Welcome!

~By Erica Compton

Happy fall! I hope you are enjoying the cooler weather and changing colors. Family Reading Week will be here before you know it, so register now if you want to be one of the 130 libraries that will receive our yearly packet of resources. See Dates and Deadlines below for information on registering your event.

You may also be gearing up for Teen Read Week in October. Remember that registration is open until September 28th but only the first 35 libraries will receive the selection of teen resources and promotional materials. See Dates and Deadlines for the link to register or find out more on this year’s ghoulishly fun challenge in Young Adult Corner.
Dates and Deadlines

- **Idaho Library Association Annual Conference**: October 3-5, 2012 in Pocatello. Click here for more…

- **Free “Strengthen Your Storytimes” Workshops**
  - October 15 at the **Coeur d’Alene Best Western Inn and Convention Center**
  - October 17 in at the **Hampton Inn & Suites Boise/Spectrum**
  - October 19 at the **Hilton Garden Inn in Idaho Falls**

- You can apply anytime to participate in the **Idaho Child Care Reads Program**, **Year-Round Underserved program**, or **Jump Start Kindergarten program**.

- **Teen Read Week – Creature Creation Challenge registration**: Monday, August 20 - Friday, September 28: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/TRW2012](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TRW2012) (Spaces are filling fast!)

- **Family Reading Week Registration**: Open August 17 – November 2, 2012 at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/FRW2012Registration](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FRW2012Registration). Complete information can be found on our website [HERE](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FRW2012Registration). (90/130 spots are already filled, so don’t wait too long!)

- **Save the Dates**: **Annual Read to Me Meeting**, February 21-22, Oxford Suites in Boise.

Library to Library

Taking Steps to Move Idaho’s Students Forward

Librarians and other stakeholders from around the state met to discuss issues facing Idaho students during the August 16-17 College & Career Ready Summit: Moving Idaho Forward. Futurist Garry Golden helped the attendees formulate their thoughts into an action plan to facilitate change. Attendees were asked to list ideas they could commit to on a personal level, at the organization level, and at the state level to move Idaho forward.

The Summit began with a quest to gain new information from participating agencies and programs. A book was donated for each completed quest to one of four programs — My First Books, an elementary school library, Head Start, or Caldwell’s P-16 Program. Over 30 books were donated to these programs. Attendees also had the opportunity to network with each other at conversation cafes.
Golden brought each group and individual presentation back to what libraries and other educational entities could do to support changes needed in Idaho’s plan for high school graduates. A panel consisting of Brent D. Reinke, Director of the Idaho Department of Correction; Dawn Schatz, Coordinator of Clark Fork GEAR UP and a library staff member, and Kay Flowers, Director of Academic Programs at Idaho State University, presented information about different aspects of the college and career ready picture (photo of panel members above). Presentations were also given by Selena Grace, Chief Academic Officer from the State Board of Education, and Alex MacDonald, Director of Instructional Technology from the State Department of Education. They discussed goals and projects on the state level that foster support for all of Idaho’s students. There was a lot of food for thought presented, and there are plans to continue the discussions.

Libraries have an integral role to play in students’ ability to access information and become informed digital citizens. Idaho’s future will be impacted by the strength of commitment this Summit inspired.

**Young Adult Corner**

👩‍💻 Teen Read Week – Creature Creation Challenge – Join us!
Register your event now and receive some great resources for your library and for your teens! Need more reasons to register for the *Creature Creation Challenge*? Take a look at these pictures and see if they inspire you to jump aboard. Ready to go? Register [HERE](#).

Need more information from YALSA? Check out their [FAQs](#).
**All Hallow’s Read—A Neil Gaiman Tradition…**

All Hallow’s Read is a Hallowe’en tradition. It’s simply that in the week of Hallowe’en, or on the night itself, you give someone a scary book. Find out more at www.allhallowsread.com/

**Advocacy Resources**

The focus of YALSA’s July webinar for Youth Consultants was on resources to help the librarians and library workers in their state boost their advocacy efforts and gain support for teen services.


For more advocacy resources, visit [www.ala.org/yalsa/advocacy](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/advocacy). The next Youth Consultants’ webinar is scheduled for Wed. Nov. 14th from 1-2pm, eastern.

