Welcome!

Season’s Greetings! This is our last issue of 2012, and since we only publish one issue for December you’ll find this one stuffed as full as a Christmas stocking.

Thanks to all of you who contributed content this past year! Keep submitting those photos, write-ups, booklists, and resources—we love hearing from you.

We hope your holidays are filled with cheer, peace, family, friends, and great food. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you, from all of us!

~Erica Compton
**Dates and Deadlines**

- The annual **Read to Me meeting is February 21-22, 2013** in Boise. Register by February 4 at [http://rtmspringmeeting2013.eventbrite.com](http://rtmspringmeeting2013.eventbrite.com). (See details in Upcoming Events below.)

- Idaho libraries are encouraged to **apply for the new Books to Go program for Wave 2!** Apply at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/books-to-go-application](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/books-to-go-application).

- You can apply **anytime** for the **Jump Start Kindergarten** program, the **Year-Round Underserved program**, and **Idaho Child Care Reads! workshops**.

- **March 1, 2013**: Deadline to submit PSA’s for “**CSLP Teen Video Challenge**”

- **Elementary School Library Staff Retreat**, July 16-18, in Boise. There is no charge to attend, and ICfL will pay for lodging and meals. Stay tuned for more details.

- **Family Reading Week Summary Reports are DUE!** Please fill out this short report to help us gather data on Idaho Family Reading Week events and participation. Thank you for joining us for Idaho Family Reading Week!

- Please let us know what you like best about **The Scoop**, what is most useful, and what challenges you may be having with format, etc. so that we can better serve you in 2013: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/ScoopSurvey2012](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ScoopSurvey2012). The survey is **open until December 18**.

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**Library to Library**

**Family Reading Week Compilation**

We have received about 85 Family Reading Week summary reports as of publication of this issue. The reports have been filled with fun ideas and creative events. We have compiled all of the ideas and included pictures that have been sent in one big document so you can see what libraries are doing across the state. Check it out [here](http://example.com).
Run, Run, Run, As Fast As You Can….

Kaylene and Sesha at North Bingham shared a creative set of activities from their last Fun with Math and Science workshop – Gingerbread STEM! Here is what Kaylene had to say…

“We held one of our first STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) story times. We had the laptop hooked up to the projector to demonstrate how to use the board game from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. The children loved being introduced to the Tally Tots and Bugs and Buttons App. We focused mostly on patterns and read the Pattern Books by Trudy Harris and the Gingerbread Man (the children chanted the pattern Run, Run, . . ). We noticed that the children even sat in a pattern Girl, Girl, Girl, Boy, Girl, Girl, Girl, Boy. You can look at our Facebook page to see pictures of each of our activities!!! We wanted to let you know that our parents enjoyed it and that STEM activities can be fun. In fact some parents had to talk their kids into leaving (1 to almost 2 hours later!!!)”

Check out their great ideas for six activity stations HERE and find the original activities and more at these links:
http://kinderdi.blogspot.com/2011/12/how-many-cookies-tall-are-you.html
http://www.prekinders.com/2011/12/fruit-loops-graph/

Boise Librarian Wins SLJ/Scholastic Dav Pilkey Sweepstakes

by Sarah Bayliss, School Library Journal-December 11, 2012

“It’s going to be huge!” That’s what Boise Public Library branch manager Sarah Kelley-Chase expects when “Captain Underpants” author Dav Pilkey visits her library early next year. Kelley-Chase was one of 3,000 librarians across the country who entered the “Win a Visit from Dav Pilkey to your School Library” sweepstakes, sponsored by School Library Journal and awarded by Pilkey’s publisher, Scholastic. Read the entire article here.

Young Adult Corner

CSLP Teen Video Challenge Announced!

For the 2013 Summer Reading Program, the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), working through member states, will be soliciting amateur videos produced by

Beneath The Surface
teenagers (ages 13-18) to serve as the official CSLP summer reading teen public service announcements (PSAs). The theme for the PSA Video Challenge is "Beneath the Surface."

One video from each participating state will be submitted to the CSLP. CSLP will award each State Teen Video Challenge Winner $275. Their Public library or member affiliate will receive prizes worth $150 from CSLP and Upstart. Please see the CSLP website for all rules, eligibility requirements, video criteria, and resources.

