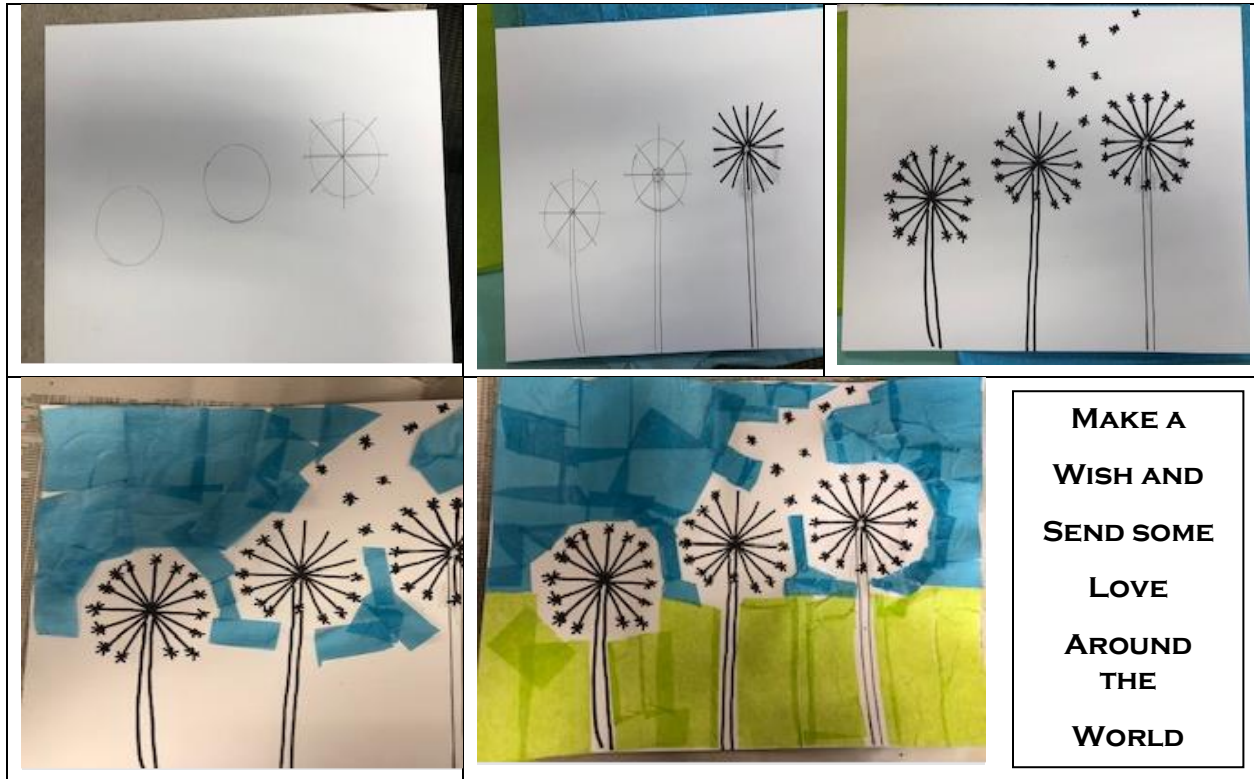This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week is the kick-off for the Summer Reading program with the theme, "All Together Now". We will celebrate all together with some dandelion process art. The dandelion, around for thousands of years, is a hardy member of the sunflower family with about 100 different species found around the world. Their flowers, leaves and roots have been used for food, medicine, and even dye. There are many folklore tales that people have associated with the dandelion. Some people believe that dandelion seeds will carry your thoughts and dreams to loved ones when you blow them into the air. If all the seeds come off in one puff, it is believed that your wish will come true!

Let's make a wish that we can live, work, and read ALL TOGETHER NOW!

MAKE A WISH AND SEND SOME LOVE AROUND THE WORLD

1- Draw 3 circles with a pencil on a piece of watercolor paper. Add stems. Next draw lines through the middle of the circles going around the outer edge like a wheel. You can erase the lines of the outer circle after you have drawn the cross lines, as those were a guide. Trace over the lines of the dandelion and its stem with a black marker (permanent marker, if possible). On the end of each line, draw a small star. These will be the seeds of the dandelion. You can even leave some lines empty and add the seeds around the paper, as if you have blown the seeds into the wind. If you have a young artist, you can make just one large circle.

2- When you are done drawing the dandelions, cut squares of blue and green tissue paper. Green will be for grass and blue will be for the sky. Apply the squares around the dandelions. Dip a brush or finger into water and lightly brush it over the tissue paper, so it sticks to the background paper. If you do not have watercolor paper, add a bit of glue to the water and brush over the tissue paper only. Let dry. Be very careful not to overlap the dandelion drawing. If you are using watercolor paper, remove the tissue paper when everything has dried. If you do not have the tissue paper, use markers and lightly add water, after coloring.

Hoping your summer is full of books and warm, happy days!

Ms. Susan