**Help YALSA Select Award Winning Books**

Now through Sept. 30th YALSA is collecting volunteer forms for individuals who want to serve on book award and selection committees between February 2013 and January 2014. Check out the free webinar to learn more about what it’s like to serve on an award committee, and then access the volunteer form if you want to put your name forward for consideration. Please direct questions to YALSA’s President-Elect, Shannon Peterson, at shannon.peterson@gmail.com.

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**School Zone**

**Common Core State Standards**

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a state-led initiative to define the knowledge and skills students must have in their K-12 educational career. The intention of CCSS is that students will have more success in entry-level jobs, credit bearing-academic college courses, and workforce training programs after high school graduation.

The CCSS are being written by teachers, school administrators, and other educational experts using the latest educational research. Two national agencies are writing the standards for the United States. Idaho is part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Smarter Balance uses computer adaptive technology and will be providing assessment opportunities for English Language Learners as well as students with disabilities.

The standards are written for grades K-12 in English and Math. Smarter Balance is currently working on science and social studies standards. The English standards include K-5 foundational reading skills, informational text, literature, writing, speaking and listening, language, and literacy across the content areas (history/social studies, science and technical subjects).
Math standards include both practices and content. Math practices require students to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, reason quantitatively and abstractly, construct viable arguments, and critique the reasoning of others. A huge impact for math is that academic expectations may start two grade levels lower. In other words, sixth-grade math content may be taught in fourth grade. That is a definite shift in rigor and expectations.

Descriptions of the Common Core State Standards can be found online.

To get a sense of this impact on our students, kindergartners will be expected to do the following in math:

- Count objects to tell how many there are.
- Compare two groups of objects to tell which group, if either, has more; compare two written numbers to tell which is greater.
- Act out addition and subtraction word problems and draw diagrams to represent them.
- Add with a sum of 10 or fewer; subtract from a number 10 or fewer; and solve addition and subtraction word problems.
- Add and subtract very small numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., 3 + 1).
- Name shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a “diamond” is still a square) (National Association of Parent Teachers’ Association, 2012, p. 3).

At the end of kindergarten, students will be expected to do the following in writing:

- Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., My favorite book is …).
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

More information about the CCSS is available in this presentation and this video.

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**iPads in Libraries**

The Virginia Library Association’s College & Research Libraries Section (VLACRL) sponsored an “iPads in Libraries Summer Conference” recently. They recorded the presentations for anyone to enjoy. There are four 30 minute presentations, including discussions of:

- setting up an iPad classroom
- using iPads in instruction
- circulating iPads, and
- a sandbox experiment

If you’d like to view the presentations, here’s the link: http://vcms.gmu.edu/tcs/?id=545D8656-6F92-49EB-9A99-A7E20486D987
(Special thanks to Meridith Wolnick, VLACRL Secretary/Treasurer, University of Virginia for sharing)
**Upcoming Events**

**Register Now for Strengthen Your Storytimes Workshops**
ICIFL’s Read to Me team is working on plans for this year’s fall youth services workshop. The theme is “Strengthen Your Storytimes.” National speaker Betsy Diamant-Cohen will be joining us for a day filled with great practical ideas and a chance to network with public librarians in your area.

Sessions will start at 8:30 a.m. with registration and snacks, a working lunch will be provided, and the workshops will end at 4 p.m. with book door prize drawings.

- October 15 at the Coeur d’Alene Best Western Inn and Convention Center
- October 17 in at the Hampton Inn & Suites Boise/Spectrum
- October 19 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Idaho Falls


**Jumpstart’s Read for the Record campaign announces this year’s book: Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad, by Jacky Davis and David Soman**
Each year, millions of adults and children gather on a single day to set a new reading record and to show their support for early literacy by joining Jumpstart’s Read for the Record. By reading on October 4, you’ll help to set a new world record for the greatest number of people reading the same book on the same day.

Learn all about the campaign at: [http://wegivebooks-rftr.org/](http://wegivebooks-rftr.org/)

**September 30 – October 6: ALA’s Banned Books Week**
Typically held during the last week of September, Banned Books Week highlights the value of free and open access to information. By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship. Check out the [frequently challenged books](http://we.givebooks-rftr.org/) section to explore the issues and controversies around book challenges and book banning.

