

The YAC

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



June 2013

Upcoming Events:

July 8 - Google's Virtual Summer Camp/Maker Camp begins

(<http://www.makezine.com/go/makercamp>)

July 24 - *School Library Journal's* online Summerteen Conference

(<http://tinyurl.com/pwd7ehk>)

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

(<http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card>)

September 20-22 - Story! Festival in Story City

(<http://www.storyfestival.net>)

September 22-28 - Banned Books Week

(<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek>)

October 13-19 - Teen Read Week (<http://teenreadweek.ning.com/>)

October 29 through November 7 - Summer Library Program workshops (details later!)

November is Picture Book Month (<http://picturebookmonth.com/>)

November 16 - International Games Day (<http://ngd.ala.org/>)

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes to Plan for in August:

- 2 - The first mailboxes in America were set up in Boston in 1858
- 7 - Birthday of Betsy Byars
- 12 - Birthday of Walter Dean Myers
- 17 - First successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight in 1978
- 18 - Birthday of Paula Danziger

- 24 - Birthday of Paul Coelho
- 28 - Birthday of Alan Say
- 30 - Birthday of Donald Crews

Quick, Cheap Ideas for Teens and Middle Grades:

"Found Faces" Photos

Many teens have cell phones with cameras, so send them looking for faces all around them. It is fun to add stick-on google-eyes, hats, felt mustaches, etc. to enhance the faces, too. See the Pinterest sites at: <https://pinterest.com/sallyfoo/found-faces/> and <http://pinterest.com/lorisglassworks/fun-found-faces/>, or search the web for "found faces" to find more ideas for this project.

"Book Face" Photos:

Send the kids in search of books with large portraits on the cover. Take some photos using these covers to hide the kids' real faces. Create a fun display of the photos. See the Topeka Shawnee County Library Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TopekaLibrary?ref=ts&fref=ts> for an example.

"Found Paper" Collages

The idea behind this project is to round-up an assortment of paper that would normally go in the trash or recycling bin. Ask participants to save tags, menus, junk mail, old greeting cards, packaging material, and so on for about a week. Dump the paper in bins or in the middle of a table and provide scissors and glue sticks. This is a great way to decorate a page in an altered book, too. The fun is as much in the finding as in the creating! Recycle any leftovers.

"Altered Books"

We've mentioned altered books several times in recent newsletters, but this can be a truly great, low-cost project. Every library needs to weed, and once kids (or adults) get past their reluctance to "ruin" a book, the possibilities are endless. Here are a few suggestions you might make to get your teen group started on such a project:

- Start a "one-sentence" diary - summarize your life experiences in only one sentence per day. Write between the lines of text or in the white spaces. Circle any words in the text of each page that have personal meaning - favorite things, names of friends, etc. Doodle in the margins.
- Invent a code using the text in your weeded book. Write your diary entries in code.

- Write a letter to your future self. Write about your hobbies, favorite foods, best friends, etc. Include your dreams for your future career and so on. Remember to re-read this letter in a few years!
- Begin with an original first sentence for your great novel - or your autobiography. For inspiration, check out the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest at: <http://www.bulwer-lytton.com/>
- Use your altered book to collect things that make you smile/laugh. Include jokes, movie quotes, pictures, cartoons, etc.

"Paper Towel Art"

All you need is a roll of plain white paper towels and an assortment of markers, food coloring, water colors, or whatever you have on hand. Allow kids to experiment. Some markers will bleed, others won't. Try a bit of diluted food coloring in a spray bottle. Use Q-tips with water color paints. You might even start out by cutting the towels using a "papel picado" technique. [Fold towels in half, then in half again. Cut designs with scissors or paper punches - much like making snowflakes. See: <http://www.doverpublications.com/zb/samples/489949/sample4e.htm>]

Notes from Kids First:

We asked participants to share what they learned at the Kids First Conference and here are a couple of their notes:

•"I have been quoting Dr. Navsaria's experiences using books vs. a stethoscope! I was so impressed with his work and his ability to have it all make sense developmentally.

That made a huge impact on me and what I need to communicate to parents."

~Cathy Van Maanen, Huxley Public Library

[Watch videos of Dr. Navsaria's talks at: <https://videos.med.wisc.edu/presenters/619>]

•I loved the craft room. I liked the way it was make and take activities. It was a great place to just decompress during the conference and also get some new ideas.

I loved all the magic tricks I learned from Rick and Jerry. The best thing was that I learned what a wikispace is from Theresa Snyder and I have been able to set one up for myself.

The authors were all amazing speakers! It is such a treat to be able to hear their stories. I have even recommended several of their books to patrons in our library saying, "Oh I heard this author speak at a conference and I think you would love his/her book" Specifically I recommended The Truth About Truman School to a parent of an 8th grader.