Teens and Technology.....What’s Up?
~by Erica Compton
The Commission is supporting Teens and Technology slightly differently this year by launching an exciting pilot project. Here is a brief overview of the project:

Project Overview: This pilot project is designed to support the creation of a Maker Space within the library by providing the necessary materials and trainings to implement creative, STEM-based programming for tweens and teens. The project will encourage the use of new technologies to:

- Support access to information and services
- Keep teens and tweens engaged with the emerging trends in information access, and
- Introduce the concept of stealth programming as a way to involve tweens and teens in informal programming.

It is our plan to encourage the delivery of library services to digital users “where they live.”

Method:
To accomplish this, the ICfL is providing five participating libraries with:

- STEM manipulative kits,
- Customized curriculum,
- Intensive training focused on:
  - Maker Spaces,
  - STEM-based tween/teen programs, and
  - Stealth programming.
- Technical support, and
- Evaluation tools.

Library staff will increase their knowledge of how to use technology commonly used by teens in meaningful and concrete ways. They will learn how to incorporate these technologies and skills into library programming in order to improve, enhance, and increase services to teens. Each participating library will be required to dedicate the staff and space necessary to create a Maker Space which teens and other patrons will have access to. Staff will be required to use this space, materials, and acquired knowledge to engage teens:

- In a minimum of four events in the first six months of the project, including Teen Tech Week,
- An additional four projects in the last six months of the project, and
- In a minimum of three stealth programs in the first six months of the project and three stealth programs in the last six months of the program.

Three of the libraries invited have at least one or more branch libraries. These libraries will have additional requirements in order to demonstrate how to scale the project up within a library system before expanding it to additional libraries.

- Send multiple staff members to each of the face-to-face trainings
• Share the resources in the second six-month period of the project with one or more of these branches.

**The five libraries that have been chosen to participate in the pilot are:**
- Community Library Network
- Gooding Public Library
- Meridian District Library
- Snake River School Community Library
- Ada Community Library

The Commission is extremely excited about this unique pilot and will be sharing the results of the project statewide. It is our hope that we can use the pilot sites as models to expand the program into more libraries in the future.

We know that some of you may be disappointed that we are not offering regional workshops this year. It was a difficult decision for Sue and me since we enjoyed the experiences shared during the 2011 and 2012 workshops. They will be back, I am sure!

Regarding Teen Tech Week 2013
The Commission will be promoting Teen Tech Week and providing resources as in the past to all libraries statewide. Stay tuned for more information on this opportunity.


Letters About Literature
Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, invites readers in grades 4–10 to enter the 21st Annual LAL letter writing competition. **Idaho is participating this year, so please encourage your students to join the challenge!**

The contest challenges young readers to write a personal letter to an author explaining how that author’s work changed the readers’ view of their world. LAL awards prizes on both the state and national level in three competition levels: Level 1 for grades 4–6; Level 2 for grades 7–8; and Level 3 for grades 9–10. National winners will receive a cash award of $1,000.

**Submission deadline: Postmarked by January 11, 2013**
State winners will be notified in April 2013 and national winners by May 2.

More Information at [www.lettersaboutliterature.org](http://www.lettersaboutliterature.org)
- **How to Enter** (including information for teachers for their classes)
- **Letters About Literature** -- with samples of winning letters and 2013 Content Guidelines

This year, for the first time, Idaho Commission for Libraries is Idaho’s sponsor for the contest. Letters About Literature information is also available on our website at [http://libraries.idaho.gov/lal](http://libraries.idaho.gov/lal).
Questions about the LAL contest should be directed to: Catherine Gourley, National Project Director, 570-262-7320, programdirector@lettersaboutliterature.org

2013 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards
The President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is pleased to invite applications for the 2013 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards.

The 12 award-winning programs this year will receive $10,000 and an invitation to accept their award from the President’s Committee’s Honorary Chairman, First Lady Michelle Obama, at a ceremony at the White House. In addition, winners will receive an award plaque, the opportunity to attend the Annual Awardee Conference in Washington, DC in the summer of 2013, and will be featured on the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award website.