For the second year in a row, ALA is cosponsoring the Banned Books Virtual Read-Out, where readers can declare their freedom to read by uploading videos of themselves reading from their favorite banned/challenged books. The criteria and video submission information has been updated. Please check out the [Banned Books Week Virtual Read-Out page](http://we.givebooks-rftr.org/) for more information.
Top Ten Frequently Challenged Books in 2011
Out of 326 challenges as reported by the Office for Intellectual Freedom:

1. *ttyl; ttfn; l8r, g8r* (series), by Lauren Myracle
   Reasons: offensive language; religious viewpoint; sexually explicit; unsuited to age group

2. *The Color of Earth* (series), by Kim Dong Hwa
   Reasons: nudity; sex education; sexually explicit; unsuited to age group

3. *The Hunger Games* trilogy, by Suzanne Collins
   Reasons: anti-ethnic; anti-family; insensitivity; offensive language; occult/satanic; violence

   Reasons: nudity; sex education; sexually explicit; unsuited to age group

   Reasons: offensive language; racism; religious viewpoint; sexually explicit; unsuited to age group

6. *Alice* (series), by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
   Reasons: nudity; offensive language; religious viewpoint

7. *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley
   Reasons: insensitivity; nudity; racism; religious viewpoint; sexually explicit

8. *What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones
   Reasons: nudity; offensive language; sexually explicit

9. *Gossip Girl* (series), by Cecily Von Ziegesar
   Reasons: drugs; offensive language; sexually explicit

10. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
    Reasons: offensive language; racism

Complete List: [Books Challenged and/or Banned - 2010-2011 (PDF)]

Snake River Association for the Education of Young Children’s Fall Conference
Library staff and other early childhood educators are invited to attend this upcoming conference on Saturday, October 6th 2012, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. This conference includes information and updates on:

- S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) in education
- Specific teaching content and strategies for math, science and art
- A variety of other speakers and topics

This conference will be filled with good information and a chance to network with others in the area. The cost of the conference is $50, including lunch.

For questions, or to register for the conference, please contact Jennifer Patterson at 208-732-6884 or jpatterson@csi.edu. **Registration deadline is October 1, 2012.**
A Book on Every Bed
In 2009 Amy Dickenson announced the launch of a home-grown, grassroots literacy campaign in her “Ask Amy” column called A Book on Every Bed.

Working with the Family Reading Partnership (www.familyreading.org), a small literacy nonprofit in Ithaca, N.Y., she hatched a simple plan with a far-flung goal: to foster a generation of readers.

The idea was to put a million books at the foot of a million beds for a million children on Christmas morning.

This very simple idea spread out from this column to parents, teachers, librarians, publishers, writers, readers — and those who love them. Please join the campaign this year and share the gift of reading with a child.

International Games Day @ your library
Just like in games, ALA has leveled up National Gaming Day to be an even bigger event this year. It has a new name - International Games Day @ your library - and a new date (the first Saturday of each November). Learn more and register your library here: http://ngd.ala.org/

Early Years Conference: Save the Date
The biennial Early Years conference, sponsored by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, will take place in Boise on November 13 – 14, 2012. Keynote speakers include

- Dr. Megan McClelland, Oregon State University: Early School Success: Self-regulation, risk and academic achievement
- Ron Fairchild, Campaign for Grade Level Reading: Importance of learning to read by the end of third grade
- Laura Porter, Washington State Family Policy Council: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study
- Jim Gill, musician and author: On music, play and literacy

Tuesday, November 13, 6:30 pm: Jim Gill will perform a free public concert at BSU.

More information about the conference and registration will be in the September 28 issue of The Scoop—stay tuned.
Get ready for the 2013 SRP with these underground-themed garden grant opportunities:

2012 Subaru Healthy Sprouts Award
Deadline: October 31, 2012
This grant supports youth gardening programs focused on teaching about our environment, nutrition, and hunger issues in the United States. Through winning programs, youth will learn the skills necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle compatible with environmental stewardship and gain an understanding of how their actions can positively impact the well-being of their community.

2013 Youth Garden Grant Award
Deadline: December 3, 2012
Sponsored by the National Gardening Association and The Home Depot Garden Club, five winners of this grant will receive gift cards valued at $1,000, and 95 winners will receive $500 gift cards, to purchase gardening materials and supplies from their local Home Depot store specific to the needs of their program.


