The YAC

*A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with* ***Youth and Children***December 2011

Upcoming Events**:**

December 2 – “Putting Your Library on Facebook” (online class)\*

December 7 – “Getting the Most from Google Searching” (online class)\*

December 13 -- “Using Book Trailers” (online class)\*

December 14 -- “Information Literacy in the Public Library” (online class)\*

January 20 – “Show and Tell” at Fort Dodge Public Library\*

January 21 – “Show and Tell” at Washington Public Library \*

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

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

Winter and Holiday Program Ideas (gathered from a variety of sources!)

❄**Read-alouds** can be fun and relaxing on a chilly winter day. A condensed version of *A Christmas Carol* designed to be read aloud is available online at <http://www.charlesdickenspage.com/carol-dickens_reading_text.html>.

❄**Teen Book Swap**: To encourage reading over the winter break, have a combination holiday party and book swap for young adults. Ask teens to bring a book and a snack item. [Note: Thrift stores generally have lots of books that teens or middle grade students might purchase cheaply, read, and exchange!]

❄**Holidays around the World**: When you were planning for the 2011 Summer Library Program, did you find ideas about holiday celebrations around the world? You will find lots of ideas online. For example, you might focus on the different versions of Santa Claus or Father Christmas (See <http://www.lone-star.net/mall/main-areas/santafaq.htm> for example.) For storytimes, Tomie dePaola has several Christmas folktales/legends from other cultures: The Legend of Old Befana (Italian); Merry Christmas Strega Nona (Italian); Night of Las Posadas (Mexico); Legend of the Poinsettia (Mexico).

❄December 11 is the birthday of David Brewster who invented the **kaleidoscope**. Make some TP tube ones with kids (see <http://www.dailyorganizedchaos.com/toilet-paper-roll-kaleidoscope/>) or print coloring pages for older kids from <http://coloringpages101.com/printable_page/12392/kaleidoscope_/Kaleidoscope_15.aspx>.

❄December 21 is **Chester Greenwood Day** (at least in Maine). Chester invented earmuffs in 1873 when he was 15 (see <http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blgreenwood.htm>). Take a silly photo of your youth group wearing earmuffs. You might even decorate some inexpensive ones with stick-on felt pieces, buttons, etc.

❄**Life-Sized Candy Land Game**: If you attended one of the recent Summer Library Program workshops, you heard about creating a giant game board that meanders through your library. A simple wintery version of the Candy Land game board might lead children through a series of craft tables or stations where stories are read or finger plays performed. Laminate sheets of construction paper for the path. Decorate with cardboard lollypops and plastic candy canes stuck in weighted Styrofoam blocks. Add lots of fake snow and paper snowflakes (die cut ones are available by contacting your Iowa Library Services District Office!), etc. For crafts, have children decorate paper elf hats (see <http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/paper-hats3.htm>), make paper bag puppets (<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas/paperbag/>), cut out snowflakes, etc.

❄**Build a Castle**: Use cardboard boxes, tubes, Styrofoam chunks, foam board, etc. to build a castle with a group of middle-school kids. Use only light-weight materials. Adults might help by fastening large parts together with *short* bolts (cover ends with tape or a sticker!). The overall size depends on space available, so select boxes accordingly. Don’t forget flags and a sea monster for the moat. Read stories that go along with the theme, of course.

❄**Hugo**: The following is a press release from ALA . . .

“This fall, ALA Graphics celebrates the magical world of Hugo Cabret. Discover the key to adventure with the new poster and bookmark inspired by the upcoming film "Hugo," presented by Paramount Pictures and GK Films, in theaters November 23. Throughout his extraordinary career, Academy Award®-winning director Martin Scorsese has brought his unique vision and dazzling gifts to life in a series of unforgettable films. This holiday season the legendary storyteller invites you to join him on a thrilling journey to a magical world with his first-ever 3-D film, from a screenplay by John Logan, based on Brian Selznick’s award-winning, imaginative New York Times best-seller, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.”

The poster and bookmark are available from ALA Graphics at <http://www.alastore.ala.org/>. The full press release is available at <http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/find-key-adventure-hugo-ala-graphics>.

If your library is planning a program to go along with this film, it would be fun if you would share it with the ys\_talk list (before or after the event!).

❄Christmas trees made from books have become popular for the holidays.  Here are a few examples:  <http://laughingsquid.com/book-christmas-tree/>; <http://www.mediatinker.com/blog/archives/010731.html>; <http://www.flickr.com/photos/quiltingmick/3084575158/>.

Toy Safety Display

Print the rules listed at <http://www.uspirg.org/issues/toy-safety/tips> or <http://toysafety.mobi/> in a large font and design your display around those.

For example . . .

* **Bigger is better**: Use a TP tube to show that “if a toy or toy part can pass through the tube, don’t buy it for children under 3.”
* **Read and heed warning labels**: Find and enlarge a warning label on your copier.
* **Never give young children small balls or balloons**: Display a large torn balloon.
* **Accessorize your kids for safety:** Display bike helmets, knee pads, etc.

and so on. Be creative in getting the message across!

Related links:

Toy Safety Shopping Tips (a printable flyer) -- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/grand/toy/toysafe.html>

More tips that might be included are found at <http://kidshealth.org/parent/growth/learning/safe_toys.html>.

Recalls -- <http://www.cpsc.gov/index.html> (post this link or put it on a bookmark!)

“Trouble in Toyland” (a 2010 report on toy hazards) -- <http://www.uspirg.org/edfund/toysafety-2010>

Online Safety

The U.S. Government has tips and guides that you can order or print out for parents who may be purchasing cell phones or new computers for their children. See <http://onguardonline.gov/topics/protect-kids-online>. Spanish versions of publications are also available.

Another resource is NetSafe from the Illinois Library Association at <http://www.ila.org/netsafe/>. Their site includes printable bookmarks.

Winter Bulletin Boards

District Offices of Iowa Library Services have **die cut letters** in a variety of sizes from 2” to 5” for your winter bulletin boards. We also have snowflake, mitten and snowman shapes. You might use the themes “Make Tracks to Your Library” (using gray shoeprints on a white background – letters might be dark blue or gray with blue shadows) or “Reading . . . Always in Season” (with a border of fall leaves, umbrellas, flowers, butterflies, mittens and snowflakes). Or make up your own theme! Contact your District Office to request die cuts. [And you might begin thinking about a theme for February – we have hearts in various sizes. A complete list of die cut shapes will be available on the Iowa Library Services website soon!]

Interesting Sites

Will Manley’s most recent column is entitled “No More Kidding Around” – see <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/columns/wills-world/no-more-kidding-around>.

Several winter-themed storytime plans with artwork for flannelboards, etc. are still posted on the Early Childhood Literacy website at <http://www.ilsa.lib.ia.us/ECL/storykits.htm>.