

The YAC

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



July-August 2014

Upcoming Events:

September - Library Card Sign-Up Month

September 15 - October 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month

September 21-27 - Banned Books Week

October 12-18 - Teen Read Week [ee: <http://teenreadweek.ning.com/>]

November 15 - International Games Day [See: <http://igd.ala.org/>]

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

- ⊙ September is National Honey Month (Decorate with honeybee stickers, etc.)
- ⊙ 8 - Birthday of Jack Prelutsky
- ⊙ 15 - International Dot Day: <http://www.thedotclub.org/dotday/>
- ⊙ 16 - Birthday of H.A. Rey (Display Curious George books)
- ⊙ 19 - Talk Like a Pirate Day: <http://www.talklikeapirate.com/piratehome.html>

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

- ⊙ 5-11 - Fire Prevention Week
- ⊙ 7 - Birthday of Sherman Alexie
- ⊙ 15 - National Grouch Day (sponsored by the National Association of Grouches)
- ⊙ 27 - Teddy Bear Day in honor of the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt

How Do You Do Displays?

The most common reason for a library display is simply to call attention to library materials. Below are a few tips gathered from recent articles and workshops that you might find useful.

- Any signs used with the display should be short and simple. According to ADA guidelines, the most legible signs are all uppercase, sans serif fonts in high contrast to the background color. Even temporary signs should be as nice as possible! Re-usable signs should be replaced when worn.
- Two or three large, easy-to-spot props added to a display are usually more effective than several small items. The books or other library materials should stand out in your display. Select prop items for their visual appeal (pleasing color, etc.).
- Include a small sign inviting patrons to check out the items from the display. (A bookmark or sticky note saying "Check Me Out" might be attached to each item.) Have more materials ready to replace those that leave the library.
- For themes, follow current or local events like the Olympics, the World Series, a county fair or visiting circus. Of course, holidays and seasonal themes are always popular.
- Patrons are more likely to notice a display on their way *out* of the library than on the way in, so position posters and displays accordingly. (If you observe patrons as they enter, you will notice that most focus on folding umbrellas, removing hats, putting away keys, and so on. They tend to miss items on display near the entry.)

More ideas:

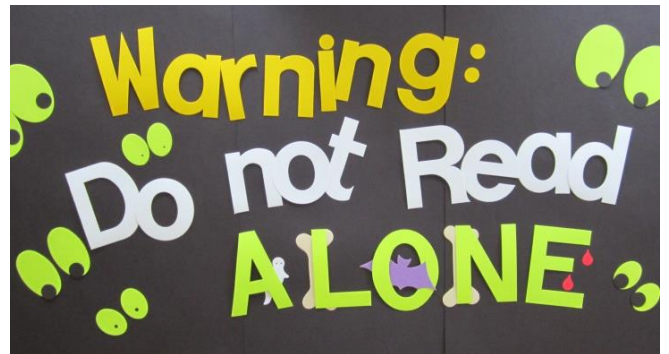
- "Creative Library Displays" blog: <http://www.creativelibrarydisplays.com/>
- "Library Displays: working to hook kids on books": <http://librarydisplays.org/>
- Or just search "library displays" on Pinterest!

Planning for Halloween -- Decorate With Die Cut Shapes:

Contact your District Office to request some of the die cut shapes below for crafts and decorating. [See: <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/diecuts>] Hang them from the ceiling, string them together to create bunting, request shapes in black to create silhouettes on windows - the possibilities are endless!

- Spider (cute or scary)
- Bat
- Caldron
- Witch
- Black Cat & Black Cat Bookmarks
- Ghost Bookmarks
- Poison Symbol
- Fall Leaves

Bulletin Boards from the District Offices:



These super-simple bulletin boards might be placed near a display of scary books. Add as many spooky eyes as you need to fill the space. Remember, too, that you can request any lettering that you want for bulletin boards!

*We will feature more "last minute" Halloween ideas in the next issue of the *YAC!*



Planning for Teen Read Week:



This year's Teen Read Week theme focuses on ways teens can achieve their goals. You might create a display of materials that show teens how the library can help them learn new skills or succeed in school or a career. For ideas, visit the official site:

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

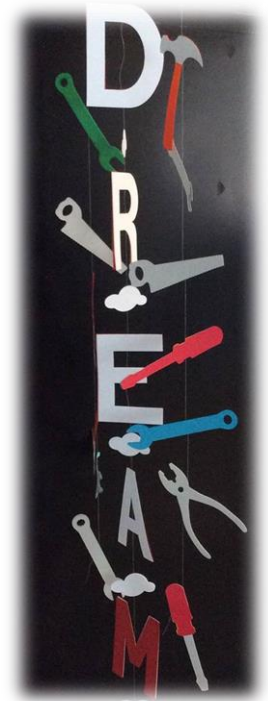
As you plan for Teen Read Week, keep in mind the following tips (adapted from a recent message from Merri Monks at Iowa Library Services):

