

The YAC

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



November 2013

Upcoming Events:

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

November 5, 6 & 7 - Summer Library Program workshops in Waterloo, Burlington and Urbandale*

November 15 - Performers' Showcase at Sioux Center*

November 16 - Performers' Showcase at Charles City*

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

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

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

- 3 - Birthday of J.R.R. Tolkien
- 7 - Birthday of Kay Chorao
- 17 - Birthday of John C. Bellairs and Robert Cormier
- 18 - Birthday of A. A. Milne
- 19 - Birthday of Pat Mora
- 20 - Martin Luther King Day
- 21 - Squirrel Appreciation Day
- 22 - Birthday of Brian Wildsmith
- 27 - Birthday of Harry Allard & television was first publicly demonstrated in 1926 in Scotland (display items related to TV history)
- 29 - International Puzzle Day & birthday of Bill Peet and Rosemary Wells

Better Storytimes

Why are shapes important?

Reading requires fine visual discrimination. Telling the difference between b, d, p, and q is a complex skill. That is why letter recognition skills begin with being able to tell the difference between shapes, sizes and colors. Adding games or activities that practice sorting or matching objects will help with letter recognition later.



Which comes first?

"Sequencing" is learning to put things in the proper order - which is an important skill for storytelling and for reading. Activities that build sequencing skills are playing games, counting, getting dressed, putting a series of pictures in order, and arranging objects by size. At storytime, you might have children retell a story that you've read using flannel board pieces. Rhymes like "Old MacDonald" are great practice for remembering the order of things, too.



Happy Holidays!

Cheap & Easy Crafts

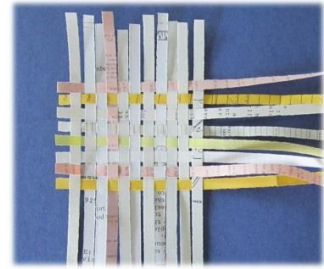
Use craft projects as a back-drop for discussions about holiday traditions, memories of holiday celebrations, reviewing holiday-related literature, or imagining what a perfect holiday would be like.

•Make holiday-themed "inchies." Give teens and middle schoolers several 1" squares of cardstock to decorate. Provide markers, magazine clippings, old greeting cards, and so on. Kids might trade some of their inchies with other participants before arranging them on a sheet of paper to create an art piece. See <http://alljenn.com/2012/02/28/the-great-rainbow-inchie-swap/> and <http://sweetlyscrappedart.blogspot.com/2012/01/over-40-ideas-for-inchies.html> for examples.

•Fold magazines into **table-top holiday trees**: <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/how-to-make-a-magazine-christm-72467>.

• Try **Paper weaving**: Run old greeting cards (or similar materials) through a paper shredder to make lots of strips and weave them together for a unique design.

Weeded book and magazine pages can be used, too. Heavier papers are easier for smaller fingers to work with. The colors used are what will give this project a holiday theme: use a lot of red & green for Christmas, blue & white for Hanukkah, or black, red & green for Kwanzaa. Mix in some shredded copy paper or construction paper in those colors if needed.



Getting started is the trickiest part: You may want to tape the ends of several horizontal strips to the table (at the left side) to begin. Remove the tape when you have a good start (as shown in the photo). You might want to make simple cardboard frames for the finished weavings. Or use them as a background for some holiday cut-outs or sticker letters. Be creative!

• Hand print wreaths are always fun! Save cutting by starting with die cut hand shapes available through your District Office. Use black, red and green hands for a Kwanzaa wreath - to symbolize the value of unity (umojia).

• Other seasonal die cut shapes available from Iowa Library Services include a fir tree, gingerbread man, bell, Christmas light, ornament, snowman, and snowflake (all about 5"). For the complete list, check <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/diecuts>.

Displays and Decorating

• If you have a glass display case, decorate it as a holiday store window a la Macy's and Bloomingdale's. Have teens help with a literary theme or feature books and classic toys. Search online for images of the famous holiday windows for inspiration.

• Decorate an outdoor tree.

- Roll TP tubes in peanut butter and bird seed. Place over the ends of branches or hang with ribbon.
- String cranberries and popcorn.
- Try arranging cranberries, blueberries, cinnamon sticks, and other organic materials on small paper plates or bowls (you might use different shapes such as square meat trays as well). Then cover with water, add a string and freeze. These will make pretty "glass" ornaments until they melt away.
- The "Outsider Art" article at <http://www.organicgardening.com/living/outsider-art> gives some tips and instructions for drying oranges, etc.

• Wrap tiny boxes in pages from weeded books to add to displays. Weeded book pages make great paper chains for your tree, too!

Performers Showcase Moved to November!

