

Darby Doll Dispatch

Volume 1 Issue 2

October 2013



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Darby Library American Girl Book and Doll Club

September Meeting

By Miss Kay

The Darby American Girl Book and Doll Club Meet and Greet party, our first meeting of the 2013/2014 school year, was held Friday, October 4.



We started the meeting with voting for Best Dressed doll. The winner was Bella who dressed Rebecca as a beautiful bride.

Congratulations Bella!

The girls decided on the points system for this year. One point is earned for attending, bringing your doll, bear, toy or book, and for participating in the

meeting. Two points are earned for bringing a friend to the meeting who has not previously participated in the club. The prize this year is a wonderful stylist



chair that moves up and down and has a movable foot rest. The stylist chair will be awarded to the girl with the most points at the May meeting.

Summer and Darby were the Dolls of the Month at the September meeting.



Everyone just loved their Halloween costumes! Summer dressed as Alice from the Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. Darby dressed as the White Rabbit. They also brought props – a looking glass, the Cheshire Cat, and a vintage set of the books.

Everyone was really excited to hear about the Doll Fairy, who will present an American Girl doll to the girl whose name is drawn at the May meeting. To enter for a chance to win the doll, any girl who does not have an American Girl, enters her name in the Doll Fairy



box at every meeting she attends. Who will be the lucky winner? We can't wait!

Everyone was also very interested in our new newsletter. Copies will be available in the Library on our American Girl Book and Doll Club shelf. One of the girls has written a story for the newsletter which appears in this issue.

Miss Wendy read an excerpt from *The Incurable Children of Ashton Place* by Maryrose Wood. This surprising satire takes place in England in the 19th century. A 15-year old Miss Penelope Lumley is hired as governess to three young children who have been raised by wolves. Miss Lumley must teach the children to behave in a civilized manner quickly, in preparation for a Christmas ball.

The Incurable Children of Ashton Place is available to check out at the library.

We wrapped up the meeting by making



tiny
Trick-
or-
Treat
bags
for our
dolls
and
cute

spiders out of lollipops, pipe cleaners and pompoms.

Our next meeting is Friday, November 1 at the Library right after school. The theme of the meeting is Fancy Nancy, a doll based on a series of books. Nancy loves to dress fancy like high heels, big hats, ribbons, beads, and bobbles! For the November Best Dressed contest, dress your doll or bear fancy like Nancy. Summer and Darby are already

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searching the thrift shops for feather boas and wild jewelry! You can dress fancy too!



Our Doll of the Month for November is Julie Albright. Julie grew up in the 1970s, about the

same time Jane O'Connor, author of the Fancy Nancy books, was growing up.

Member Profile - Sophia

By Miss Kay

Our Girl of the Month is Sophia. Sophia is 11 years old and attends the Darby Middle School.



Sophia loves science because she likes to do experiments. It's fun to be up out of her seat and walk around while she watches or works on experiments. Maybe Sophia will enter a science project in a science competition!

And it is not a surprise that her favorite books are the Harry Potter series, especially *The Chamber of Secrets*.

Sophia's favorite sports are soccer and swimming and her favorite foods are chicken noodle soup and spaghetti (not together!).

Sophia has several dolls. One is an 18" doll similar to American Girl, but her favorites are cloth dolls made by her mother. Sophia hopes to win the American Girl doll presented by the Doll Fairy in May.

Summer's Scoop

By Summer Elise Flores



I had so much fun at the Meet and Greet party to kick off the American Girl Book and Doll Club meetings for the 2013/2014 school year. It was really fun especially since Darby came too. I loved the book Miss Wendy read from. I hope Miss Kay checks it out from the library so we can read it.

All the girls just loved my Halloween costume and Darby's too. Rebecca was also at the meeting and wore a beautiful wedding dress.

I've been doing some traveling too. September 21 I went to the Lewiston, ID doll show. What fun! It was even bigger



than the show in Billings that I went to in August. Miss Kay took a bunch of teddy bears to sell and you will never guess what happened. One of the other sellers really like the bears and wanted to make a trade. Miss Kay

traded a bunch of bears for Felicity!

