

# The YAC

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



November 2016



## Upcoming Events:

- November is Picture Book Month (<http://picturebookmonth.com/>)
- Summer Library Program Workshop at Council Bluffs - November 2\*
- Summer Library Program Workshop at Cherokee - November 3\*
- Summer Library Program Workshop at Mason City - November 9\*
- Summer Library Program Workshop at Fayette - November 10\*
- Summer Library Program Workshop at Coralville - November 16\*
- Summer Library Program Workshop at Johnston - November 17\*
- International Games Day - November 19 (<http://igd.ala.org/>)

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

### Planning Ahead:

- [Teen Tech Week](#) is March 5-11
- [National Library Week](#) is April 9-15, 2017.
- [Money Smart Week](#) is April 22-29, 2017. See
- [Children's Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros \(Día\)](#) is April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Kids First Conference** - May 1-3 - save the dates!
- [Children's Book Week](#) is May 1-7, 2017.

### Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in January:

- 3 - Birthday of J.R.R. Tolkien
- 15 - Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK Day celebrated January 16)
- 18 - Birthday of A. A. Milne
- 19 - Birthday of Pat Mora
- 20 - Basketball was played for the first time in 1892 in Springfield, Massachusetts
- 22 - Birthday of Brian Wildsmith
- 27 - Television was first demonstrated to the public in 1926 in Scotland
- 28 - Chinese New Year
- 29 - Birthday of Rosemary Wells

### Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in February:

- Black History Month
- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 7 - Birthday of Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 11 - Birthday of Jane Yolen
- 12-17 - [Random Acts of Kindness Week](#)
- 20 - Presidents' Day
- 28 - Mardi Gras

### Save the Date for ILOC 2017:

And that date is January 19, 2017! While that sounds really far off, plans are already underway for this annual online conference sponsored by the State Library.



**ILOC** stands for **Innovative Libraries Online Conference**, a winter education event that showcases Iowa library programming, practices, and accomplishments. The **2017 theme** is already decided: "**Lean Mean Library Machine!**" Sessions will demonstrate how Iowa

libraries are finding process improvements and time-saving practices -- all-around time management tips worth replicating.

Brand new for **ILOC 2017** will be **Library Hacks!** If you're not heard this term, a **library hack** is any procedure or action that saves time and/or money while still increasing awesomeness. These presentations will be very short 5-6 minute segments sharing what libraries are doing to make life a little easier.

So it's time to save the date for ILOC 2017—January 19!

### **Science Vocabulary & STEM Programs**

With all of the current emphasis on library involvement in STEM education, you may have noticed that science involves a lot of new vocabulary. Children will learn some of these at school, of course, but breaking down words commonly used in science experiments or projects can really add to your programs. Here are a few examples that you can use to help children understand some STEM vocabulary:

- "Photo" means "light." Used in words like photography, photosynthesis.
- "Therm" means "heat." Used in words like thermometer, thermos.
- "Micro" means "small." Used in words like microwave, microscope, microchip.
- "Scope" means "see." Used in words like microscope, telescope, stethoscope, periscope.
- "Geo" means "earth." Used in words like geography, geode, geometry, geology.
- "Graph" means "write." Use in words like autograph, geography, graphs.

Find more common roots (some science-related and some not) on the Reading Rockets page at <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/root-words-roots-and-affixes>. Try the root word game from Vocabulary Can Be Fun: <http://www.vocabulary.co.il/root-words/>

Make a game of introducing or analyzing new words as they come up. For example, if a thermometer is mentioned or used, ask children what other "therm" words they have heard. Explain the meaning of "therm" and have more examples in mind to point out. Write the word on a notecard for use in a future game. When you have enough cards, you might play a spelling bee- or family feud-type game with them.

### **The Holidays are Coming!**

I'm sure that you don't need a reminder, but it's that time of year again - time to finish planning for the winter holiday season.

