

The YAC

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

November 2015



Upcoming Events:

November - **Picture Book Month**

<http://picturebookmonth.com/>

November 9-13 - **National Young Readers Week**

<http://www.bookitprogram.com/nyrw/default.asp>

November 21 - **International Games Day**

<http://igd.ala.org/>

January 11 - **ALA Youth Media Awards Announced**

<http://www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/presskits/youthmediaawards/alayouthmediaawards>

March 6-12 - **Teen Tech Week**

<http://teentechweek.ning.com/>

*See the Continuing Education Catalog at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/> for registration information.

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in January:

- 3 - Birthday of J.R.R. Tolkien
- 4 - National Trivia Day
- 6 - Birthday of Sherlock Holmes
- 7 - Birthday of Kay Chorao
- 13 - Birthday of Michael Bond (author of Paddington Bear books)
- 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (born on the 15th)
- 21 - Squirrel Appreciation Day
- 25 - Birthday of Marc Brown
- 27 - Birthday of Lewis Carroll
- 29 - National Puzzle Day

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in February:

- Black History Month & Library Lovers Month
- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 3 - Birthday of Joan Lowery Nixon
- 4 - Birthday of Russell Hoban
- 7 - Birthday of Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 8 - Chinese New Year & Birthday of Jules Verne
- 9 - Mardi Gras
- 14-20 - Random Acts of Kindness Week
<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>
- 15 - Presidents' Day
- 27 - Birthday of Uri Shulevitz
- 28 - Birthday of Daniel Handler

Scrap Craft

Long winter days ahead means a need for some thrifty but interesting activities to keep kids busy.

Teens will be able to make "bottle brush" trees for the holidays using scraps of yarn and instructions posted at <http://www.fynesdesigns.com/handmade-bottle-brush-trees-yarn-twine-garland-rope/>.

Make box chains into a small wreath (you might think of a less expensive substitute for the embroidery hoop!): <http://www.michelemadame.com/2011/06/series-6-box-chain-5-paper-wreath.html> (includes a link to instructions for making the box chains).

For some inspiration for scrap crafting, take a look at the following sites:

- <http://amodernfable.blogspot.com/2012/06/cardboard-love.html>
- <http://abduzeedo.com/beautiful-collage-works-derek-gores>
- <http://art.ekstrax.com/2015/05/what-is-new-media-art-find-out-more-about-it.html>

Make your own beads from plastic bottles:

<https://thefrugalcrafter.wordpress.com/2011/04/06/lets-make-beads-for-free/>

Complex coloring pages have become the "in" thing for older children and even adults. You might experiment with printing out some free coloring pages on scratch papers, weeded book pages, etc. Look for mandalas and other geometric designs. Here are a few websites with some free coloring pages:

- <http://www.easypeasyandfun.com/free-coloring-pages-for-adults/>
 - <http://coloringpagesforadults.org/>
 - <http://www.doverpublications.com/zb/samples/488381/sample2a.htm> (Art Nouveau)
<http://www.doverpublications.com/zb/samples/499197/sample5a.htm> (Steampunk)
- Or visit <http://store.doverpublications.com/> and sign up for free samples via email.

Found-paper projects are a great way to save money! Have children collect a variety of paper that might usually be recycled or thrown away: junk mail, magazines, cereal boxes, etc. The more creative the sources, the better! Add some weeded books and magazines from your library and turn this heap of scrap paper into collages, 3-D art projects, greeting cards, gift tags, or whatever comes to mind.

The trees on the right were made by gluing strips of paper from weeded books/magazines to a piece of scrap paper and then cutting out the shape. I used a die to cut these quickly, but you might also use a stencil or trace around a cookie cutter and then cut out the shape



with scissors. Any basic shape works well - try large letter shapes for children's initials. (This example was made with strips cut from the inside of security envelopes.)



The rolled paper "sculptures" described at <http://www.artbarblog.com/create/rolled-paper-sculptures/> could be made with recycled papers, too.

If you have access to scrap yarn, try a CD weaving project. See <http://makeitawonderfullife.blogspot.com/2011/11/cd-weaving-tutorial.html> for instructions.

Summer Library Program Preview



This year's Summer Library Program workshop presenters Molly Garrett of Cedar Rapids and Erin Silva of Kalona have created a fabulous website:

<http://onyourmarkgetsetread2016.weebly.com/>

If you weren't able to attend one of the fall workshops, check out the website for some ideas to complement your CSLP manual.

New die cut shapes for the 2016 Summer Library Program were also unveiled at the SLP workshops. The new additions are: small megaphone, 3-D megaphone, trophy, pennant (2 sizes), and whistle. Other shapes that go along with the themes "Get in the Game" and "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read" include: award, award bookmark, baseball, basketball, football, soccer ball, sport shoe with holes for lacing.



Please place your orders early by using the online form found at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/diecuts>.