This year's Performers' Showcases will be held on Friday, November 15th at Sioux Center Public Library and on Saturday, November 16th at Charles City Public Library. The Showcases will begin at 9:30, with one hour for lunch, and will end at 4:00.



Rick Brammer has lined up a terrific group of performers for us. The line-up includes Jim Berkel from Mad Science of Iowa, Chasing 4 Life, Jason Dornbush of the Grout Museum, Dean Franzen -- Iowa's favorite Comedy Juggler, Duffy De France, Debbie Doo Wop and Dynamite Dan, Bob Windt -- The Rocket Man and many more.

Registration is open in the CE Catalog and a flyer is posted on the Iowa Library Services website at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/t-z/youthservices/show-and-tell-2014>.

In-person attendance at either event will earn 6 CE credits. Merri Monks will post videos of many performances on YouTube for those unable to attend (no CE credit for viewing videos).

Plan NOW for a Día Celebration!

The Día de los niños/Día de los libros celebration was started in 1996 by children's book author Pat Mora, who suggested linking the traditional Mexican Children's Day with literacy. The Association for Library Service for Children (ALSC) and the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos, and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA) are working to spread awareness of the celebration and encourage participation by libraries throughout the country. The celebration is held on April 30th each year and is a great time to plan a literacy event for all families in your community. Visit the website at <http://dia.ala.org/> for more information. The ideal family event incorporates stories, songs, crafts and food, so start planning and seeking community partners now.



Now is the time to apply for a Día Family Book Club mini-grant to go along with your Día program! The purpose of these mini-grants is to encourage libraries to offer a book club featuring multi-cultural, multi-lingual, or second language books. Up to 15 mini-grants will be awarded at \$2,000 each to public libraries that demonstrate a need to better address diversity within their communities. The project year for this grant is January 2014 through August 2014. For more information, mini-grant guidelines and the application form, please visit <http://dia.ala.org/dia-2014-mini-grants-available>. The deadline is Nov. 30, 2013.

Other resources to help you get started planning a family literacy event:

- Colorín Colorado: <http://www.colorincolorado.org/>

- Official Día Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Official-El-d%C3%ADa-de-los-ni%C3%B1osEl-d%C3%ADa-de-los-libros-Childrens-DayBook/194406259143>
- A guide from Random House with book titles, suggested activities and papel picado instructions: http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/pdf/DIA_brochure.pdf
- Toolkit from the Texas Library Association: <http://www.texasdia.org/toolkit.html>

A few examples of activities that libraries have included in Día celebrations:

- Combine this event with a sign-up for your summer library program.
- Hold a Parade of Books: Young children marching through the library carrying books and streamers or tissue paper flags.
- Stage a Reader's Theater performance of *Tomás and the Library Lady*. (See the November 2008 issue of *Library Sparks* magazine.)
- Display bilingual books from the library's collection.
- Play Lotería. The game is played a bit like BINGO -- using 54 cards with different images, "tablas" (like BINGO cards with 16 images) and pinto beans for marking the items that have been called. You can learn more about the game online. Game cards may be purchased inexpensively online as well. Or, create your own with reading-related images.
- Distribute bilingual literacy materials to parents. (Some free handouts are available from Washington Learning Systems at <http://www.wlearning.com/resources/>. Or print "Reading Tips for Parents" in 11 languages at <http://www.wlearning.com/resources/>.)
- Hold a Paper Hat Competition: Providing instructions, paper and assorted scrap materials for making and decorating paper hats.
- Breaking a piñata!
- Make cascarones (confetti eggs).

Summer Library Program Planning Begins!



There were both cute and frightening costumes at the early SRP workshops! Attendees were treated to a good preview of the manual and other resources. If you were not able to attend, check out these links to get started with your plans:

- The Official Website of the 2014 Iowa Summer Reading Program Workshops: <http://fizzboomread.weebly.com/>
- Sarah's and Anna's Pinterest page for the SRP: http://www.pinterest.com/small_fox/srp-2014-fizz-boom-read/

Odds & Ends

•Whiting Public Library shared these photos of their ceiling decorated for **Banned Books Week**. You might want to file this idea away for next year!



- YA groups might enjoy some of the activities from the **Soul Pancake** website at <http://soulpancake.com/activities>. Try the "Accessory Shot," "Harvest Haiku," or "Mystery in a Minute." Use whatever fits with the rest of your programming - there are lots!
- Iowa libraries now have free access to **TeachingBooks.net** - a database of multimedia materials about children's and young adult books, authors, and illustrators. Simply go to: http://TeachingBooks.net/Iowa_Signin and enter Username: Iowa AND Password: Public
- Apply to be a Giver on **World Book Night**: <http://www.us.worldbooknight.org/how-do-i-get-involved/be-book-giver-us/application-guidelines>. Applications are due January 5.