Welcome

By Erica Compton

So this is officially the last issue of The Scoop I will help publish! For those of you that have not heard, I will be leaving the Commission at the end of October to start a new adventure. In 2015 the Legislature created the Idaho STEM Action Center with a focus on improving and advancing STEM education in K-12. Angela Hemingway is the new Executive Director, and I have been hired as the new Program Manager. While I am certainly excited about this new challenge, it is hard to describe how much I will miss the Commission and the work I do for Idaho Libraries.

I hope to keep in touch with many of you as I strive to improve STEM in formal education settings across the state. Stay tuned for more information on how the STEM Action Center plans on helping Idaho students.

Idaho Library Association Annual Conference

State Librarian Ann Joslin addressed attendees at the Idaho Library Association (ILA) All-Member Annual Business Meeting, Thursday, October 1. She gave a brief overview of some of the work that Idaho Commission for Libraries, ILA, and Idaho libraries have done this past year: the Read to Me School Library Access Mini-Grants, Libraries Building Community Summit, Library Leadership Advisory Committee (LiLAC), Make It at the Library project, Summer Summit for school libraries, Special Projects Library Action Team (SPLAT) Summer Adventures, Microsoft IT Academy, College and Career Ready activities; and our enhancement request to support the state’s STEM initiative.

The Idaho library community has done some impressive work in the past year!

Linked Sessions

Once again the Idaho Library Association’s annual conference was chock-full of great sessions. Here is one I enjoyed! We will try to share more as we get the information.

Ka-Boom! Hands-On STEAM Ideas for Afterschool Programs presented by Nick Madsen, Youth Services Specialist at Community Library Network.
LIBRARY TO LIBRARY

Self-Publishing Tool

The Meridian Library District now offers indie authors a way to reach a new audience through SELF-e. Idaho needs 50 submissions before our state list will be visible, so help spread the word!

SELF-e, a partnership between Library Journal and Biblioboard, is a discovery tool for self-published e-book authors to add their books to library collections. Library Journal reads through submission, curates a "best of" list available to all libraries who offer SELF-e, and curates state specific lists so readers can connect with local authors.

Even if your library doesn't offer SELF-e, you are welcome to invite indie authors from your area to submit their work through our portal. Once their work is vetted it will be available in a state specific "Idaho authors" list. If it is selected by Library Journal as one of their top picks, it will be available to a much broader audience.

To read more about the process and submit work, visit: https://library-journal.biblioboard.com/?partnerId=ab7ba1be-1477-4d4d-a71f-ce42a0271295 or contact Megan Egbert

Dr. Roger Stewart Receives Special Services to Libraries Award

ICA Staff Members & Dr. Stewart with his award (left to right) Jeannie Standal, Julie Armstrong, Dr. Roger Stewart, Staci Shaw, and Stephanie Bailey-White.

Boise State University Literacy Professor Dr. Roger Stewart received the Idaho Library Association (ILA) Special Services to Libraries award on October 1. This award is given to someone who has offered exceptional support to Idaho libraries. Dr. Stewart has provided countless hours of his own time at library meetings, at library site visits, in
focus group sessions and pouring over surveys and research data to help the Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me and Summer Reading programs use data to improve these programs. He has testified in front of Idaho House and Senate Ed Committees on behalf of Idaho libraries, presented at ICfL Board and staff meetings, and at many library workshops.

“Roger has been part of our planning meetings when designing programs that will help advance early literacy, and his opinion and vast expanse of knowledge about all things related to literacy has become invaluable. His sense of humor and easy-going spirit makes working with him a true pleasure, and librarians in the field often make similar remarks. Over the past decade that I have had the pleasure of working with him, he has grown into a true advocate and friend of the Idaho Library Community,” ICfL Read to Me Coordinator Stephanie Bailey-White said. Others on the Read to Me team, as well as librarians in the field nominated Dr. Stewart for the award and were pleased to be able to present the award to him during the ILA Awards Banquet.