Caldecott Connections!
The ALSC Facebook page will host monthly Q&A Facebook forums with Caldecott award winning authors and illustrators beginning in September. All you need to do is log on and join the conversation. Stay tuned for details.

Spanish Library Tools
Would you like some help creating signage in Spanish for your library? Do you need assistance with simple Spanish phrases? Look no further. There are websites to help with that. SOL-Spanish in Our Libraries and PLUS-Public Libraries Using Spanish are part of a website with templates for signage and documents in Spanish (www.sol-plus.net/index.htm). It also has a link to useful phrases you may want to use with your patrons. Webjunction also has an English/Spanish guide for frontline library staff, conversation guides, and a vocabulary list for librarians. Simple things like adding bilingual signage can make patrons feel more welcome at the library. ¿Habla español?
News from the CSLP…

**Shipping:** For the last three years CSLP was able to offer free shipping to all members. At this time CSLP will be phasing out the free shipping to members. Beginning with the 2013 program CSLP will be paying half of libraries' shipping charges. The library’s portion of the charges will be 5.5% of the order total, with a $6 minimum and a $25 maximum. For larger orders requiring a truck shipment, there will be an additional $50 charge for inside delivery.

Please send ideas on any of the topics below to Patti Sinclair at trishsinclair@sbcglobal.net no later than **November 1, 2012.**
[See details…](#)

Please send ideas on any of the topics below to Patti Sinclair at trishsinclair@sbcglobal.net no later than **October 15, 2012.**
[See details…](#)

**Teen Program Manual 2014: Spark a Reaction (“Science” theme)**
Please send ideas on any of the topics below to Patti Sinclair at trishsinclair@sbcglobal.net no later than **November 15, 2012.**
[See details…](#)

**Adult Program Manual 2014: Literary Elements (“Science” theme)**
Please send ideas on any of the topics below to Patti Sinclair at trishsinclair@sbcglobal.net no later than **November 15, 2012.**
[See details…](#)
**Buhl Summer Reading**  
*Submitted by Linda Henderson, Youth Services Librarian*

We had more school staff helping this year and participating in our SRP. I think that is a move in the right direction. We went from **28,989** minutes turned in last year to **39,596** minutes this year. The incentives play an important part in this increase as we were able to offer books and other prizes for time sheets turned in.

![Image of group of people in library]

*Yikes, are those real snakes?!

Thanks for the photos, Linda, and kudos on the amount of reading turned in this year!

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**Garden Valley Summer Reading**

Jan Ward, teacher from Lowman Elementary (a one-room schoolhouse in the Garden Valley School District), shows her support of the library’s summer reading program in the photo below. “Jan participated whole-heartedly!” said Youth Services Librarian Karen Benedict. “Children of all ages “dreamed big” at the Garden Valley library this summer!”

![Image of Jan Ward and children in library]

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A Closer Look at Idaho Reads!

~By Julie Armstrong

The Idaho Reads! Program has been going strong in Idaho for 18 years. Each year new VISTA Volunteers from the Idaho Reads! Program get together to launch their new service year. Working with public and school library staff was high on their list of ways to help children in their schools be more successful. The group of 17 Idaho Reads! VISTA Volunteers met on August 13 for training provided by the Read to Me team (the photo below shows fellow VISTA Volunteer and Read to Me Team Member Julie Armstrong presenting early literacy techniques). They came from all points of the state for a three-day orientation on their roles in elementary schools. VISTAs work on capacity building within the site where they are working as well as developing community partnerships for the school. Tina Naillon, VISTA Coordinator at the State Department of Education, brought the participants together and oversees the program. Tina has managed the program since 2001. “Eligible applicants are Idaho elementary schools containing a K-3 grade span that qualify for Title I services, and/or literacy programs serving children in kindergarten through third grade serving a low income population,” she said.

Some of the VISTAs have served in the program for more than one year. Jessica Baksis is starting her fourth year of service. She is currently serving at the Monticello Montessori Charter School in Ammon. Monticello is a K-6th grade school established three years ago. Jessica’s role this year will be as a volunteer coordinator, building up a strong base of volunteers within the school. Her biggest goal this year is to develop more resources in their school library. At the present time the library is situated in the lobby of the school and is manned by the secretary. Jessica plans on getting more parent volunteers to help manage the library. She estimates there are about 100 books on the shelves. She is excited to find resources to increase the book count and to establish a stronger system of access for the students.