Mooresville Public Library YouTube Channel – Chock full of resources!
Check out video blogs for teen and adult readers called Meg-A-Rae. They review books and talk about things going on at the library. You can find the video blog playlist here: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDE5399722F965DFD

Their MPL YouTube page also has a ton of book trailers and Early Literacy vlogs! You can find all these at www.youtube.com/MPL46158!

Holiday Craft Ideas for Teens
~compiled from Yalsa-bk listerv discussions

- Make Holiday bracelets with snowflake beads; blue and white beads for Hanukkah; red and green beads for Christmas; and red, green, and black beads for Kwanzaa
- Decorate your own votive candle holder. Walmart has candles with clear glass for about $7 for 12. I tell them they can make these for themselves or as a gift
- Create a stained glass look with Elmer’s glue and tissue paper - www.ehow.com/how_4761340_make-glass-out-tissue-paper.html
- Pinecone decorations, peanut ornaments, gingerbread houses, and chocolate covered pretzel wreaths (http://wipkits.blogspot.com/2008/12/chocolate-covered-christmas-wreaths.html)
- Make scented candles using soy wax that melts in the microwave for the teens to give away as presents
- Paper snowflakes - my teens couldn’t make enough of them!
- Check out www.pinterest.com for amazing ideas for holiday crafts, or any kind of craft for that matter
2013 Space Foundation International Student Art Contest

The theme If I Were Going… challenges students to imagine how they would personally experience space travel, exploration or settlement – and then interpret that idea into an original work of visual art (drawing, painting or digital). PreK-12th grade students (or age equivalent outside the U.S.) are invited to enter; teacher sponsorship is required.

J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Rebooting Idaho Schools Using Khan Academy Request for Proposal Application

The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation invite you to apply for a Rebooting Idaho Schools Using Khan Academy grant to enhance environments of limitless learning for all Idahoans.

We invite Idaho schools (traditional, private, charter) as well as nonprofits that provide math education to Idahoans to complete the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Upcoming Events

Read to Me Meeting Registration Open

The agenda for the annual Read to Me meeting has been finalized, and we hope you’ll enjoy “Digging a Little Deeper into Early Literacy” on February 21-22 in Boise. Highlights from the 2013 agenda, aimed at public library staff, include a session on increasing literacy as a means to move people out of poverty, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in libraries, summer reading and Read to Me updates, and time to hear from your colleagues about cool programs they’ve implemented in their libraries.

There is no charge to attend this great meeting, and we’re even able to provide travel reimbursement and lodging for those traveling outside the area.

Check out the agenda here: http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/2013-Annual-RTM-Meeting-Agenda-1-page.doc

Read details about the travel stipends by reimbursement here:

We do have a limited capacity, and once we’re full, we will place you on a waiting list. Registration is limited to two per library/branch.

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Stephanie at 1-800-458-3271 or Stephanie.bailey-white@libraries.idaho.gov. We’re looking forward to a great meeting!

📅 The ALA Youth Media Awards honoring children’s and young adult authors and illustrators, as well as producers of children’s audio and video materials, will be announced on Jan. 28th at 10:45 am EST. ALA will announce all of its Divisions’ 2013 book and media award winners for children and teens at this time. Watch the announcement live from www.ala.org/yma. Be the first to know who has won the Newbery, Caldecott, Printz and other awards!

For a list of all awards and links to more info about each: www.ala.org/yma
"Like" the ALA Youth Media Awards page on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/alayma

✍️ StoryCorps @ your library - Application deadline January 18!
The ALA Public Programs Office, in partnership with StoryCorps, is accepting applications from public libraries and library systems interested in hosting “StoryCorps @ your library” programs. Funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to ALA, “StoryCorps @ your library” seeks to bring StoryCorps’ popular interview methods to libraries while developing a replicable model of oral history programming. Program guidelines and the online application are available at www.programminglibrarian.org/storycorps.

In February, 10 pilot sites will be selected to receive:

- A $2,500 stipend for project-related expenses;
- A toolkit of written and Web-based customizable program and promotional support materials;
- A StoryKit (a customized set of professional recording equipment) to use to record on-site interviews during the grant period and retain for future use after the close of the pilot project;
- A two-day in-person training by StoryCorps staff at the library site to orient volunteers and library staff to interview collection, digital recording techniques and archiving interviews in StoryCorps’ proprietary database.