Libraries preparing for Family Reading Week

~ Submitted by Dyan Spence, Weippe Library

We have started using the Family Reading Week theme for our kids’ area, ‘Curl Up with a Classic.’ Here is a picture of the first princess to color our new castle. The castle has been a hit! The clouds are adorable, and children of all ages have been in and out of this cardboard creation.

On November 19th for our Family Reading Event, we have special guests coming: Snow White and Little Bo Peep will each be reading a book. We will also have Minute to Win It games, and we are planning on a great time with fun for all!

It’s Not Too Late to Sign Up for FRW

Idaho Family Reading Week is November 15-21. This year’s theme is “Curl Up with a Classic.” Register today.

Bookmobile Gets National Exposure

The Community Library Network bookmobile made national news this weekend on the NBC Today Show. To see the segment, go to CommunityLibrary.Net/bookmobile.
YOUNG ADULT CORNER

Announcing the Teen Programming HQ

Check out YALSA’s new one-stop-shop for teen programming ideas and networking. Visit http://hq.yalsa.net/index.html to join the free site and to find and share programming ideas.

Apply by Oct. 30th for a Chance to Receive a Free 3D Printer

Want to offer more hands-on learning opportunities for and with the teens in your community? 3D Systems Corp., in partnership with YALSA, is giving away up to 250 3D printers to members of YALSA. Learn more and apply online (www.3dsystems.com/education/partners/makerlab-club) by Oct. 30th.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 Official Trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YddkQoxkZMQ

YALSA Young Adult Services Symposium

Nov. 6-8, 2015 www.ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium

How Does your State Rate?

A new report on “disconnected youth”—young people ages 16 - 24 who are neither in school nor working—includes a state by state breakdown of the number of disconnected youth in each state. Some county-level information is also available. Read the full report, “Zeroing in on Place and Race: Youth Disconnection in America’s Cities”

SCHOOL ZONE

I recently spoke with an Idaho school district superintendent who enthusiastically supports the school libraries in her district as a critical part of education. I asked why, from an administrative point of view, she supports her school libraries and librarians. She replied that information literacy is essential for a 21st Century student’s success, and those skills come from the library.

Continue reading…

Nonfiction Book of the Month:

Low Hanging Fruit


School Librarians: Please help us make a customizable Page 2 of Low Hanging Fruit right for you!  Click here to see a sample of a Page 2.  

We really want your opinion, so please click on the link below to take the quick survey to tell us what you think about Low Hanging Fruit (Page 1 and Page 2)!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/29HJ7CD

Teacher Guide for Letters About Literature available from The Center for the Book!  
If your teachers and students are even a little bit interested, check out the 2015 Letters About Literature Teacher’s Guide. It is chock full of writing activities and lays out the details of how the contest supports NCTE, IRA, and Idaho Core Standards. Check it out on the Letters About Literature page on the ICfL website! For even more information, read this month's edition of Low Hanging Fruit.

Centennial High Senior Publishes Computer Coding Book  
Nobody ever told Danny Takeuchi that most people wait to launch their business startup and publish their first book until after graduating high school.

Not that it would have mattered.

Danny, a senior at the West Ada School District’s Centennial High School, isn’t the type to conform to expectations just for the sake of following someone else’s rules.

After all, Danny landed a big Hewlett-Packard internship after his sophomore year—in high school, not college.

He absolutely rejects the idea computer programmers have to love math or be geniuses.

He thinks some coding advocates have done a disservice to women and girls.

He believes some academics undervalue creativity within the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

And he’s the type of guy who started writing a book without even knowing it.

This month, Danny will release his book, “Animation for Kids with Scratch Programming — Digital Art, Story Telling and Coding.”

Continue Reading…

Elementary school library grants are available to increase access to print in the home for Idaho’s youngest students (pre-K through 1st grade). This grant includes required changes to your school library check-out policies if you don’t already allow book check-out for these grade levels. Funds are to be spent on fiction and non-fiction books only. Applications are due February 25, 2016. Please help us spread the work to schools in your district/area who have not received grants yet!

If your school has received a mini-grant in the past four years, there is a new $5,000 grant opportunity for those interested in keeping their school libraries open over the summer or trying other outreach methods to provide access to books over the summer.

