

The YAC

*A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with Youth and Children
Brought to You by Iowa Library Services*



Upcoming Events:

March 4-10 - Teen Tech Week - see <http://teentechweek.ning.com/>. *Geek Out @ your library!*

March 30 - "The Face of Facebook: How Teens are Using Social Media" - online workshop*

April 6-12 -- National Library Week

*see the Iowa Library Services CE Catalog for details, registration and even more CE opportunities: (<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/>).

Occasions for Special Displays/Short Programs in March:

- March is Women's History Month
- 2 - Dr. Seuss' Birthday
- 11 - Ezra Jack Keats' Birthday
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 20 - Lois Lowry's Birthday
- 25 - Kate DiCamillo's Birthday

Summer Library Program Bulletin Boards:

The suggestions for summer bulletin boards from your Iowa Library Services District Offices are shown below. The lettering and assorted star die cut shapes are available through your District Office. The artwork is from the DVD included with your SLP manual. The "trick" to creating the teen bulletin board is to print the artwork on the same paper as you use for the background. If you need help with the artwork, contact your District Office.



Summer Library Program Links:

Take a look at these websites for ideas & inspiration . . .

- Summer Library Program on Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/pippi/2012-dream-big-read-collaborative-boards/>. Teen Library Program Ideas: <http://pinterest.com/mammabird12/teen-library-program-ideas/>. More general ideas are posted at "Pinterest for Librarians" at <http://www.sotomorrowblog.com/2012/01/pinterest-for-librarians.html>.
- Photos from the fall workshops with Jerri Heid and Val Donnell of Ames Public Library posted at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/slp/2012-Collaborative-Summer-Library-Program>.



Summer Library Programs and the Blank Park Zoo:

The Blank Park Zoo is excited to bring live animals to visit your library this summer and provide a hands-on, interactive educational experience for children! The live animal programs for Summer 2012 have been released and are designed to match the reading program theme of "Dream Big - Read!." Please visit the following link in order to review the zoo programs offered this summer:

<http://www.blankparkzoo.com/index.cfm?nodeID=18094>.

In order to schedule a zoo visit to your library, please call Blank Park Zoo's Education Department at 515-974-2559 or email Samantha at sjdunn@blankparkzoo.org. Summer dates fill quickly, so please book early. Libraries located over 35 miles from the zoo are encouraged to coordinate dates/times of zoo visits with other libraries in the area in order to share mileage charges. Mileage fees can be split between multiple libraries in the same region.

Blank Park zoo is also happy to provide free zoo passes to libraries for the 2012 Summer Reading Program. Zoo passes are intended to be used as rewards for children's' reading accomplishments, and we ask that only one pass is rewarded for each child prize winner. We would appreciate it if the passes are given out in the latter half of the summer, towards the end of the summer reading program. If you haven't contacted Doreen about

ordering zoo passes please do, her contact info is: Doreen Buls, Central District Office, Iowa Library Services, (866)-642-7917, doreen.buls@lib.state.ia.us.

Crafts for Teens:

This month we made a special effort to find a few crafts suitable to teens and tweens. Some are especially suited to the Summer Library Program theme.

- **"Pimp" your cords:** Add decorative beads to the wires for your earbuds, etc. -- <http://craftandcreativity.com/blog/2011/10/18/dagens-pysssel-pimpade-horluran-craft-of-the-day-pimped-earphones/>.
- Make your own **flashlight** from a soda can and cereal box: <http://www.instructables.com/id/Torch-made-from-coke-can-and-cereal-box/>.
- **Calaveras** - or skulls - for a "Day of the Dead" party. Print the advanced coloring page here on cardstock for teens to decorate: http://www.coloringcastle.com/diadelosmuertos_coloring_pages.html. Note: you might show examples of completed skulls such as the one at <http://lasinrazondelaspalabras.blogspot.com/2010/11/las-calaveras-literarias-y-el-dia-de.html>. You might also want to decorate skull cookies like the ones pictured at <http://pinterest.com/pin/13651605090006094/>.
- **Kitchen Owls** made from assorted metal lids, bottle caps, etc. See <http://findmakedo.blogspot.com/2010/08/focus-on-art.html>. You might use tin cans as the base shape for your owls, or look for plastic pieces to use instead of metal.
- **Mini Inspiration Booklet** -- <http://blog.creativekismet.com/2010/02/17/open-paper-bag-inspiration-booklet/>. Use this booklet format to record books read, summer activities, etc. Try recycled papers or regular copy paper; glue 2" square photos or mini art pieces to the pages.
- **Hula Hoop Rug** -- <http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/hula-hoop-rug-995304/> -- teens are bound to have old t-shirts to recycle. They might enjoy making these rugs to sit on in your teen space!

