



Día Celebrations Across Idaho

Darbie Chocker, Jerome Public Library

"We had 60 children and 17 adults attend our program on April 30th. We began by serving ice cream and giving out free books and stickers to all the children as they arrived. I opened the program with reading a book to the children about saying "Hello" in several different languages. We also did the "Chocolate" rhyme together in English and Spanish. We then had a group of young ladies from Jerome High School called "Latinos in Action" come and play various cultural games and songs with the children. They had such a blast doing this, the girls were amazing! We ended the program by lining up on the back lawn and every taking a swing at a giant sun piñata we had generously donated to us by one of our patrons that makes them in the library. It was a super fun day celebration how wonderful children and books truly are."



Sandy Davidson, Horizon Elementary School; Jerome



"We did our celebration on the 27th of May. We partnered up with the Jerome Early Education Program and my first grade students spent the afternoon with them. When the JEEP children arrived, we sat down and read the book, "Book Fiesta". Once they all knew what the day was about, we decided to begin our activities. The day before, my kids painted paper plates to make maraca type shakers. The next day the JEEP children chose their plates, we then stapled them together with beans inside of them, and they added their decorations and then streamers. They were all to use these later when we did the Mexican Hat Dance. Next, we paired 2 first grade students to each JEEP child. They took turns reading books to them. I was adorable! Next, we did a book walk. My kids walked around the number circle helping the JEEP children until each one had won a book! After that, we taught the JEEP children how to do the Mexican Hat dance. Now, it was time for a break! We got a donation of Mexican cookies from a bakery in town called Mi Pueblo Bakery. Each child loved the huge cookies they donated! After our rest, it was time for our last event, the piñata. It took forever to break! This was donated by Video Mexico here in Jerome. I

bought Easter candy at 50% off and filled the piñata and the kids had a great time! I was thrilled that all of the kids made sure that the candy and prizes were shared evenly. After this, it was nearly time for school to be out. We all sat down and reviewed why we had the special day and how fun it was to read and be read to! We already are planning next year's event. I can't wait!!!"



Kathryn Foley, Meridian Library District

"We made masks, watched the Ballet Folklorico Mexico Lindo perform several Mexican dances from different states dressed in three different costumes. They then taught the audience to dance two dances. We gave treats and books to each child as they left."



Susan Thorpe, Coeur d'Alene Public Library

"We took part in "A Day At The Farm" event at Harding Center in Cd'A with Head Start, North Idaho College, and other community organizations on Thursday, April 21 10 am - 2 pm. With the help of others we presented the puppet show "Book! Book! Book!" based on the picture book by Deborah Bruss. Additionally, there were many other "activity stations" for the children in attendance-- approximately 315 along with parents, day-care providers and teachers. It was truly a community event and children came from as far away as Rathdrum (John Brown Elementary School) to attend."

Yesenia Terrazas, Hailey Public Library

"Date: April 30th, 2011 Location: Wood River Middle School Time: 11:00am-3:00pm Hailey Public Library participated in the Blaine County School District's Annual Dual Immersion Program Día Carnival. The event celebrates Día de los Niños with children, students, and families. It is also an annual fundraiser for the Dual Immersion program. The funds support the DI travel club, cultural events for students and classroom materials for the program. The carnival included games and activities such as a bouncing gym, cake walk, sumo wrestling, bumper cars, a clown, craft and color your own bookmark table,



book giveaways, food, and music. The Hailey Public Library had a booth with children's literacy handouts and brochures including ALA's recommended literature and Six Skills. We provided information about our library, programs and events. This also included information on how to obtain a library card and the possibility to issue new cards. Our booth had a Día bookmark coloring station. The children would color a bookmark, receive a reading pack and choose a book from the bilingual books donated by ICfL."



Patty Gilman, Bellevue Public Library

"We partnered with the Blaine County School District/Dual Immersion Program for our first ever El Día event. The event was held at the Wood River Middle School on April 30th from 11:00am-3:00pm. We had an incredible turnout! I was given a table right next to the Hailey Library, dead center of all the action. They had great food, a cake walk, bouncy houses, bungee bouncy game, kid sumo wrestling, balloon animals, and the best part all FREE BOOKS! Families were so excited to be getting free books that they happily put in their yellow summer reading tote bags. I gave out every book I requested from you, the 30 extra I took and started spreading the Hailey Library's books out on my table to help them give out the rest of theirs. It was wonderful to work with them as a team to promote literacy and reading. We had many white/anglo families attend, but our main participants were Hispanic families. It was a terrific way to reach families that are underserved and currently not using the library. Thankfully one of the bilingual dual-immersion kindergarten teachers helped at my table by explaining the different books, early literacy information and library programs available to them. It was an absolutely fantastic event. I can't wait until next year. Thank you!"