Felicity is just beautiful and a very nice girl. She and Darby and I are becoming very best friends. Kaya was a raffle item and I bought a bunch of tickets, but we didn't win.



The very next weekend I went to the Nampa, ID



doll show. Nampa is near Boise. Felicity got to come too. They had a wonderful exhibit of books about dolls and dolls based on books.

My favorite was Edith, The Lonely Doll and Felicity loved Harry Potter – she thinks he's awfully cute.

Darby arrived the next Wednesday, October 2, just in time for the AG Club meeting.

All three of us girls are so happy we are together. We have been sharing clothes and accessories and believe it or not, Darby and I have the exact same birthday dress.



Darby and I just love our Halloween costumes that we wore to the AG club meeting. Felicity could not come to the club meeting because she had to go to Arizona with Miss Kay. I'll let her tell you about that:

Hi everyone. I'm Felicity. I love my new friends, Summer and Darby! I hope to meet the girls in the AG club next month. I couldn't go to the September meeting because I flew, in an airplane, to Phoenix, AZ with Miss Kay. She said we were going to visit with her family but I think the real reason was the doll show! Boy do they have BIG doll shows in Phoenix!



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There were so many sellers there with American Girl and other 18' dolls and clothes and accessories.



And we have a new friend. Her name is Desiree. She is a My American Girl. She's really nice too and loves being outside.

While we were in Phoenix visiting Miss Kay's sister, we got to meet Jacey. Jacey is Miss Kay's 5-month of great-niece. What a cutie! Miss Kay gave Jacey her first doll and book.

I'll turn it over to Darby now. She wants to tell you about her costume.

Summer and I sure had fun at the AG club meeting. My costume was so fun! I dressed up like the White Rabbit from



Though the Looking Glass (Alice in Wonderland). I even had a fuzzy bunny cotton tail and a pocket watch just like the rabbit in the story.

I sure enjoyed my time in Florida. Everything is so green and there are flowers everywhere. I love Lake Morton and the swans. I really miss all my

friends in Lakeland so I would like to write a few paragraphs in Summer's column every month. Rumor has it that Miss Kay is going to Florida in March. I'm sure one of us girls will get to go with her. I hope it is Felicity or Desiree since neither of them has seen Florida.

Back to you Summer.

Thanks Darby. That's all the news for this month. Be sure to see the Photo of the Month with me, Darby, Felicity and Desiree.

Animal Adventures

By Albert, the alligator

Benny was right. It gets down right cold up here in Montana. Fortunately for me,



the room Benny, Bea and the kids built for me in their lodge is toasty warm. When it's sunny out, even if it's cold, I still like to lay on the beach here at Lake Como. I can actually sunbathe just about anywhere I want. Seems the humans don't use the beach much in the fall. What a bunch of whips! It is kind of cool to lay on the beach and look at snow on the mountains all at the same time!

The fishermen are out again. Once it cooled off, they came out in swarms. Sometimes it's a real fight to get a meal. Lucky for me, there are lots of tasty fish swimming around (and a lot of really bad fishermen!)



Benny said he got a letter from Becca. She really likes Florida and has an amazing house in the base of an oak tree. Her BFF (what the heck does that mean????) Sofie, moved into the tree right above Becca's home. I guess they sit around and "girl talk" all the time. Seems Miss Kitty found out they have beavers in Florida and sure enough, Olivia flew north and there they are. Becca's all excited about some cute young boy beaver coming down to see her. Hmmm, wonder if Benny and Bea know about that? I sure ain't gonna tell them.

Apparently Becca and Sofie have a new friend, Bertie. She's a bat and lives in the same tree. Each to their own. But I guess I can't complain. Roscoe is my friend and I don't know anybody that can whine about manners and etiquette like him!

We made some new friends too. Debbie and Diane are twin fawns. They are



white tail deer. We first met them a few months ago. Their Mom told them to go hide in the bushes by the lake and the little trouble makes laid down right beside the willow Benny had his eye on to chop down. They had spots all over and were real quiet but Benny saw them anyway. I guess he knows about baby deer and left them alone until their Mom came and got them. They come by

almost every day. They are getting bigger all the time and don't hardly have any spots at all now. I call them trouble makers because they are always in trouble. Their Mom tells them to hide and what do they do? They sneak away to go exploring. She has a fit when she comes back and they are gone to who knows where. But they are cute and fun to watch and they think I'm "different". They don't know what different is! They should have met Sssssydney the snake!