American Girl Book Club at Humboldt Public Library:

The Humboldt Public Library has an American Girl Book Club. The group meets once a month, on Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to Noon. Each month the club members (grades 3 - 5) read about a different American Girl. At the meetings, they discuss the times during which the character grew up and how girls today can relate to the character even though times have changed. Girls are encouraged to bring a doll (it doesn't have to

be an American Girl doll). Some girls even come dressed in period clothing. When the group was reading about Kit, who grew up during the Great Depression, a club member came dressed in a feed sack dress her grandmother had made for her out of an actual 1930's feed sack.

Sarah Evans, children's librarian, explains: "One of our goals for book club is to make history learning fun and interesting through hands-on activities. When we read about Molly, who grows up during WWII, we talked about rationing and even had some real ration books to share with them. For snack time, we gave the girls little ration books with coupons they used for their snacks. We tried to further illustrate the food shortages by serving a mock apple pie (which is made with Ritz crackers in place of apples) and a war cake. We told the girls there was a key ingredient missing from the apple pie. Nobody guessed it was the apples. They thought it was tasty even without the apples and wanted the recipe. Some other popular activities we've done include making corn husk dolls, embellishing blue jeans with patches, and making tommy walkers (tin can stilts). One month when we read about Felicity, who "lived" in the colonial era, we made pomander balls, which are oranges encrusted in whole cloves and rolled in spices. I wasn't sure if the girls would enjoy it, but it turned out to be one of their favorite activities. Some of the girls even went home and made some more. Many of the activity ideas we have found in American Girl craft books, which unfortunately are out of print. "

Sarah stressed that girls do not need to have an American Girl doll to participate. The focus is on the stories, the crafts, and the history.

Toward the end of each meeting Sarah unveils the next American Girl of the Month. She has constructed a mini doll-size theater from a large cardboard box decorated with gold fringe and curtains that can be drawn back with a cord. She puts an actual doll, a cardboard cut-out, or the chosen book in the theater. All the club members do a drum roll, count down to zero, and then draw the curtains to unveil the doll. Everyone cheers!

Sarah adds, "We end each meeting with a doll fashion show. Book club members are encouraged to bring 1-2 extra outfits for their dolls. (The dolls are the models, not the girls.) We set up a mini doll-size runway (a narrow table) that we decorate. Some of the girls choose not to participate in the fashion show and just spend time playing with their dolls and book club friends."

If you would like to try this in your library, the order of a typical meeting is as follows:
1) Welcome and book discussion; 2) Snack; 3) Crafts/Activities; 4) Unveil American Girl of Month for next meeting; 5) Fashion show/free time.

A bit about Sarah - in her own words:

I'm originally from St. Paul, Minnesota. I moved to Humboldt 2 ½ years ago after I received the children's librarian position. My husband, Michael, is from Iowa City. We have no children, but we do have a dog, Jack. Jack is a Jack Russell Terrier who has a big personality and LOVES sticks and walks, and especially at the same time. Every time we go for a walk, he has to carry a big stick in his mouth. Sometimes it's 6-feet long. We like to watch the reactions of people driving around in their cars when they see him coming. I like to play the piano, tap dance, and watch British period dramas, especially Downton Abbey.

I've been passionate about books and reading since I was a little girl. I had a wonderful childhood and books played a big part in that. I think every child deserves the same. I remember being 8 or 9 years old and organizing my own books in alphabetical order and creating my own library cards for my friends to check out my books. I would do the stereotypical sneak books to bed and read under the cover with a flashlight. I also loved to act out my favorite stories. One of my favorite was Snow White. I'd take an apple from the fridge (one that looked particularly poisonous), bite it, and faint onto the sofa over and over again. "Beauty and the Beast" has always been my favorite Disney movie because I could relate to Belle's love of reading and the Beast's library. I was scolded in school for reading a novel when I was supposed to be working on something else.

It's so hard to pick a favorite children's book or author. A couple of favorite picture books from childhood are "Imogene's Antlers" by David Small and "The Monster at the End of this Book" by Jon Stone and Michael Smollin. My mom did the best Grover voice for that last book. She also read the Little House books to me. When I was 9 she made me a pioneer dress and bonnet and we went on a Little House road trip to Pepin, Walnut Grove, and De Smet, South Dakota. I think that's when I first developed my love for history and probably my inspiration for American Girl book club."

Thanks for sharing, Sarah!

Teen Read Week 2012 Sneak Peek:

If you're making plans to celebrate **Teen Read Week Oct. 14 - 20**, the theme chosen by teens (who voted last fall) is "It Came from the Library." Products featuring a vintage horror movie look will go on sale in the ALA Online Store on March 9th and YALSA will launch its 2012 TRW web site on April 12th.