~Julia Humphrey, Bertha Bartlett Public Library

A few words about crafts for your youngest patrons:

When planning crafts for toddlers, keep these "rules" in mind:

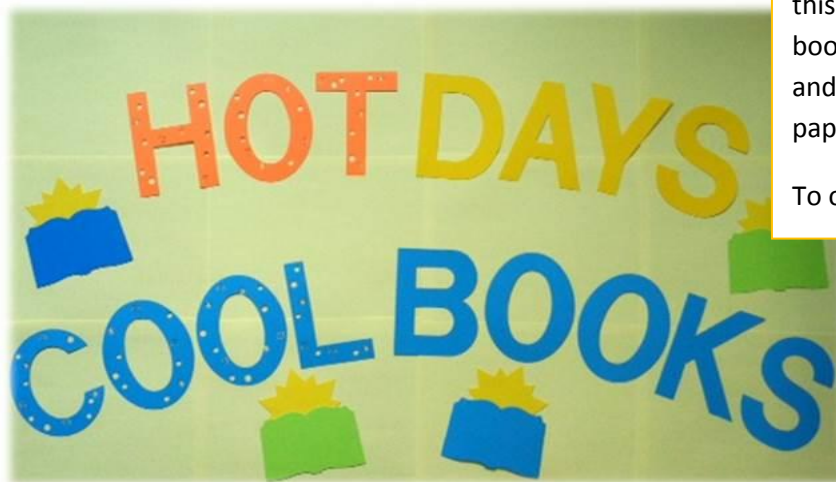
- 1) Crafts are for the children (not their parents, grandparents or caregivers)
- 2) Crafts should allow freedom of expression and a time for exploration (try not to rush them!)
- 3) Crafts remind the child of their positive experience @ the library
- 4) Crafts should add to the learning experience
- 5) Crafts for toddlers may be more like "activities"



A few easy ideas:

- Paint with water outdoors on sidewalks, etc.
- Make handprints and footprints on large sheets of paper using just water. [Test some different papers to find some that show the prints well.]
- Blow bubbles.
- Fill sensory tubs with rice or beans.
- Fill tubs with water and small objects that will either float or sink.
- Make some "rock art" by stacking pebbles or arranging them in patterns [for examples: <http://www.thechocolatemuffintree.com>].
- Make "nature collages" by arranging leaves, twigs, grass and flowers on sheets of paper.
- Sort anything. Collect plastic lids, balls, blocks, etc. Anything that can be sorted by size, shape or color offers a great toddler activity.

A simple bulletin board for August:



When your summer library program ends and you want something new and easy, try this idea. Just a few letters and some open books with sun shapes. Add book jackets and decorate the letters with your favorite paper punches!

To order, e-mail sue.gruber@lib.state.ia.us

Odds & Ends

***Follett Early Learning's Growing Readers Webinar series** is presenting several new sessions. See details here: <http://tinyurl.com/bmoeogg>. Each is 90 minutes in length, and here are the dates and topics:

• Improving vocabulary in the age of common core standards-guidance for early childhood educators. Presented by Susan B. Neuman, August 7, 2013, 1:00-2:30 pm Central Time.

• The librarian's "magic lens": A new way to view DP early childhood program alignment. Presented by Dr. Mary Stansbury, August 14, 2013, 1:00-2:30 pm Central Time.

• How to support teachers' use of story retelling to build comprehension and oral language in early learning programs. Presented by Cate Heroman and Carol Aghayan, September 25, 2013, 1:00-2:30 pm Central Time.

• The ECE director's guide to must-have literacy practices in early education classrooms. Presented by Nell K. Duke, October 2, 2013, 1:00-2:30 pm Central Time.

• Using an anti-bias lens to examine early childhood children's books in your program. Presented by Linda Santora and Cheryl Kilodavis, November 6, 2013, 1:00-2:30 pm Central Time.



Webinars broadcast recently are recorded and available at: <http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=62539dd9f78058db5a5e14d11&id=58b0e6738f&e=3f3d8ac848#recordings>

***"Teens, Social Media, and Privacy"** - a report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project: <http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2013/Teens-Social-Media-And-Privacy.aspx>

***Fun Sites** (sites to browse when you want ideas and inspiration):

- **Storytelling** - a blog created by a Youth Services Librarian to share her storytime plans, flannelboards, etc.: <http://storytelling.com/>
- **I Can Teach My Child** - lots of activities for alphabet-learning, counting and so on: <http://www.icanteachmychild.com/>
- **Science Sparks** - simple science ideas you can incorporate into your summer programs: <http://www.science-sparks.com/>

***Quick Display Idea** - "Perfect Books to Read Aloud with Kids": Choose from the list at <http://www.buzzfeed.com/alannaokun/books-for-kids>.