To find out more about these exciting grant opportunities, please visit the Read to Me program page by clicking here: http://libraries.idaho.gov/school-access-mini-grants. You can find both applications under the 2016-2017 Grant Application drop down tab. Project Coordinator Stephanie Bailey-White and Grants Officer Kristina Taylor are available to field questions about this program at (208) 334-2150.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lights On After School

Oct. 22, 2015

Launched in October 2000, Lights On Afterschool is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The effort has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement and generates media coverage across the country each year.

The Afterschool Alliance organizes Lights On Afterschool to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things—such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon Do and poetry—and discover new skills. Libraries are a very important provider of quality afterschool programs, and this is a great opportunity to highlight our offerings.

Learn more and register your event: http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm

Morris and Nonfiction awards

1st week of December finalists announced www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists

Read to Me Rendezvous Features National and Idaho Presenters

You won’t want to miss some great national and local presenters sharing best practices and research-based early literacy and summer reading information in Boise on November 5-6. We are excited to have Dr. Maria C. Cahill from the University of Kentucky join us and present about what the research shows is working for summer reading programs. She also has a great presentation called “A Perfect Match: Finding the Right Story (or Information Text) for Beginning Readers.”
Dr. Cahill’s bio: Maria Cahill holds a joint appointment in the School of Information Studies and the Department of Educational Leadership at the University of Kentucky. Her research focuses on the professional knowledge, skills, and practice of school and children’s librarians and the advancement of children’s and adolescents’ literacy as a result of resources and services available through libraries. Cahill earned an MLIS from the University of South Carolina and PhD in Literacy Studies from the University of Tennessee. Her teaching and research have been supported by funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Texas Library Association. She is a former school librarian.

We also have two Boise State University Professors, Dr. Roger Stewart and Dr. Stan Steiner, on the agenda. Both have a long history of working with the Read to Me program, and we are very pleased they are available during these dates to share some of their vast knowledge with us.

Need more reasons to sign up now? How about the opportunity to network with 100 other elementary school, public library and Commission for Libraries staff members who are passionate about improving services to Idaho kids. We have some amazingly creative and experienced librarians, and they will be sharing information at poster sessions and throughout the agenda. There will be lots of opportunities to talk about practical ideas for getting more students reading on grade level, connecting with summer nutrition programs, and things you can take back and put into place right away. And we’ll have books to preview and give away!

We are only hosting statewide Read to Me training events every other year. If you’d like to attend, please sign up today at www.eventbrite.com/e/read-to-me-rendezvous-tickets-18611124374. (Agenda and more details can also be found there.) Travel costs (including plane tickets for those in northern Idaho) will be reimbursed for those traveling more than 40 miles. Travel reimbursement details can be found at http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/TrvlInf2015Ecom.pdf

Attendance is limited at this time to two staff members per library or branch. Ideally public and elementary school library staff would attend as teams and use some of the meeting time to work on collaborative summer reading planning and other ways to advance literacy in their communities. We anticipate creating a waiting list once 100 seats are reserved. Please contact us as soon as possible if you have registered and find you cannot attend.

Poster Sessions Needed!
If you plan to attend the 2015 Read to Me Rendezvous for public and school librarians on November 5-6, 2015, consider participating in a Poster Session to be held on Thursday, November 5. We invite you to share a unique or creative youth program or event that your library implemented successfully. Topics should focus on things you think other libraries would be excited to try, which can be adapted for libraries of different sizes.

Continue Reading…
ATTENTION PUBLIC LIBRARIES USING TUMBLEBOOKS!

We received the following email from TumbleBooks regarding their new authentication policies. Please read through this and contact Deborah Silver to get your library in alignment with the new policy. Ph: 416-781-4010 Toll Free: 1-888-622-9609

Dear IClFL,

I don’t know if your organization is for ALL Idaho libraries, but I have about 75 of them that I have not been able to authenticate. I have contacted many of these libraries individually but have not received a response. Perhaps they will respond to you… Here is the information we need from each library that has its own account. Once they send this info to me, I will be able to send them a new authenticated URL for them to put on their sites.