Here is some "food for thought" related to holiday programming: I'm finding some libraries across the country are not providing programs with specific holiday content. The argument is that we can't possibly celebrate all of the many holiday traditions in our diverse society - especially those based on religion or ethnic tradition. For example: If

you do a storytime for Kwanzaa, perhaps you should do one for Hanukkah? Has anyone in your community ever mentioned that some holiday décor or programming violates their beliefs? How do your holiday season events reflect the diversity of your community? Does your community expect Christmas-y programs? What can you substitute (the winter season, winter sports, simply "snow") that is seasonal? Perhaps this is a topic for the LibraryTalk [<https://lt.silo.lib.ia.us/>] discussion board?

No matter what you decide to focus on, here are a few ideas borrowed from other libraries for your holiday programs:

\*Play "Stuff the Santa" - purchase 2 sets of the largest sweat pants and sweatshirt you can find (preferably red) and have teens stuff the suit with small balloons while one team member is wearing it. The team that uses the most balloons (inflated and counted beforehand) during a set time period wins. Popped balloons don't count toward the total!

\*Have a gift wrap contest - participants wrap an empty box any way that they choose. Award ribbons or small prizes and use the "gifts" to decorate your library. You might have a prize for the ugliest gift, too!

\*"Clean the Closet" Craft Day: Offer all sorts of leftover odds and ends for making tree ornaments or collage artwork.

\*Feed winter wildlife: Find simple ideas for bird feeders such as <http://raisinglittlesuperheroes.com/homemadebirdfeeder/>

\*Craft idea: Make winter shadow pictures by cutting a sheet of black paper in half, carefully cutting simple shapes like snowmen or fir trees and gluing on white paper as shown at right. (I used our die cut machine to save time, but children can cut simpler shapes. See the website <http://www.artsonia.com/museum/art.asp?id=17176182> for an example.)



\*You may have heard about the plastic wrap/clear tape ball party game. Basically, you create a large ball by wrapping candy or trinkets between layers of clear tape or plastic wrap. Pass the ball around a circle and allow each player to try to "dig out" a prize in the time allowed. Here is one version of the game: <http://awesomejelly.com/the-saran-wrap-ball-christmas-party-game-is-a-seriously-good-time/>.

## Odds & Ends

\*"All About **Escape Rooms**" from *School Library Journal*: <http://www.slj.com/2016/09/technology/all-about-escape-rooms/>

\*The recorded **webinar**, "**Maker Space Tips and Trends**," reviews many products and shares ideas for creating or improving a maker space: <http://home.edweb.net/webinar/meet-makers-makerspace-tips-trends/>



\*The 2016 Teens' Top Ten titles have now been announced.

They are: *Alive* by Chandler Baker; *All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven; *The Game of Love and Death* by Martha Brockenbrough; *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo; *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon; *Every Last Word* by Tamara Ireland Stone; *The Novice: Summoner: Book One* by Taran Matharu; *Illuminae* by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff; *When* by Victoria Laurie; and *Suicide Notes from Beautiful Girls* by Lynn Weingarten.

Now through December 31, 2016, teens aged 12-18 can nominate their favorite titles to be considered for the 2017 Teens' Top Ten at <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/public-nomination-form>. For books to be eligible for consideration, they must be published between January 1 and December 31, 2016. Nominations will be posted during National Library Week and voting on the 2017 Top Ten will take place between August 15 and Teen Read Week next fall.

For more about the Teens' Top Ten visit [www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten).

\*ALA Publishing is sponsoring a free webinar - **Step Into Storytime** - with Saroj Ghoting and Kathy Fling Klatt on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. See <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2016/10/new-free-webinar-step-storytime> for more information.

### Sneak Preview

I hope that many of you will be attending a Summer Library Program workshop in November. Here is a preview of two of the bulletin board sets that will be available from the State Library's die cut service. All bulletin boards sets will be available to order beginning in January on the State Library website at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/diecuts/bulletin-board>.