Valerie Bame, Burley Public Library

"We had a great Día event at Burley Public Library! We always start our Día with the children writing something that is special about them on a die-cut paper. We later hang these on the wall in the children's area. They are so creative and fun!! We had about 70 children come to the library to make boleros (traditional Mexican toy, flip a wooden bead on a string into a cup), walked the "Book Walk" to kids songs in Spanish, listen to a story and broke a piñata. Our event was held April 29th at 4:00 at the library. Our partner was the Newcomer Center at Cassia County School District. The kids were so happy to be able to choose a book from the Commission at the "Book Walk" (like a cake walk)!"



Kathy Chick, Eastern Owyhee County Library

“Our Día event was held on April 28, 2011 from 4:00-6:00pm at the public library. We partnered with Grand View Elementary School who allowed Kathy Chick, Library Director, to go into the classrooms and talk about the event and hand out flyers with the information. On the day of the activity the children came to the library, some with parents and some without. The Ice Breaker was Human Bingo where they had to ask people in the library questions about themselves and try to match people with the squares on their bingo sheets. We had over 40 children ages 4 through 12 attend the event and 17 parents so it was very busy and chatty during this Bingo time!! After the introductory time, Kathy Chick presented the new books the library has received from the Libri Foundation to the children and parents. The books were scattered around on tables and Mrs. Chick encouraged the children to look at the books and borrow them from the library. During this time, she read a couple of the new books about libraries and children to the group. We then divided into smaller groups for the following activities -- library croquet, music and movement, and self-portraits. The object was to rotate the groups but the self-portraits took longer, and the ones playing croquet were having too much fun. Everyone did get to make a self-portrait, however, and that was the most important part of the activities -- not counting the stories and new books! We had drawings for books that the Idaho Commission for Libraries sent to us, plus some other books that had been donated by patrons and staff. We had a treasure box that circulated for the children to take items out of -- each child was able to have a balloon, a new pencil, a temporary tattoo, and a small toy from the treasure box. Drawings were held for Summer Reading t-shirts, sun glasses, and other items. The finale was getting to eat cookies from other countries -- England, Mexico, Canada, Netherlands, China, Middle East, Germany, and USA. Of course, not all of these cookies came directly from there, but represented those countries!! We had a great day at the library and truly appreciate all who helped plus the ICFL for the books, posters, and incentive to have the activity!! Photos will have to come later as I need to figure out how to get them from the camera to the computer!!”

Meg Lojek, McCall Public Library

“April 30, 2011 Morgan Elementary School Carnival 4:30pm to 7:00 pm Partner: Elementary School Librarian Nancy Cavens. To celebrate Dia, we hosted a large booth and game at the school's carnival. With a large rug depicting the Earth and its continents, students rolled fuzzy dice to land on a continent and answer trivia questions based on that part of the world. There was a globe and reference books on a side table to help students "research" the answers to the trivia, if needed. Also, the 3 librarians in attendance could help the students if needed. After answering the question, they got to choose their prize: a new book from the book basket! We also had a



clipboard for early registration for Summer Reading, and we made contact with **8 NEW families** who hadn't participated in the public library's summer programs before. We also had story time info for the preschoolers. On display were the Dia posters and the summer reading One World Many Stories banner. Children truly enjoyed the free books as prizes. Partnering with the elementary school librarian was fantastic, as we had a "ready-made" audience to celebrate multicultural awareness and literacy. It allowed us to reach out to some families we couldn't have reached otherwise."

Kimbre Chapman, Caldwell Public Library

"The event was held on Saturday, April 30th from 12 - 3 at Serenity Park, next to the Caldwell Public Library. We partnered with Idaho Reads! VISTA. These are the activities we offered for children that day: Toma Todo, a game from Mexico, bean bag toss, temporary tattoos, and jump roping with the competitive team, Summer Wind Skippers. We gave away Summer Reading backpacks, Summer Reading information for parents, books for kids, educational literature for parents, jump ropes from the Modern Woodmen of America, granola bars, and water bottles from Tom Scott Toyota. There were many activities for kids during the event, including the competitive jump roping team, The Summer Wind Skippers of Meridian, which is one of two such teams in Idaho. They were key entertainers throughout the afternoon. The library provided chairs, tables and other materials to the organizations participating in El Día. The library also provided Summer Reading information in English and Spanish, and the Children's Librarian and Children's Assistant talked in English or Spanish to nearly every adult who visited our booth. , but did not issue library cards at the event. We also gave away stickers, bookmarks and other small prizes to kids when they participated in the games at the library's booth."