Jo Minden was a school librarian for 31 years. She worked in both elementary and high school libraries. This is her second year working as a VISTA volunteer and she is pleased that the school was able to extend VISTA services for an extra year after their original three-year contract was up. She serves in Potlatch in a school she attended as a child. She is excited to be continuing some of the programs that she developed last year. Some of the programs that she is passionate about are:

- **Book drive** - Jo partners with the Distinguished Young Woman (DYW) of Idaho program (formerly Junior Miss) and local pastors. She collects books and gives them to the DYW committee. They give them to local pastors, who put together holiday baskets and deliver them to families who need them.
• **Hat and mitten drive** - These are collected at the school sites to be given to children whose names are on the Christmas Sharing Tree in their community.

• **FARM at Potlatch Elementary** - As we started discussing this program, one of Jo’s peers commented excitedly, “This is such a great idea!” FARM stands for Family and Reading Matters. Jo goes into each classroom once a year, which equals seven visits a year. She invites moms, dads, and grandparents to come into the classroom to read with the students. The students show their reading buddy how they take an AR (Accelerated Reader) test on the book they just read. FARM also stands for Fruit, AR testing, and muffins, which is what Jo provides for the students and their reading buddies. She recruits community volunteers to come read with students who don’t have a family member there.

The VISTAs were full of passion for their volunteer roles in building the literacy skills of children in their communities. They are providing a valuable service in the elementary schools in our state.

2012-2013 VISTAs and their assignments:

- Lynn Adams- Sherman Elementary, Nampa
- Geri Moldaschel- Story Station Depot (Boise)
- Brenda Davis- North Leader
- Jo Minden- Potlatch Elementary
- Angela Tuttle- Idaho Hill Elementary
- Ashley Choat- Northside Elementary
- Choena Koehler- Southside Elementary
- Debbi Pauls- Valley View Elementary
- Holly Underwood- Kootenai Elementary
- Annie Tanner- Stoddard Elementary/SE Leader
- Tracy Trautman- Reed Elementary
- Brenda Matson- Greenacres Elementary
- Brenda Winder- Malad Elementary
- Jessica Baksis- Monticello Montessori Charter
- Misti Pearson- Irving Kinder Center in Blackfoot
- Melissa England- Wilcox Elementary
- Misiti Crump- Tyhee Elementary
- Tracy Folsom- Wapello Elementary

During the training provided by the Read to Me team, the VISTA’s were encouraged to contact public library staff for more information about youth services offered in each community and potential partnerships. They are also encouraged to work closely with the school librarian at each school. These committed individuals are excited about advancing literacy in their schools and the community and we hope to see strong partnerships formed at each of these sites. To read more about the program, visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/vista/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/vista/).
Don't forget about LibraryU Self-Directed Courses on WebJunction!
LibraryU, developed by Illinois State Library, offers 17 self-directed online courses available 24-7 through WebJunction. Some of the courses include: Accompanying the Young Reader: Helping the Reader Choose Appropriate Books, Planning Storytimes for Children, and There Will Always be Storytellers.

To access the courses go to [www.webjunction.org/partners/idaho.html](http://www.webjunction.org/partners/idaho.html)
Click on Go To Courses
-- If you have used WebJunction before, sign in with your user name - password.
-- If it has been over a year since you used WebJunction, you may need to request a new password.
-- If you have never used WebJunction Idaho before and are working for a publicly funded library in Idaho, request course access (this will take up to 24 hours to activate, so you will not have immediate access to the course)

Problems? Send an email to via the Courses Contact Form at [www.webjunction.org/find-training/contact-us.html](http://www.webjunction.org/find-training/contact-us.html)

Two Booklist Webinars Coming Soon
Go to [www.booklistonline.com/webinars](http://www.booklistonline.com/webinars) to register for these free one-hour webinars. If you can't attend during the webinar time, you can still access the archived version and get good information.