Gotta go. Benny needs my help hauling yet another willow into the lodge.

A Search for Friendship

An Original Story by Bella C.

Katherine Jane Brittle is an 8-year old that is a loving owner of a doll named Caroline Brittle. Katherine has short brown hair that reaches her shoulders. She has green eyes that shine dazzlingly. She has a right foot that's bigger than her left and a personality that is creative and imaginative. She's such an intelligent young lady too. Her doll Caroline is a blond with bright blue plastic eyes. Katherine loves her doll and Caroline loves her too. Katherine has no sisters, but a caring mother and father that don't spoil her. Katherine and Caroline share a bond like two sisters, though.

It was December 3rd at the Brittles' house when everyone was eating dinner that the news came. Caroline sat on her high chair, sitting behind a faux plate of spaghetti and meatballs with a tiny plastic fork, spoon and knife with milk sitting on the left-hand side of her plate. Katherine sat on her knees on her chair checking up at her mother and father with their wide smiles upon their faces. The snow fell silently outside the Dining Room window, but it seemed you could

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hear it since nobody spoke but with only the scrape of their spoons against the bottom of the Brittles' plates for a sound.

Katherine knew something was going on that she didn't know and she couldn't stand to be kept in the dark. With all that in mind she asked politely, "Um... Mummy? Daddy? What's up?!" She added the last part to catch their attentions and it did. They sat up straight and put down their forks.

"Robert," Mrs. Brittle spoke in a warning tone that was referring to Mr. Brittle. "Do you want to tell Katie, or shall I? Hmm?" Mr. Brittle's nose twitched like a mouse sniffing for cheese.

"I think it would be better if I did, Susan." His voice was soft and polite. "Now Katherine, your birthday is coming up and I wondered if you and Caroline would like to go to The Lost Trail sledding area?" Lost Trail is the town's sledding hill in the winter. Katherine kept nagging her parents about going last year but they always said no because she was too little. Katherine gave up this year. But now she showed a smile showing all her teeth and a mind racing. Caroline was also very excited, her mind showed a smile almost as big as Katherine's.

"What! Are you kidding! We would love to go, wouldn't we Caroline?" She pulled Caroline's booster seat toward her and whispered in her ear, "Do you want to

go?" Katherine pretended Caroline said yes and agreed to her father. "Can we go and pack, now, please?" Katherine sounded anxious.

"What. Before you're done with dinner? Why, I don't know." Mr. Brittle was now playing in a strong low-pitched voice with Katherine and Katherine liked it. "Should we dear?" Mr. Brittle was now implying his wife.

"I don't know. Why don't we keep her locked in the dungeon some more?" Mrs. Brittle was now teasing too. She spoke in a high-pitched old lady, creepy voice. But Katherine knew her parents too well. She grabbed up Caroline and skipped in the hallway toward her bedroom saying, "I'll count that as a yes then." Mr. and Mrs. Brittle just laughed.

The day of the trip Katherine got up, dressed in her winter outfit and dressed Caroline in one too. They went out to the car where Mrs. Brittle stood wrapped in a jacket and kissed Katherine good-bye. Katherine and Caroline jumped into the back-seat of her father's washed and clean Audi A8. Mr. Brittle climbed into the driver seat and drove Katherine and Caroline to Lost Trail. When they hopped out Katherine met her friends, Mia, Hannah, Annabelle and Julie with their dolls too. Mr. Brittle held up five long sleds and asked, "Ready Girls?" All the girls screamed an excited laugh. Caroline thought she heard her heart beat. Katherine gave Caroline to Mr. Brittle and said that she would come and visit Caroline soon. The girls went off with the sleds and climbed up on the Bunny Hill.

Caroline sat on a windowsill in the lodge beside Mr. Brittle and his buddies. After an hour or so, Caroline glimpsed Katherine walking to the lodge. Mr.

