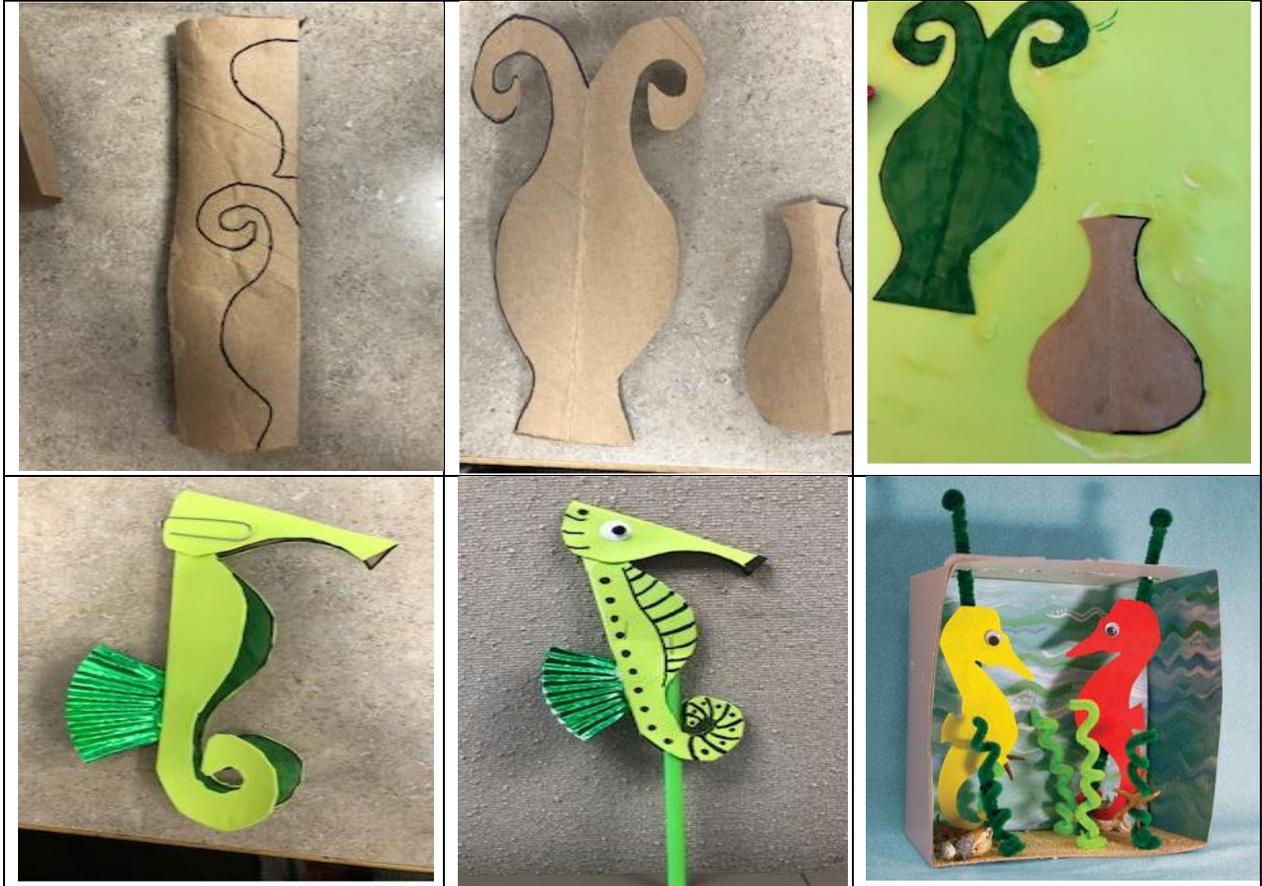This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. As we move into the second week of Summer Reading and celebrate "Oceans of Possibilities", we will take a look at the spectacular seahorse. The 43 species of seahorses live all over the world in coastal waters. The fascinating seahorse can camouflage themselves to blend in to the environment. The long snout of the seahorse is like a vacuum cleaner, sucking up its food of tiny fish and other organisms. Many of the seahorse species are nearing extinction, mainly due to human interference. Let's keep these wonderful oceans creatures alive through our art stories. Make a silly seahorse puppet and put on a show!

1-You can use a paper towel roll or a thick piece of paper. Cut the paper towel roll down the middle and fold it in half. Place the template on the fold or draw a long body with a curly tail. Make sure the belly is not on the fold. Now trace the template or draw the bulbous head with a long snout on the fold. Again, with the big, round part towards the middle and not on the fold. Cut out the two parts and flatten out on the table. Use any color of your choice to decorate the seahorse with crayons, markers, or paint. You can even glue the pieces to colored paper and cut out again. Fold back in half on the fold-line. Glue the head on top at a bit of an angle. Add fanned paper or a cupcake liner for the back fin.

2-Decorate your seahorse and add the eyes. Attach to a stick or glue on a straw for a seahorse puppet show. Or you can add a string at the top to hang up a few with your clownfish from last week.

Save the Seahorse!

Ms. Susan