In order to proceed we would need the following information from you regarding library card authentication and IP address authentication:

1. Example - an example of one of your library card numbers
2. Card number size - how many characters or digits are in the full library card number.
3. Position of common portion - what position in the library card number does the common portion start (i.e. the portion of the number which is common to every patron's card number)?
4. Common portion length - how many characters or digits are in the common portion?
5. Common portion value - what does the common portion look like, i.e. what is its value?
6. List of IP's - a list of all IP's associated with your library, through which your patrons might access our servers.

For example, here are some sample library card numbers and the information about them we are asking you to provide. At the end is an example of a list of IP's.

- Example: 867849654958069
  • card number size: 15
  • position of common portion: 1
  • common portion length: 5
  • common portion value: 86784

- Example: 849956788069
  • card number size: 12
  • position of common portion: 5
  • common portion length: 4
  • common portion value: 5678

- Example list of IP's:
  • 183.281.497.32
  • 292.663.446.19
  • 118.221.965.66
Once we have this information we will send you a brand new encrypted URL. Anyone using this URL when they’re inside the library and connected to its Wi-Fi – or using one of its computers – will gain direct access into the subscription.

Anyone outside the library will be asked for their library card number before being logged in (amazingly, this information is saved on their device for up to 90 days, so they won’t have to enter their card number again for 3 months!)

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Deborah Silver, TumbleBooks Inc.

**Fuel Your School Funding**

Chevron is working with DonorsChoose.org again this year to help K-12 teachers in public schools get the supplies they need for eligible public school classroom projects.

What do your students need? Microscopes, art supplies, books...post your project request now! The time period for submissions on DonorsChoose.org is September 1, 2015, to November 15, 2015. Don’t wait—because the earlier you post your project during the submission period, the better your chance will be to receive funding.

For more information about the 2015 Fuel Your School program and to track local projects in need of funding, [click here](#).

**Treasure Valley Opportunities**

**Every Child Ready to Read**

Local Treasure Valley Youth Services staff is invited to attend an Every Child Ready to Read “Train the Trainer" session at the Meridian Library District at 1326 W. Cherry Lane on Friday October 30th between 8am and 11am. The training will be given by Megan Egbert and Laura Abbott. Please contact Laura Abbott at labott@mld.org or at 888-4451 ext. 234 to sign up or for more information.

**Free Screening**

Most Likely to Succeed – a documentary that charts a history of the American education system and offers a deep look into one new approach to learning.
**Lexington Offers Free Storytime to Go Resource**

The Lexington (Ky.) Public Library has produced an interactive ebook designed to help parents, daycare providers, and preschool teachers organize storytimes that will help get children ready to read. Storytime to Go: A Reading-Readiness Guide for Parents and Preschools takes readers through the basics of reading-readiness and the elements of a good storytime. It is available for free download in EPUB or PDF format. Check it out at [www.lexpublib.org/storytime-to-go](http://www.lexpublib.org/storytime-to-go).

**Scholastic Library Publishing Award Nominations**

Is there someone on your staff or in your community who exemplifies outstanding achievement in the librarian profession by supporting and guiding reading by the children and youth in your community? Nominate them for the 2016 Scholastic Library Publishing Award and let everyone know how great they are. The award comes with a check for $1000 and a 24K gold-framed citation spelling out their achievements. The award jury is counting on you to highlight members of our profession who merit this award.... You have until December 1, 2015 to nominate someone.

**SUMMER READING NEWS**

**Sneak Peak at Summer Reading 2016**

If you were not able to join us at our ILA session, you can see a preview of the 2016 Summer Reading Program at [http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources](http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources).

**Order for Summer Reading 2016 Now!**

The Upstart online catalog of 2016 Collaborative Summer Library Program materials is now open. You can start shopping for next summer any time! Check out the “On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!” artwork by Matt Tavares ([www.matttavares.com](http://www.matttavares.com/)). This theme offers libraries so much opportunity to incorporate programming and resources to support our patrons’ health, well-being, and overall wholeness.

Products with the artwork for the teen program, “Get in the Game – Read,” and the adult program, “Exercise Your Mind – Read,” are also available. And there is a selection of products that use the “On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!” slogan and graphics designed to appeal across age groups, for libraries that prefer to use a single SRP slogan for all ages.