Remember that there is a limit of 500 "cuts" per library and notice that larger shapes count as more than one cut. If you have questions, contact your District Office LRT.

Here is the link to the directory of performers from this year's Performers' Showcase:

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/performers-showcase-2016>

Celebrate the Winter Solstice on December 22

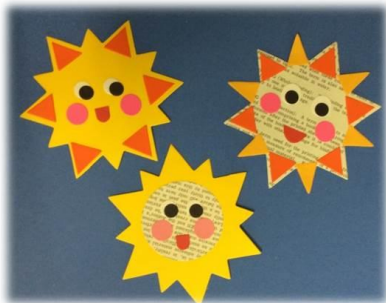
As an alternative to focusing on the traditional winter holidays, your library might plan a celebration of the shortest day of the year. Whether you call it the winter solstice or just the shortest day, the purpose is to celebrate the fun side of winter. Winter in Iowa technically begins on December 21st at 10:49 p.m.

Books for storytime:

- *The Winter Solstice* by Ellen B. Jackson
- *The Shortest Day* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *The Tomten* by Astrid Lingren
- *A Solstice Tree for Jenny* by Karen Shragg
- *When Winter Comes*, by Nancy Van Laan
- *Katy and the Big Snow* by Virginia Lee Burton

Crafts & Activities:

- Make simple bird feeders such as those made with cardboard tubes coated in peanut butter and rolled in bird seed.
- Make a variety of miniature "solstice trees." These examples were made from die cut triangles (folded in half and glued together) and die cut bookmarks (fold the bottom of the bookmark back and the tree will stand). Look for more tree crafts online or on Pinterest.
- In addition to celebrating the first day of winter, this event is about celebrating the fact that the days will begin getting longer. Welcome back the sun with simple sun crafts.



Odds & Ends



Check out the cool **Printable Book Display Signs** shared by Altoona Public Library on Iowa Library Commons: <http://commons.statelibraryofiowa.org/items/show/1096>. You will find a variety of useful signs in pdf format! Thanks to Emily Linacre!



STEAM Resources to Check Out:

- Start with a Book: <http://www.startwithabook.org/summer-reading-learning>
- Crazy 8s for Libraries (starting an after-school math club):
<http://bedtimemath.org/crazy-8s-for-libraries/>



Great Read Alouds for Kids: Babies to Grade 3

Visit the Reading Rockets website (below) for helpful information about reading aloud to children. You will find suggested books for each age group, videos demonstrating ways to share wordless picture books, getting more out of nonfiction reading, and using mental imagery while reading. Look for other resources on the website as well!

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/great-read-alouds-kids-babies-grade-3>



Council Bluffs Public Library will host "**An Evening with Rainbow Rowell**" on Tuesday, December 1st from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Rainbow is the author of several popular YA novels including *Eleanor & Park* and *Fangirl*.




Teach Happiness:

Scientists say that 50% of our happiness level depends on our genes and 40% comes from reflection, mindfulness, generosity, positivity and gratitude. Read a bit more about this at <http://www.projecthappiness.org/the-science-of-happiness/>.


- You can provide opportunities for young people to give back to the community in many simple ways. Helping with a food drive, setting up a mitten tree for donations, and so on.
- Check out some simple mindfulness exercises for children:
<http://annakaharris.com/mindfulness-for-children/>
- Try some simple Qigong moves with children -- such as those demonstrated on the YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSN55STxIiY>.

- Basic Tai Chi might be a fun, relaxing indoor exercise, too. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaZwO3Z8k0s> for example.


 Bloomsbury Children's Books has announced that it has plans for celebrating a second **Harry Potter Book Night** on February 4, 2016. The event will feature activities based on J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series.


Although most of last year's events took place in the U.K. (with 10,000 schools, libraries and book stores participating), readers worldwide are invited to take part.

Sign up to host a Harry Potter-themed party on Bloomsbury's website:
<http://www.harrypotter.bloomsbury.com/uk/harry-potter-book-night/>.

 The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) is offering the **Frances Henne/YALSA/VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) Research Grant for 2016**. This grant of \$1,000 provides seed money for small-scale projects that will encourage research that responds to the YALSA Research Agenda.

Details are available from the YALSA Web site at <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/awardsandgrants/franceshenne>. Applications for the grant are due **December 1, 2015**.

 November 21st is **Family Volunteer Day** sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation. Last year participants in Ames made no-sew scarves and blankets for the needy. Other volunteers collected toys for low-income families and assembled Thanksgiving baskets filled with non-perishable items. Your library might help by posting volunteer opportunities on a bulletin board or by serving as a collection point for donations to a local charity. See the website at <http://www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/family-volunteer-day> for more ideas.

 Don't forget to encourage participation in this year's **Letters About Literature** competition. To enter, students in grades 4 through 12 write a letter to an author explaining how that author's work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. For more information, see the website:
<http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org/letters>