Building on earlier planning work supported by IMLS, “StoryCorps @ your library,” will be piloted at 10 public libraries selected from across the country. Local libraries will retain copies of all interviews, and preservation copies will also be deposited with the Library of Congress. For more information, visit www.programminglibrarian.org/storycorps. With questions, contact the ALA Public Programs Office at publicprograms@ala.org.
Tips & Tools

TumbleBooks™ and DayByDayID.org promotional postcards are ready to order! If you want to promote these great services to your community, please fill out this short survey, and we will do all the work for you! Customized postcards will be drop-shipped to your door – including up to 500 postage stamps! (Please only order as many stamps as you have addresses to mail to – we are trying to conserve funds on this portion of the grant.)

On the survey you will be asked to provide the URL you want to direct families to in order to access these great sites, so make sure you have both TumbleBooks and DayByDayID.org up and running before you start promoting!

It would also be helpful if the links were on your main page or at least very easy for patrons to find!

Need help? Check out the new resource page for TumbleBooks and DayByDayID.org HERE.

ICfL Releases DIY Social Media Kit for Public Libraries
This document is meant to serve as the foundation by which your library or organization authors its policies regarding social media—the specifics of which will be unique to your individual situation. Because social media sites are prone to changing their interfaces and often update features, the contents herein outline basic features and practices that are current as of its drafting. It is not intended to be an in-depth, end-all manual, but a starting point for self-discovery. While best practices, hints, and how-to’s are outlined, your final policies will be the result of your hands-on experimentation and the dynamics of your particular resources and market.

Seventeen Magazine Fiction contest
Enter the Seventeen Magazine Fiction contest for a chance to win $5,000!

Write an amazing, completely original story in any genre, on any topic, that’s no more than 500 words long. You could win $5,000 in cash, publication on Seventeen.com, and a phone call with Maggie Stiefvater, author of The Raven Boys, The Scorpio Races, and the Wolves of Mercy Falls trilogy.

All entries must be submitted by February 13, 2013 at 11:59:59 ET, so don't procrastinate! Then, any time between now and March 13, 2013, at 11:59:59 ET, vote for your favorite stories by "hearting" them. You can heart as many stories as you like. The top 10 hearted entries will be judged by the editors from Seventeen magazine and Maggie Stiefvater. They'll announce
one grand-prize winner in or around June 2013. Remember, your story can be on any topic you like, so be creative! This contest is open to both girls AND boys, ages 13 to 21 only!

🌟 American Honda Foundation Grants
Deadline: February 1, 2013
This foundation engages in grant making that supports youth education with a specific focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, the environment, job training, and literacy. Grants range from $20,000 to $60,000 over a one-year period.

🌟 Tis the Season of Giving!
If you’d like to donate to the Read to Me program, the Idaho Commission for Libraries added a “Donate Here!” button to all its web pages. You can designate that the funds go toward the Read to Me program. Donations are used to purchase books for underserved children.

Donations to the Idaho Commission for Libraries also qualify for an Idaho state income tax credit. With this credit, donors will receive an Idaho state tax credit of up to $500 for individuals and $1,000 for couples at a rate of half of the value of their monetary donation. Donors are encouraged to check with tax preparers concerning any possible tax benefits for your donation.

🌞 Summer Reading News

🌟 Bright Futures Outreach Programs
Staff from publicly-funded public libraries in Idaho may apply for these summer reading outreach opportunities. These opportunities are designed to reach more children with summer reading programs, especially those considered “underserved.” Each program is designed to achieve specific outcomes, and participating libraries must report results in the ICfL annual summer reading programs report. These programs are funded in part with a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act.

In upcoming issues we will feature each Bright Futures Outreach Opportunity sponsored by the Commission and provide detailed information: School Visits, Reaching Underserved Children, and School Partnerships (see below). Libraries can apply for any or all of these programs January 1, 2013 through March 20, 2013 by visiting our summer reading webpage at http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading. You will receive a confirmation email that your application was received. If you do not receive notification within 3 days, please contact us immediately.