You may access the online catalog by logging into the CSLP website ([www.cslpreads.org](http://www.cslpreads.org/)), going to the SHOP menu selection, then clicking on the CSLP SHOP ORDER LINK. The direct link [http://shopcslp.com](http://shopcslp.com/) is also available and does not appear to require login.

2016 CSLP manuals are on their way to ICFL and will be shipped to libraries around the first week of November to libraries who completed their 2015 Summer Reading Report.
The American Falls District Library Hosts Successful “Book to School” Event

By Marianne Johnson, Youth Services Librarian at AFDL

The American Falls District Library "Book to School" event is held annually near the beginning of the school year with the goal of bringing families of school-aged children to the library to learn about the resources available to students in our community.

This year’s event was held on Sept 24, 2015 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with a theme centered on the "Bad Kitty" books. We visited the elementary school lunch line with the Bad Kitty Costume to greet students and encourage them to attend the event. We distributed bookmarks and fliers to help promote the Book to School open house. The area schools are very supportive of our event and do all they can to help us with publicity and promotion.

Children and their families checked in at the front door and followed a purple paw-print trail that led them past important features of the library. Students and their siblings were given a paper with questions about the library to answer and redeem for a free book. Library workers were on hand to issue new library cards and provide information about how to apply for a card.

We offered a Bad Kitty mask making area, an opportunity to meet Bad Kitty, and a how to draw Bad Kitty tutorial. We also had a fish bowl full of Goldfish crackers for the kids to try to guess how many were in the bowl. The closest guess won the bowl and the crackers.

The elementary school teacher with the greatest percentage of students attending received a $30 amazon gift card. This teacher had 39 percent of his class attend. 148 students attended with 202 other family members for a total of 350 participants. This is consistent with numbers from previous years. We feel that getting as many families as possible into the library and getting books into the hands of children living in our predominantly "underserved" area is a great measure of success.
This is a great model and nice public/school partnership. Remember you can receive books for cooperative programs like this that reach underserved children by applying through the Year-Round Underserved Program at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/year-round-underserved-program-application. Marianne would be happy to share more details about their program via email, marianne@aflibrary.org.

**CE News You Can Use**

The Idaho Commission for Libraries has pre-purchased seats in the following courses (4 week asynchronous online learning) for consumption by staff in Idaho publicly-funded libraries. Click on the link to see if you are qualified, the course parameters, and learner expectations.

**Library Juice Course**

More information and course request form at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/library-juice-academy

Building Relationships, Building Bridges: Library Outreach and Marketing to Latino and Spanish-Speaking Families

**Infopeople Courses** - for more information and course request form go to http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/infopeople


Two free November Webinars

- Beyond the Survey: a practical approach to interviews and focus groups    Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 12 noon to 1 p.m. PST
- Digital Badging in the Library Community    Thursday November 19, 2015 at 12 noon to 1 p.m PST

**Public Library Directors’ Summit**

The Idaho Commission for Libraries will host a Public Library Directors’ Summit to be held January 27 and 28, 2016.

This will be an opportunity to meet with other public library directors from around the state to network and identify policy issues that impact public libraries. The sustainability of public libraries has been, and will continue to be, a hot topic. While we are aware of the intrinsic value of public libraries in communities across the state, it is an ongoing challenge to get the word out to the local and state policy makers and funders.

Agenda - available October 15, 2015

Venue: Grove Hotel, Boise, Idaho
Travel, lodging and meals will be covered by a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act, Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Speakers:
Maureen Sullivan, ALA President, 2012-2013
Alison Macrina, Library Freedom Project
Facilitator:
Phil Eastman, Leadership Advisors Group, Inc.

**Connected Learning Webinar Series**

This month, we’ll explore the landscape of the new economy and consider what kinds of skills and resources young people need as they seek to build more robust pathways to opportunity. We’ll also highlight the changing social and economic factors that structure young people’s transition to adulthood and the ways creative labor is being remade today. Lastly, participants will discuss how cities, schools, and tech leaders might drive innovation that is more robust, open, and inclusive, along with policy options for effectively addressing opportunity gaps in the tech sector and innovation economy.

