

The YAC

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



December 2013

Upcoming Events:

December 17 -- Libraries and Homeschoolers (online class)*

January 27 - Youth Media Awards to be announced

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

March 9-15 - Teen Tech Week (<http://teentechweek.ning.com/>)

March 16 - Freedom of Information Day

(<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/federallegislation/govinfo/opengov/freedomofinfo>)

April 12 - National D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Day

(<http://www.dropeverythingandread.com/NationalDEARday.html>)

April 13-19 - National Library Week (<http://www.ala.org/nlw>)

*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 February:

- February is Library Lovers' Month
- 1 - Birthday of Jerry Spinelli
- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 7 - Birthday of Laura Ingalls Wilder & Charles Dickens
- 10-16 - RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) Week (print some bookmarks from the website: <http://www.randomactsofkindness.org/rak-week>)
- 11 - Birthday of Jane Yolen
- 12 - Birthday of Judy Blume
- 15 - Full Snow Moon
- 28 - Birthday of Daniel Handler

Better Storytimes

*The New Year is the perfect time to feature months-of-the-year and days-of-the-week themes.



Suggested Books:

- Katz, Karen. TWELVE HATS FOR LENA: A BOOK OF MONTHS.
(Lena creates a new hat for each month of the year. Make simple paper hats for the craft!)
- Martin, Bill. THE TURNING OF THE YEAR.
- Piernas-Davenport, Gail. SHANTE KEYS AND THE NEW YEAR'S PEAS.
(A little girl learns about New Year's celebrations around the world.)
- Sendak, Maurice. CHICKEN SOUP WITH RICE.
(Sing the Carole King version: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNBzJlpwChU>)

*Free Webinar from the U of Wisconsin-Madison:

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 9 from noon to 1:00 p.m. for "Get up and move! Why movement is part of early literacy skills development" with Dr. Allison Kaplan.

Pitter, patter like a cat;
Stomp like an elephant with feet flat!
Now turn around and just like that;
Sit down quietly with hands in your lap!

The ALSC early literacy initiative, "Every Child Ready to Read," presents five practices: Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing, as strategies for helping parents understand how to develop early literacy skills in their children. We tend to feel pretty comfortable with incorporating Talking, Singing, Reading, and Writing into storytime programming; but, what about Playing? In this webinar, participants will learn about the important role moving, playing instruments, and pretending have in helping children ages 0-4 develop early literacy skills and how to incorporate those into storytime programming. Go to <http://go.wisc.edu/k0x61w> to register. More information about U of Wisconsin webinars is posted at <http://www.slis.wisc.edu/2014webinars.htm>.

Little Wolves for Book Discussions

The 2014 All Iowa Reads title, *Little Wolves* by Thomas Maltman, would make a good discussion book for older teens. All of the District Offices will have two sets available for libraries to borrow. The sets include 9 paperback copies, one audio copy and one large print edition. Find out more about All Iowa Reads on the website: <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org/air>. Just call or email your District Office to schedule a discussion set for your group!



Happy Holidays!

Impromptu Programs:

Need a last-minute storytime or after-school program? Here are a few ideas that require few materials and little prep:

- Star Books - A simplified version of the star book craft described at <http://crstamping.wordpress.com/2010/10/04/making-star-books-with-silhouette-stamps/> and https://naea.digication.com/lqatlin/Star_Books requires only cardstock, scraps of ribbon or yarn, and double-sided tape or a tape runner.
- Easy Icicle Craft -- all you need is glue, stiff paper and salt: <http://innerchildfun.com/2011/02/easy-icicle-craft.html>
- Ornaments from Paper Strips: <http://spoonful.com/crafts/paper-drops>

•A few good printables:

- Christmas Lights Maze: <http://spoonful.com/printables/santas-christmas-lights-maze>
- Kwanzaa Candles: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/kwanzaa/printable/3784.html>
- December 21st marks the 50th anniversary of the crossword puzzle. Share some seasonal puzzles:
<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/christmas-picture-crossword>
http://www.dltk-kids.com/type/crossword_puzzles.htm
<http://www.abcteach.com/directory/fun-activities-crossword-puzzles-40-2-1>
<http://puzzles.about.com/od/holidaycrosswords/l/qprxmas.htm>

Teen Volunteers

Iowa Library Services recently held Director's Roundtables across the State to discuss how to work with volunteers in the library. Since many of you work with teen volunteers, it might be a good idea to review your library's volunteer policies and procedures. Below are a few tips presented at the Roundtables that you might find useful:

- It is best to ask teens (and all volunteers) to treat volunteer work as a real job - consider it "unpaid work."
- Use an application form and conduct a simple interview to determine what work would likely fit each teen. Good sample applications: Bettendorf PL at <http://www.bettendorflibrary.com/how-do-i/volunteer> and Evansville (IN) Vanderburgh Public Library at www.evpl.org.
- Write simple job descriptions, too.
- Maintain a schedule of hours that each teen is committed to work. Keep a record of what each teen does and hours worked - this will be useful when you are asked for a letter of recommendation!
- Provide training - an annual or semi-annual "bootcamp" might work for your library.
- Enforce a dress code and provide name tags to identify volunteers.
- Remember to recognize volunteers! Do something special to reward volunteer workers during National Volunteer Week in October, National Library Week in April, or Library Lovers' Month in February.

What jobs are good for teen volunteers?

- Dusting
- Preparing crafts for children's programs
- Assisting with children's programs
- Manning a registration table for Summer Library Program, etc.

- Bulletin boards (using die cut bulletin board sets from Iowa Library Services)
- Shelving
- Simple gardening tasks
- Testing damaged CDs and DVDs

Sample Policies:

If your library doesn't have volunteer policies in place, you might discuss this with your Director.

- Bentonville: <http://www.bentonvillelibrary.org/volunteer/volunteer-guidelines/>
- Thomas Crane PL (MA) :
<http://thomascranelibrary.org/sites/default/files/Volunteer%20Policy.pdf>
- Waukee: http://www.waukee.lib.ia.us/waukeep1/Images/policy_2.5_Volunteers.pdf