Please check the chart! Before applying for a Bright Futures opportunity, please visit our summer reading page and click on the list of Bright Futures Participants. This list will be updated several times each week and will allow you to see which libraries are working with which schools in your area for each program. This is also a good way to double-check that we received your application, or to see if your library has already applied.

Supplies for our Bright Futures Outreach Opportunities are limited. Applications are approved on a first-come, first-served basis. When supplies are depleted, we can no longer accept
applications. A few Idaho libraries have already applied, so call your schools and community partners now!

Bright Futures Outreach: School Partnerships
ICfL’s Bright Futures Outreach programs are designed to help libraries reach children who may not normally participate in summer reading programs at the library. These programs are LSTA-funded, so only publicly funded public libraries may apply. Each program requires the library to partner with a school or community organization.

The School Partnerships program is a collaborative effort between the public library and local elementary school to increase student participation in the library’s summer reading program. Both the library and each partner school will receive a promotion package worth over $300 that includes:

- One 24” x 60” vinyl banner with the slogan “Dig Into Reading”
- Twenty hardcover books, fiction and non-fiction titles, to add to the library’s collection

Qualifications:
- Publicly-funded public libraries may apply.
- Public libraries must provide regularly scheduled summer programs for the targeted school-age students during the application year. If your library is planning construction or remodeling this summer, and regularly scheduled programs will not be held in an alternate location, the library does not qualify for this program.
- Public libraries must partner with public elementary schools. The following do not qualify: private, parochial, preschools, middle/junior high schools, daycares, or home school organizations.

Program summary: (For details please access the School Partnerships application on our website)
1. Libraries can apply to partner with up to three schools.
2. Meet with each school’s principal and librarian. Develop a collaborative promotion plan that describes what the school and library will each do to increase student participation, and set a participation goal.
3. Submit the school’s Idaho Reading Indicator scores.
4. Track school’s student participation in Summer Library Programs.
5. Plan a collaborative recognition event in the fall for students who completed the SRP.

To apply:
1. Read through the application packet on our website.
2. Schedule a meeting with each partner school’s principal and school librarian. (January and February are the best months to schedule this meeting.)
3. Prepare for the meeting: Ways libraries and schools can partner to promote Summer Reading; Examples from past applications
4. Fill out the application. Be sure to collect all required signatures and enter IRI information.
5. Mail or fax to: Staci Shaw
   Idaho Commission for Libraries
   325 W. State Street
   Boise, Idaho 83702
   (208) 334-4016
News from CSLP
CSLP now has a Facebook page! It is still pretty basic, but the PR Committee will be adding more content to it in the coming month. If you have a Facebook account please be sure to "like" us and share with your other librarians as well. Our page can be found at www.facebook.com/cslpreads.

A Closer Look at the Pioneer Community Center Storytimes

Reaching Out to the One
- by Julie Armstrong
The Pioneer Community Center can be a quiet space for families who are homeless to hang out during the winter months. It can also be a hopping place when the weather is too cold and the center fills up with young children and their families. The center is open for families who have preschool age children and younger from December through March. Boise Parks and Recreation Department manages the site. They provide a hot meal, toys and books, computers to use, and a place to be together when the weather is harsh.

Maria Riddle brings her storytime charm to the Pioneer Center once a week. Maria is a librarian assistant at Boise Public Library. She comes every Wednesday morning that the center is open, and reads to children -- whether there is one or a dozen. She begins by laying out a small rug that defines the space where she wants the children to sit. She opens storytime with a welcome song and then starts to pull materials out of her bag of tricks. On a recent Wednesday she had a cat theme. She read *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* and engaged one of her two attendees in labeling the colors of Pete’s shoes. She read a couple of more books on cats, intermingling two Jim Gill songs between them. The five-year-old was up and dancing with all the energy she could muster.