Learn More

**MULTICULTURAL CONNECTIONS**

**Colorín Colorado**

Colorín Colorado has launched its new website! The new site features the outstanding research-based bilingual content you know and love presented in a new, user-friendly design, along with new ELL resources. The new site includes:

- A video library that compiles all of our ELL classroom videos and interviews
- An updated navigation making it easy to find (and come back to!) what you’re looking for
- Integration of the Common Core and ELLs blog within ColorínColorado.org
- Updated information on ELL resources by state
- A resource library featuring all of our great recommended resources
- Booklists for kids, teens, and professionals organized by topic
- Easier access to our Spanish-language content for parents and educators

**Resources to Support Inclusion & Diversity**

**Websites**

- Inclusive Schools Network
- The Education Alliance – Teaching Diverse Learners

**Publishers**

The following distributors offer originals, bilingual titles, and translations of English-language best sellers.

**Baker & Taylor (B&T)** is a major distributor of books and media, started in 1828. They provide a collection management tool custom-tailored for libraries’ title selection and ordering purposes, notification carts, POD, standing orders, OAP, and shelf-ready services.

**Bilingual Publications** has been distributing Spanish-language books for more than 30 years. Bilingual Publications stays in communication with clients to monitor needs and screens all children’s book selections to ensure collection
standards. Book recommendations, list customizations, ODC, OAP, and shelf-ready and book fair services also available.

**Brodart** has more than 30 years of experience selecting and recommending Spanish-language titles for all ages. Each title is individually read and released on their monthly recommended list of titles available as FASTips lists. Book recommendations, ODC, OAP, and shelf-ready and book fair services are also available.

**Chulainn Publishing Corp.** has been providing collection development services to public libraries in the United States since 1993. Book recommendations, customized invoices, and shelf-ready and book fair services available.

**Grupo Santillana USA** has affiliates in many Spanish-speaking countries and has been distributing books to schools, libraries, and the U.S. trade market for over 40 years. Santillana owns the Spanish rights to various classics published in English and other languages.

**Ingram Library Services** is part of Ingram Content Group, a global distribution network with hundreds of Spanish-language materials for all ages. It provides a custom-tailored collection development database, notification carts, standing orders, ODC, OAP, and shelf-ready services.

**Independent Publishers Group (IPG)** is a distribution program with thousands of Spanish-language titles across numerous subjects, including original works and translations of award-winning English titles.

**Lectorum Publications** has specialized in importing and distributing Spanish-language books for more than 50 years. Lectorum reads each children’s book in its collection and publishes a line of children’s books, including popular translations and authentic literature. Monthly bulletins, standing orders, ODC, OAP, and shelf-ready and book fair services are available.

**Lee & Low Books** is an independent publisher and distributor of diverse books created to support classroom curricula and libraries serving beginning readers through young adults. Lee & Low is the sole-source vendor for Bebop Books imprint, also available in Spanish.

**Lorito Books** has been a distributor and curator of children’s books and audiobook read-along sets since 2009. Their audiobook sets contain a bilingual book and multiple CDs spoken by native Spanish speakers.

**Multicultural Books & Videos (MCBV)** has been distributing World Language materials for more than 25 years, including Spanish-language books for children. Monthly new releases and shelf-ready and book fair services are available.

**Scholastic** has been publishing and distributing educational materials for children in grades K–8, parents, and teachers worldwide since 1989. **Scholastic en Español** and **Club Leo en Español** present hundreds of books each year, including audiobook programs, TV series, encyclopedias, and magazines, along with educational materials and software programs for Learners of English as a Second Language.
KNOW THE NUMBERS

Absenteeism and Achievement: How Does Idaho Stack Up?

A few thumbnails on the Idaho numbers, collected between 2011 and 2013 (warning: lots of numbers ahead):

- Overall, 20 percent of fourth-graders and 21 percent of eighth-graders were considered chronically absent — meaning they missed three days of school in the span of a month. The national averages were 20 and 22 percent, respectively.

