hike, then cozy up by the bonfire with hot drinks and great company."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/16kugTL2s1/>



Snowshoeing Demonstration

January 31, 2026 - 1:00pm
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center - Fineview NY

"Join us to experience one of our favorite winter sports! We will be offering a guided snowshoe hike, weather permitting. In the absence of snow, we will have a presentation on the history of snowshoeing. Remember to dress warm!"

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1D2i486J2V/>



Elementary Aged Events (Prek - 5th)

Basic Japanese Language Class

Tuesdays in January - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Lyme Free Library - Chaumont NY

"Join us for a free, four-part introductory course in Japanese, held every Tuesday evening in January from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This class introduces essential grammar and basic phrases, helping participants confidently introduce themselves in Japanese while also sparking an interest in foreign language learning.

The course will be taught by Josh Aubertine, who has twenty years of language-teaching experience in Japan and holds multiple Japanese language certifications. Open to ages 10 and up. Attending all four lessons and participation are encouraged for the best learning experience. It is also recommended to bring basic stationery such as a pen or pencil, an eraser, and a highlighter. "

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BwH7hYiny/>

Let the Games Begin!

January 5, 12, 26, 2026 - 3:00pm - 4:15pm
Macsherry Library - Alexandria Bay NY

"Join Hearts For Youth for some gaming fun! Open to youth in 3rd grade and up."

Must Register to attend.

If Alexandria Central School is Closed - Hearts for Youth Programming is Cancelled.

<https://heartsforyouth.org/available-hfy-programs/>



Tween Gaming

January 5, 2026 - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"Join us for a snack, games (Nintendo Switch, Wii, PC, and board games), and a good time! Betcha can't beat us at Mario Kart!

This event is for ages 8-12. Limited to 12 participants on a first come, first served basis. No reservations can be made."

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/ages-8-12-tween-gaming-5/>

Tween Crafternoon

January 8, 2026 - 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"Join us each month in the Makerspace from 4:00pm-5:00pm for a different craft and enjoy some snacks too!

January 8 - Shrinky Dinks

This event is for ages 8-12. Limited to 10 participants on a first come, first served basis. No reservations can be made."

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/ages-8-12-tween-crafternoon-5/>

Art Club

January 9, 2026 - 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"For ages 6-12. Hosted by local art educator Shalaina Thompson at 4pm to 5pm in the Children's Room.

Questions? Contact Library Director Suzie Renzi-Falge at 315-785-7701"

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/ages-6-12-art-club-20/>



Bookworm Brigade

January 10, 2026 - 10:30am - 11:30am
Lyme Free Library - Chaumont NY

"The Brigade will enjoy a celebration of learning and literacy with books while meeting other members of the community for a great opportunity to have fun and make friends. Appropriate for children ages 6 to 10. Wednesdays at 11am upstairs."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/15dtsQnGQyj/>

Creative Kids Art Club!

January 10, 2026 - 10:30am - 11:30am
Lyme Free Library - Chaumont NY

"Creative Kids Art Club is a monthly art program for kids of all ages. Each month we will explore different art techniques. Hosted by local artist Tracey Jean. Free! Sessions run from 10:30 to 11:30. Please call 315-649-5454 to register. Please note - You have to sign up for each class individually as the number of spots may fluctuate depending on the supplies available."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/16mMj7U8at/>

Children's winter Take & Make Crafts

January 10, 2026
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"On one Saturday of each month, grab a craft kit to make with your little ones! All the supplies needed for the craft will be included in the kit. Patrons are welcome to take the craft home or make it here at the library.
January - Owl Magnet

This kit is for ages 3-12. Please limit to one kit per child. Kits will be given out on a first come first served basis at the Circulation Desk. No reservations can be made."

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/ages-3-12-take-make-crafts-17/>



Ages 6+ Paw-fessional Police Dogs

January 13, 2026 - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"Join Ms. Jamie for a special visit with Luna and Bach from the Watertown Police Department! We'll learn about the important differences between therapy dogs and police dogs, discover how each one helps our community, and even get to see a live demonstration from both dogs!

This event will take place in the South Reading Room and is for ages 6 and up. There is a limit of 30 participants on a first come, first served basis."

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/ages-6-paw-fessional-police-dogs/>

Art Club

January 13, 2026 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm
East Hounsfield Free Library - Watertown NY

"Join us for Art Club with Dana Gillan at East Hounsfield Free Library!

This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re grants Program, a re grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and administered by the St. Lawrence County Arts Council.

Club is appropriate for school aged children.

Feel free to reach out with any questions! "

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1Dmc23wgnH/>



Youth Book Club

January 24, 2026 - 11:00am - 12:30pm
East Hounsfield Free Library - Watertown NY

"Join us at the library for our Youth Book Club! This month, we'll share the stories we've been reading and brainstorm fun titles to add to our reading list for the year.

Bring a wrapped new or gently used book to share, along with a favorite quote or note about why you love it!

Come for the books, stay for the fun, and kick off the year with new adventures and friends in reading."

<https://www.facebook.com/shore/1BkLKdeNQ3/>



Middle School Aged Events (6th - 8th)

Basic Japanese Language Class

Tuesdays in January - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Lyme Free Library - Chaumont NY

"Join us for a free, four-part introductory course in Japanese, held every Tuesday evening in January from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This class introduces essential grammar and basic phrases, helping participants confidently introduce themselves in Japanese while also sparking an interest in foreign language learning.