Maria leaves a schedule at the center so families know when to expect her. Many families who are homeless do not have transportation, so outreach to them provides opportunities to learn they may not have otherwise. As the dad sat in on Maria’s storytime, he saw dialogic reading modeled. This modeling will help him have stronger early literacy skills as he spends time reading with his daughter. According to statistics Idaho Kids Count compiled from Idaho Reading Indicator scores, 44 percent of children are not ready for kindergarten in their literacy skills. The more quality early literacy experiences that young children have, the stronger skills they will bring to school. Boise Public Library is helping to provide those experiences -- to the one or the many.
**Multilingual/Multicultural Library Webinar**
The Early Childhood Investigations Webinar website has announced their list of webinars for 2013. “A Treasure Trove of Free Resources to Support Diversity in Your ECE Program-Libraries and Librarians”, will be presented by Lisa Guernsey, Karen Nemeth and Cen Campbell on January 16 at 2 p.m. (Eastern Time). These webinars are free, last about an hour, and are full of great information and resources. Check out all their free webinars [here](#)!

**Webjunction Webinars in January**

**The Impact of an Ice Cream Sundae**  
*Tuesday, January 15, 2013 ♦ 11 a.m. PT ♦ Noon MT*  
When community organizations collaborate to share their resources with one another, they make the biggest possible impact on the most lives. Learn easy, understandable and powerful strategies that will give you renewed energy to create bold and imaginative collaborations among all types of community organizations.

**Creating a Culture of Innovation in your Library and Community**  
*Wednesday, January 23, 2013 12 noon MT ~ 11 a.m. PT*  
We hear about libraries that are leaders in innovation, implementing ideas that keep the library growing and vital. Perhaps you have watched from the sidelines and wished you could kickstart some innovation at your library, but you’re not sure where to start. Come to this webinar for an active and lively discussion on how to find innovative ideas, how to connect with the people to help make them happen, and how to get buy-in and support for your ideas. There is a lot to be learned from other libraries’ examples and experiences.

**Multicultural Connections**

**National Día Program Registry Open**  
The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is inviting librarians to register their 2013 El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day) programs in the 2013 National Día Program Registry.

By registering their Día programs held throughout the year in the national registry, libraries build a national database that showcases all types and sizes of Día programming. The information will display on the website, in both the map and database format, allowing you to share program information with other librarians and the public interested in learning more about Día programs happening around the country. Libraries that register will also receive Día stickers and bookmarks (while supplies last).

ALSC also is pleased to announce this year’s slogan Día: Diversity in Action. Día is a nationally recognized initiative that emphasizes the importance of literacy for all children from all backgrounds. It is a daily commitment to linking children and their families to diverse books, languages and cultures.
Stay tuned for information on the Commission’s Día opportunity!

🎉 Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 Mora Award

The Lynden Public Library is the recipient of the 2012 Estela and Raúl Mora Award, for exemplary efforts promoting El día de los niños, El día de los libros/Children’s Day, Book Day.

The Lynden celebration featured a book giveaway for each child, craft activities led by bilingual teen volunteers, and several storytimes—held throughout the day—each followed by a game of lotería (Mexican bingo) with books as prizes. A disc jockey, piñata, and games of skill added to the festivities which were enjoyed by well over 250 attendees. Publicity for the event extended to putting up posters in laundromats, clinics, and taco stands. Notably, the teen volunteers and families from the library’s literacy programs helped plan the celebration with the guidance of library staff.

Read all about the Mora Award and see the official 2012 press release here.

💡 57 Different Ways to say “Merry Christmas”

Learn how to say Merry Christmas in 57 different languages!

Some other celebrations of the season

**Hanukkah, December 8-16, 2012**

Hanukkah also known as the Festival of Lights is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar.

The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a unique candelabrum, the nine-branched *Menorah* or *Hanukiah*, one additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. The typical Menorah consists of eight branches with an additional raised branch. The extra light is called a *shamash* and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest. The purpose of the *shamash* is to have a light available for use, as using the Hanukkah lights themselves is forbidden.

**Las Posadas**

December 16 — In Mexico, Christmas is an important holiday season with strong traditions. One of the most colorful traditions is the *posada* party, celebrated every evening from December 16 to 24. Each one of these nights before Christmas, a party is held in a home in the neighborhood. There is plenty of food… www.mexconnect.com/articles/2816-las-posadas

**Kwanzaa**

December 26 — Is a week-long holiday celebrated in the United States honoring African heritage and culture, marked by participants lighting a *kinara* (candle holder). Kwanzaa is based on the Nguzo Saba (seven guiding principles), one for each day of the observance, and is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st. Read more about Kwanzaa.
Idaho After 3PM – Afterschool Care in Idaho

“Each afternoon across the U.S., 15 million children--more than a quarter of our children--are alone and unsupervised after school. The parents of 18 million would enroll their children in an afterschool program, if one were available.” These were numbers reported nationally in the America After 3PM report published in 2009.