- **Update your collection before TRW:** teens prefer paperbacks and materials in good condition. Check YALSA's lists of recommended reading for ideas: www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists
- **Create eye-catching marketing!** Send promotional materials to schools and youth serving organizations. Personal contact is the best way to promote the programs, but mailing or e-mailing publicity to school librarians, English teachers, afterschool providers, etc. works, too.
- **Keep it simple:** make the program easy for staff to implement and for teens to participate in. Make it easy on the staff by incorporating the celebration into existing library activities or choosing activities that will take minimal time for staff to implement. Think about ways to limit the time spent explaining the rules or handing out materials.
- **Be flexible:** each participant in the program is an individual, and the program should reflect their individuality. Allow participants to read a variety of topics, formats and genres.
- **Publicize, publicize, publicize:** word of mouth, posters, newspaper articles, blog posts, Tweets, public service announcements, school visits, etc. are essential to the success of the program. Don't forget the publicity resources at www.ala.org/teenread.
- **Provide Incentives:** getting a prize, reward or something free is exciting no matter what age you are. So getting something for participating in TRW is a great way to get more teens involved. Giving them a choice of incentives is a good way to make sure that you have something for everyone. Check out the TRW products in ALA's online store at www.alastore.ala.org

Below (left) is the Iowa Library Services bulletin board set for Teen Read Week. Contact your District Office to order the pieces! The District Offices have die cut shapes in our collection that might be used in a display to symbolize the skills teens need to reach their goals: computer, artist brush & palette, camera, film strip, microscope, music notes, math

symbols, movie clapper, paint brush & paint can, tractor, hammer*, saw*, screwdriver*, wrench* and pliers*. [The hanging "twirlies" on the right were made by attaching die cut items to thread with a bit of double-stick tape.]

*NEW!



Summertime is Play Time - Celebrate the Science of Play!

All of the fun learning that is going on at Summer Library Programs across the State reminds us to consider the simple value of **play** in the lives of children. Play might be described as "an activity that has no purpose other than enjoyment or amusement." That definition only scratches the surface, however. Play is the way children develop physical skills, emotional responses and social capacities (such as trust, compassion and empathy). Psychologists note that play reduces stress, makes children more socially competent, improves working memory and self-control. An article from *Psychology Today's* blog adds that play "... provides a state of mind that is uniquely suited for high-level reasoning, insightful problem solving, and all sorts of creative endeavors."

So, play is vital to learning and children learn best through play activities. Free play gives children opportunities to explore and interact on their own. More recent studies show that children aren't getting enough free playtime these days. Libraries can help balance the trend toward a focus on academics by providing some time for free play. You might call this "time to tinker" - providing an opportunity to choose activities like building with blocks, creating artwork from scrap materials, sorting and assembling assorted plastic lids and containers, or experimenting with clay or paints.



Free play doesn't have to be elaborate, expensive or messy. According to MIT's "Learn Creative Learning" project, the 4 ingredients that you need for optimal learning for any age group are "projects, peers, passion and play": a choice of materials that participants can get excited about "tinkering with" and the opportunity to share or talk about their project with other tinkerers. Children learn from pondering why things don't "work" the way they anticipate, by wondering what would happen with a few changes, or by asking another child to imagine along with them.

You can learn more about the science of play at:

- http://www.ted.com/talks/stuart_brown_says_play_is_more_than_fun_it_s_vital
- http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/Play_formatted.pdf (Note: this is a pdf document and may take a bit longer to open!)

"Free play, or creative play, is the foundation of learning and creativity, where children wrestle with life and find meaning." ~Child psychologist Dr. Susan Linn of Harvard Medical School

New Books for You at Iowa Library Services:

Did you know that Iowa Library Services provides professional materials for library staff from the collection in Des Moines. You can view the newest additions at:

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/archive/2014/05/news%20-%20newbooks>.

Here are some examples especially for youth services staff:

Cooking Up a Storytime: Mix-And-Match Menus for Easy Programming

By *Anderson-Newham, Susan*

2014-02 - American Library Association

Books in Motion: Connecting Preschoolers with Books Through Art, Games, Movement, Music, Playacting, and Props

By *Dietzel-Glair, Julie*

2013-04 - Neal-Schuman Publishers

Better Serving Teens Through School Library-Public Library Collaborations

By *Pandora, Cherie P.*

Author Hayman, Stacey

2013-08 - Libraries Unlimited