The course will be taught by Josh Aubertine, who has twenty years of language-teaching experience in Japan and holds multiple Japanese language certifications. Open to ages 10 and up. Attending all four lessons and participation are encouraged for the best learning experience. It is also recommended to bring basic stationery such as a pen or pencil, an eraser, and a highlighter. "

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BwH7hYiny/>

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January 5, 2026 - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"Join us for a snack, games (Nintendo Switch, Wii, PC, and board games), and a good time! Betcha can't beat us at Mario Kart!

This event is for ages 8-12. Limited to 12 participants on a first come, first served basis. No reservations can be made."

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<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/ages-6-12-art-club-20/>

Open Gaming

January 9, 23, 30, 2026 - 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"Stop by the Teen Space Fridays after school for a snack and games (Nintendo Switch, Wii, PC, and board games). Betcha can't beat us at Mario Kart!

This event is for ages 12-17. If you are 18 years-old and still attend high school, you may attend teen programs. Limited to 12 participants on a first come, first served basis. No reservations can be made."

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/ages-12-17-open-gaming-53/>



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January 13, 2026 - 3:00pm - 5:00pm
East Hounsfield Free Library - Watertown NY

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Club is appropriate for school aged children.

Feel free to reach out with any questions! "

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1Dmc23wgnH/>

Book Display Brigade

January 22, 2026- 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Flower Memorial Library - Watertown NY

"Channel your inner designer and help make a book display for the Teen Space. Participants gain volunteer time for attendance.

This event is for ages 12-17. If you are 18 years old and still in high school, you are welcome to attend."

<https://www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/event/ages-12-17-book-display-brigade-14/>



Youth Book Club

January 24, 2026 - 11:00am - 12:30pm
East Hounsfield Free Library - Watertown NY

"Join us at the library for our Youth Book Club! This month, we'll share the stories we've been reading and brainstorm fun titles to add to our reading list for the year.

Bring a wrapped new or gently used book to share, along with a favorite quote or note about why you love it!

Come for the books, stay for the fun, and kick off the year with new adventures and friends in reading."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BkLKdeNQ3/>

Peer Educators Needed

Planned Parenthood

"Peer Educators promote health and wellness through educational and fun events for other youth in the community.

Open to Youth ages 13 - 24 years of age

If interested in learning more - ppncny.education@gmail.com

SoZo Teen Center

Monday - Friday 2:30pm - 7:30pm
SoZo Teen Center - Watertown, NY

Drop in for some teen time. We have a variety of activities.
Snack at 1pm and Dinner at 4:45pm

Free and open to youth in grades 7 - 12th

<https://www.facebook.com/WatertownSoZoTeenCenter>



High School Aged Events (9th - 12th)

Basic Japanese Language Class

Tuesdays in January - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Lyme Free Library - Chaumont NY

"Join us for a free, four-part introductory course in Japanese, held every Tuesday evening in January from 6:00-7:00 p.m. This class introduces essential grammar and basic phrases, helping participants confidently introduce themselves in Japanese while also sparking an interest in foreign language learning.

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Free and open to youth in grades 7 - 12th

<https://www.facebook.com/WatertownSoZoTeenCenter>



Specialized Group Events

Exceptional Dance Party

January 24, 2026 - 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Rhonda's Footeworks - Watertown NY

"Get ready to groove in an environment built just for you! Rhonda's FooteWorks is excited to host a specialized dance party designed specifically for children and teens aged 5-15 who have higher support needs.

This is a welcoming atmosphere with modifications to ensure every participant feels comfortable and empowered. Experience an hour of tailored music, adaptive dance activities, and a chance to shine on the dance floor. Rhonda's volunteers will be on hand to provide the necessary support, making this a truly exceptional afternoon for everyone involved."

<https://www.encompassrec.com/events/exceptional-dance-party-1>

Teen+ Club

January 7, 2026 - 5:00pm - 6:00pm
CHJC Campus Cottage 1 - Watertown NY

"The Teen+ Club is a specialized program designed to serve neurodivergent teens and young adults (ages 13-21) in the community, providing them with a supportive environment where they can build social skills, engage in collaborative activities, and receive guidance for transitioning into adulthood. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by neurodivergent individuals, especially during the critical adolescent and young adult years, the Teen+ Club aims to bridge the gap in services that cater to their social, emotional, and developmental needs.

Program will be in Cottage #1 on the CHJC Campus, led by volunteers."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/16gwhBUF4R/>



Tinker Club

January 7, 2026 - 6:00pm - 7:00pm
CHJC Campus Cottage 1 - Watertown NY

"Tinker Club is a specialized STEM and social program developed to support exceptional youth ages 11-21.

The program is designed to address the unique needs of young individuals with higher support needs, providing them with a nurturing environment to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects, engage in creative problem-solving, and build essential social skills.

Program will be in Cottage #1 on the CHJC Campus in Watertown"

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1AQmgTCxwD/>

Pokemon Club

January 27, 2026 - 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Robert C. McEwen Library - Fort Drum NY

"All ages and skill levels welcome! Pokémon Club meets every 4th Tuesday of the month. Bring your deck or borrow one of ours to play. Enjoy themed crafts and socialize with peers."

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1NfVPr4idY/>

Lego and K'nex Day

January 17, 2026 - 10:00am - 11:30am
Robert C. McEwen Library - Fort Drum NY

"Come in and build with our Legos and K'nex sets! All ages and skill levels welcome!"

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1FQJzwkJ74/>



LGBTQ Youth and Allies

Thursdays in December, 2025 - 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Q Center - Watertown NY

The Q Center Parent Groups

Virtual - by ACR Health

Wednesdays 12:30pm - 1:30pm - Mix & Match, Coffee N' Chat

Wednesdays 6:00pm - 7:30pm - Dinner & Discussion

<https://www.acrhealth.org/youth-programs/q-centers/>