Brittle bought Katherine some hot cocoa. Katherine spoke to Caroline in a soft, low-whispered tone of voice, "I ran into Jacob, you know, the cute boy in my class. He said hi and asked if I wanted to sled with him. I said I couldn't because I was with my friends but man I wish I could've." Katherine went on and got on to new topics until she finished her cocoa. She was such a fast talker that Caroline didn't even understand half of it!

Katherine sat Caroline in the backseat of the car so she wouldn't get cold while Katherine went on a couple of more runs. Caroline sat there, thinking of how much fun Katherine is having and feeling happy for her.

Katherine climbed up on top of the Bunny Hill with no one around. But there was someone. The biggest bully in the second grade was pouting with his head in his hands! Katherine always felt compassion for people no matter how bad they were. "What's wrong Bully?" Katherine asked politely.

"I lost my Pokémon card at the park next door," The bully cried out. The park next to Lost Trail sledding area is very hazardous this time of year, because the stairs, the slides, and the ground are slippery. Plus, everything there is old and wobbly, so it can fall off anytime. Last year Mrs. Bullock, a thirty-eight year old teacher, slipped and broke her hip. That image flipped into Katherine's mind right away; she was frightened. But she needed to help, so she answered, "OK Bully. I will get your Pokémon card, but then you'll have to be nice to the kids at school. All right?"

"If you succeed, of course," the bully added.

Katherine and the bully went on to the park. All the while, Caroline sat anxious in the car for Katherine. Mr. Brittle was getting a little worried too. When Katherine walked on the concrete she slipped, but didn't totally fall. The bully pointed to the tallest slide and said, "My card is up there." The wind slapped Katherine's face as she walked/slid on the steps up to the slide. Next, the bully gave Katherine another hint and sniggered behind his hand, "It's probably by the wobbly railing." Katherine bent her back and leaned on the railing. Now, Caroline was worried, lonely and scared in the car. Mr. Brittle was now searching for Katherine.

Katherine just glimpsed the bully laugh hard. Then, the railing fell and with it came Katherine, falling, falling she thought it was like the marry-go-round, turning round and round, but a crude voice in the background laughing. She smashed hard on her back on the concrete, in a massive amount of tenderness in her back, Katherine's eyes drifted closed; she passed out. The bully bowed over Katherine and saw how she was. His arms flew in the air and he screamed for Mr. Brittle to come and Mr. Brittle came as soon as he heard. Lights flaring, the ambulance drove to the hospital with Katherine in it.

Sixteen hours passed by and Caroline saw the sun rising outside the car window. Caroline was cold, no Katherine to put arms around her. Caroline didn't know what happened. With that, she felt nothing, no compassion; Caroline thought that Katherine abandoned her. The sun fell that night, and to Caroline it felt like it would never come up again. She couldn't sleep; her eyes can't close, she couldn't cry; nothing would come out of

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her eyes. Nothing mattered anymore, her life was ruined.

After the third morning, the car door opened. In came Mrs. Brittle with tears in her eyes. Mrs. Brittle checked at Caroline and tried to smile; it wasn't a real smile. Mrs. Brittle drove a long while and then came to a stop. The sun rose high above the Masgeneral Hospital. Mrs. Brittle clung to Caroline when they skittered through the halls of the hospital. Caroline was having a change of opinion when they saw distorted bodies lying on beds that rolled. They came to a sudden stop at Room #342 where they heard a doctor talking to Mr. Brittle about an eight year old with a broken disk in her back. They clamored in and Katherine's arms reached for Caroline where Caroline slid into her arms. Caroline still didn't know what happened, but understood that she was wrong about her one-of-a-kind best friend, Katherine Jane Brittle.

The author, Bella



Photo of the Month

Submitted by Summer



Felicity, Darby, Desiree, and Summer playing in the leaves. What fun!

Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Event – Theme	Time	Location
Friday	November 1	AG Club - Fancy Nancy	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	December 6	AG Club - Teddy Bears	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	January 3	AG Club – Clothes Swap	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	February 7	AG Club - Mardi gras	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	March 7	AG Club - Circus	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	April 4	AG Club - Lewis and Clark	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	May 2	AG Club - Cinco de Mayo Doll Fairy presents an American Girl doll	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library

To add events to the calendar, call or email Miss Kay at 406-360-7214, schrader1501@blackfoot.net