- Among Hispanic students, Idaho’s absentee rate was 22 percent in fourth grade and 23 percent in eighth grade. Both were slightly above the national averages of 21 and 22 percent.

- Among students eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch, the Idaho absentee rates were 22 percent in fourth grade and 24 percent in eighth grade. The national numbers were 23 and 24 percent, respectively.

- Students with disabilities had absentee rates that came in slightly below the national numbers. In Idaho, those absentee rates were 24 percent in fourth grade and 27 percent in eighth grade, compared with national averages of 25 and 28 percent.

Continue Reading…

STEAM IS EVERYWHERE

STEM Books Recommended by Saroj!

I have come across two excellent books to support STEM thinking in children and could be applied to programming. The reason why I like these is because they start with what young children can do, not dummying down school-age STEM concepts. They also show connections between children’s conceptual thinking at each stage of early childhood development and relate that to the activities and to what adults can do to support science and math thinking and, more generally, abstract thinking and problem solving.

Engaging Young Engineers: Teaching Problem-Solving Skills Through STEM, by Angi Stone-MacDonald et al
Mathematizing: An Emergent Math Curriculum Approach for Young Children, by Allen Rosales

New America After 3PM special report on STEM released

First ever special report on afterschool science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning based on the 2014 America After 3PM survey data. Full STEM Ahead: Afterschool Programs Step Up as Key Partners in STEM Education is the first comprehensive look at parental perceptions of STEM programming offered by afterschool providers and examines demand, access and satisfaction both nationally and by state.
Free e-Book on Creating a Makerspace on the Cheap!

Nomad Press has a free 3-book for download on creating a makerspace in your home, school, library or???. It focuses on using recycled and/or easy to find resources and includes 12 projects to implement right now.

Barnes and Noble Mini Maker Faire

November 6-8, 2015  Read on http://www.barnesandnoble.com/h/makerfaire

BOOK LOOK

2015 National Book Award Long-Lists Announced

From Monday, September 14, through Thursday, September 18, the National Book Foundation rolled out its long-lists for the National Book Awards (NBA), which will be presented at an invitation-only awards ceremony on November 18. The long-lists, ten books each in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and young people’s literature, ranged beyond hard hitters like Lauren Groff’s *Fates and Furies* (Riverhead) in fiction and Ta-Nehisi Coates’s *Between the World and Me* (Spiegel & Grau) in nonfiction to give a good overview of the publishing industry in the last year. To be eligible, titles had to be authored by American citizens and published in this country between December 1, 2014, and November 30, 2015.
Fun Books for October

These are some of the books featured in the October newsletter of www.bookworm4Kids.com and we thought they looked fun to feature this month!

**Trick ARRR Treat: A Pirate Halloween**, by Leslie Kimmelman, Jorge Monlongo
Ages 4–7
Trick-or-treaters dressed as pirates traverse their neighborhood, demanding treats. Charlotte Blue-Tongue, Peg-Leg Pete, Glass-Eyed Gabby and their friends are so fully in character that they board a pirate ship before a monster appears to send them running home.

**Fright Club**, by Ethan Long
Ages 4–8
Each Halloween Eve the Fright Club meets to go over their plan for Operation Kiddie Scare. Only the scariest monsters are allowed, leaving out the cute bunny and squirrel. The rejected animals practice their scariest faces and sounds, proving to the other members of the Fright Club that everyone should be allowed to join.

**Scarecrow Magic**, by Ed Masessa, Matt Myers
Ages 3–5
During the day Scarecrow hangs in the corn field, but as night falls and the full moon rises magic builds in the air. Scarecrow unties his ropes, leaves his clothes behind, and dives into a nearby pond, playing with his friends until the sun rises. The rhyming text balances the illustrations for just the right amount of scary thrills.

Books to Read in Kindergarten

The Lexington Public Library Books to Read in Kindergarten is a diverse list of titles including award-winning books, notable children’s authors, and promising new works chosen by experienced Children’s Librarians at the Lexington Public Library. [http://www.lexpublib.org/booksinkindergarten](http://www.lexpublib.org/booksinkindergarten)

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