Bianca Brito, Mountain Home Public Library

"The Mountain Home Public Library hosted El Día de Los Niños/ Day of the Child event on April 28, 2011 from 6-7pm. The event began with the story Book Fiesta! : Celebrate Children's Day/ Book Day by Pat Mora read by librarian Patti Shields. Following the story the children made a mini chili pepper piñata that they enjoyed and would take home later that evening. After all the children finished making their piñata, the evening continued with a performance by our partners the Elmore County Hispanic Organization Folkloric Dancers that was enjoyed by all. The end of the evening was



wrapped up with the book giveaway. The event was a great success with 52 children and 42 adults in attendance and a total of **10 new library cards issued.**”

Cindy Bigler, Gooding Public Library

“At Gooding Public Library we held a Día event on April 29, 2011. This family activity was held between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. We partnered with two businesses in our community Lupita’s Boutique and Tienda and Novedades Chris. This event was held at Gooding Public Library. We had two piñata, made tissue paper flowers, coloring pages, pencil activities like mazes and seek and finds, we also had stories read in Spanish. We had volunteers who helped plan arrange all the activities. We also gave away books to all the children who came to the program. (Thank you for the books to give away.) As we have programs such as Día it allows us to reach out to our Hispanic community in a way that they feel comfortable with, they like to help put on this program and enjoy sharing their culture with us.”



Ginger Wells, DeMary Public Library



“The DeMary Memorial Library partnered with the Minidoka Head Start for our Día program this year. We wanted to mix two different cultures for our program, the American and Hispanic cultures. Our program involved implementing a policy of Head Start which gets kids out and moving! We held our program at the Scholar Park in Rupert from 10 AM -NOON on April 30, 2011. We had hula hoops, frisbees, balls and kites for them to play with as well as all of the park equipment.

Parents also took time with their kids to sit down and read the bi-lingual books provided by the ICfL. We had hot-dogs, chips, apples and chocolate milk for lunch and then each child took their turn whacking the piñata! They were all VERY excited to choose their books and take them home! Thank you ICFL for the bi-lingual books, they were great!”

Jean Hauritz, West Bonner Library District - Priest River Branch

“We held our event on Saturday, April 30 from 10:30 – 2:00 at the Priest River Library. We read bilingual stories such as Mañana Iguana and Eight Animals on the Town and played Hot Tamale using a toy pig wrapped in corn husks. (Toss the tamale to each person in the circle till the music stops. Whoever is left holding the tamale is out.

Continue till one is left. It's like Hot Potato). We then had a drawing for books and finally watched a movie together."

Linda Henderson, Buhl Public Library

"El día de los niños/Day of the Child" Celebration was held at the Buhl Public Library on April 23, 2011. We had a Children's Parade at which 65 children marched and some carried the Día banner. We gave bilingual books to the participants. We partnered with Head Start for this bilingual program. We had bilingual stories and songs and a piñata. We gave books to every child. We all had a wonderful time sharing cultures!!!"



Joy Steiner, Garden City Public Library



"Our día celebration took place at the Garden City Library community room on April 14, 2011 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Our partner and sponsor was Connie Weaver. Our theme this year was "Games Around the World." We invited library community families to teach the children games and activities from their heritage. Many of these families regularly attend our programs, so their children had the opportunity to assist their parents and give back to the library. Our volunteer families taught games

from Iran, South Korea, Mexico, Holland, Iraq, and China. Several of these families had parents who were born in these nations and immigrated to the US. Games included: Chinese jumprope, Korean jacks, lotteria, prize on a clothesline, hopscotch with Arabic numbers, and a counting game in Farsi. Our snack was a delicious pistachio candy from the Middle East, purchased at one of our local ethnic stores, Kabul Market. In addition to the international game fare, we also offered good old American hula hooping. Children rotated happily from game to game, receiving a stamp for each nation station on the 'passport' they wore around their necks."

Kerri Lynn Harris, Kimberly Public Library

"On April 30th we held our 3rd annual Día Celebration (the City sponsored one the year before it was turned over to the library). It was held here at our library, from 1-3. The Mayor's office provides most of our funding and members of our city staff and City Council come to help us serve hot dogs and lemonade. Donors to our event include: Falls Brand Meat, Ridley's Food and Drug, and the City of Kimberly. We have a

standing arrangement with the Kimberly High School Speech and Debate class for three or four students to come and read stories or present dramatic retellings of children's stories. We had another high school student who juggled for us. We had 2 piñatas to accommodate different age groups. For crafts, we made pinwheels; straw, bead, and wheel pasta necklaces; and lunch sacks decorated with marker or cutouts. There was a small table with bubble activities. Finally, we had a new canopy where we set up our books from ICfL for giveaways and some other things we had from previous years for giveaways also.”