So what about Idaho? Here are some key findings:

- **83%** of adults surveyed in Idaho agree that there should be "some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn" and **78%** support public funding for afterschool programs.
- **31%** (75,959) of all Idaho children not in afterschool would be likely to participate if an afterschool program were available in the community, regardless of their current care arrangement.

Libraries are poised to become an increasingly important player in the realm of afterschool care. Many of you are already filled to the brim with kids starting at 3 pm. Kids are crowding onto computers, lounging on chairs, texting away on phones, and hopefully attending some of your programs. What else can you be doing to increase the impact you have on these children?

For a progress report on Idaho afterschool care visit: [www.afterschoolalliance.org/Progress-Reports.cfm?state_abbr=ID](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Progress-Reports.cfm?state_abbr=ID)

For additional information on the need for afterschool programs and their many benefits, please visit: [www.afterschoolalliance.org/STEM-Afterschool-Outcomes.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/STEM-Afterschool-Outcomes.pdf)

STEM is Everywhere

From Science for Preschoolers:

Brrr.... It's cold around here! Do you have nice activities for the children when they need to be inside? Here is a fun and easy activity you can do at any time: **The Disappearing Color Experiment**

And while your little ones are busy experimenting with color, maybe you can sneak to the computer and buy them their Christmas gift, before it's too late. Here are **five gifts that are perfect for little scientists**.

Expanding Your Horizons

Our mission is to encourage young women to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. Through Expanding Your Horizon (EYH) Network programs, we provide STEM role models and hands-on activities for middle and high school girls. Our
ultimate goal is to motivate girls to become innovative and creative thinkers ready to meet 21st century challenges. [www.careerpioneernetwork.org/index/eyh.html](http://www.careerpioneernetwork.org/index/eyh.html)

**Bugscope**
The Bugscope project provides free, online, interactive access to a scanning electron microscope so that students anywhere in the world can explore the microscopic world of insects. Bugscope allows the kids to propose experiments, explore insect specimens at high-magnification, and discuss what they see with scientists—all from a regular internet connection. Check out the Bugscope website for more info and to apply for the program.

**STEM Books from Bearport**
Build your early science collection with new titles that are expertly crafted to meet the Common Core State Standards. Bearport's Science Slam books help students:

- Increase their background knowledge and vocabulary in a variety of science topics
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- Use nonfiction text features such as headings, captions, table of contents, glossaries, and indexes

**Book Look**

**YALSA announces 2013 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults finalists**
The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), selected five books as finalists for the 2013 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults, which honors the best nonfiction books written for young adults between Nov. 1, 2011 and Oct. 31, 2012. YALSA will name the 2013 award winner at the Youth Media Awards at 7:45 a.m. on Jan. 28, in Seattle during the American Library Association’s Midwinter Meeting.

The 2013 finalists are:

- *Titanic: Voices from the Disaster*, by Deborah Hopkinson, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic.
Ada Community Mock Caldecott winners
Librarians from Ada Community, Boise Public, Meridian District, and special guests participated in Ada’s annual Mock Caldecott Tea on December 13. Here are the winners they chose:

Tied for First Place:
*Sleep Like a Tiger*, by Mary Logue, illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski (Caldecott honor for *Red Sings from the Treetops*)

*The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*, by William Joyce

Second Place:
*More*, by I.C. Springman, illustrated by Brian Lies

Honorable mentions:
*Chloe and the Lion*, by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Adam Rex
*Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington*, by Jabari Asim, illustrated by Brian Collier (*Martin’s Big Words*, *Dave the Potter*)

*Kel Gilligan’s Daredevil Stunt Show*, by Michael Buckley, illustrated by Dan Santat

**Talk Back**: We welcome your feedback on anything in The Scoop. Just e-mail Stephanie, Staci or Erica and we’ll print your comments in The Scoop.

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