**Common Core State Standards: Getting Ready for K-8 Research**, Tuesday, September 18 1 p.m. CDT
Whether you’re a public or school librarian, you will be impacted by the rollout of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). For the first time, the majority of states will have identical learning standards in math and English language arts (ELA). The great news for librarians is that research skills and projects are included in CCSS at all grade levels. Cherry Lake’s authors have been engaged deeply in what great research looks like in the digital age. In this program, presented by Kristin Fontichiaro and sponsored by Cherry Lake Publishing, learn specific strategies that public and school librarians can employ to become active partners in CCSS implementation, and the Cherry Lake resources that can help you get there. Gillian Engberg, Books for Youth editorial director at Booklist Publications, will moderate this free, hour-long webinar.

**Reeling in Reluctant Readers**, Tuesday, September 25, 1 p.m. CDT.
Teachers and librarians are always looking for new ways to connect with children and teens categorized as “reluctant readers.” In this free, hour-long webinar a reading specialist and literacy coach—along with representatives from Orca Book Publishers and Saddleback Educational Publishing—will discuss strategies and resources effective in reaching struggling readers ages 10 and up, as well as present books that combine high-interest topics with accessible writing. Also hear about new releases and best-selling series from Saddleback Educational Publishing and Orca Book Publishers. Moderated by Books for Youth associate editor Ann Kelley.
Hispanic Heritage Month
Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide and begins Sept. 15, 2012, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico achieved independence on September 16th and Chile on September 18th. Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated in the United States since 1974, when President Gerald Ford issued a Presidential Proclamation extending Hispanic Heritage Week into a month-long observation. For more information visit: http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/

Need a great reading list to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month? Check out Florida Department of Education’s website which lists titles for PreK through adults: www.justreadfamilies.org/reading/HHM.asp

Learn Library-Specific Spanish for Free With Mango Languages!

Meet Libby the Librarian. Learn Spanish for FREE, to better serve your Spanish-speaking patrons. Access to the course is open, so you can study with Libby even if you don’t have a Mango subscription. Libby’s course covers:
- Basic greetings
- Getting a library card
- Navigating the reference desk

It’s never too early to think about Día – April 30!

A helpful Resource Guide can be downloaded here: http://dia.ala.org/content/resource-guide

The dia Facebook page will soon be filling up with great ideas to start your creative juices flowing. Stay tuned!

Connecting with Spanish Speaking Communities
Through this four-week online course, participants will increase their knowledge of the general library needs of Spanish-speaking communities and will develop strategies, resources and confidence they can use to reach out to this community and connect them with library services. Small groups will work together to develop an Outreach Plan for a library. The prerequisite to this course is “Introduction to Moodle.” Cost is $70. Registration is open. Go to http://host5.evanced.info/lva/evanced/eventcalendar.asp/. Click on the month and the date course begins -- October 1 - 26, 2012. Presented by Katie Cunningham.
**2011-2012 Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) Scores**

“The IRI is a screening tool used to identify students’ basic reading skills. It provides early warning to identify students who might be “at risk” for reading difficulty.” *(Idaho State Department of Education)* The IRI has traditionally been administered three times each year, but will now only be administered in the fall and spring each year. Each child is assessed one-on-one using a statewide test developed for each grade level K – 3. Take a look at how Idaho’s children are improving their reading proficiency levels throughout the school year.

Proficiency levels:
*Benchmark - (At Grade Level)*  
*Strategic - (Near Grade Level)*  
*Intensive - (Below Grade Level)*

The data below is for students in each grade **statewide**. Only “Benchmark” (at grade level) percentages are included here.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Fall 2011 Benchmark</th>
<th>Spring 2012 Benchmark</th>
<th>Fall 2011 Low-income</th>
<th>Spring 2012 Low-income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Kindergarten students</td>
<td>56.38%</td>
<td>82.37%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All First Grade students</td>
<td>61.32%</td>
<td>72.39%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Second Grade students</td>
<td>54.42%</td>
<td>72.34%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Third Grade students</td>
<td>62.71%</td>
<td>75.66%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To see all IRI data go to [https://www.sde.idaho.gov/ipd/iri/IriAnalysis.asp](https://www.sde.idaho.gov/ipd/iri/IriAnalysis.asp). Choose the grade level you wish to see, then indicate either fall or spring scores. You will see the percentage of students scoring at Benchmark, Strategic, and Intensive levels. You can further subgroup the data in the following ways by clicking on the pull down menus:

- Statewide / District / Building
- Total students / Race/Ethnicity / Title 1 (low-income) / LEP (limited English proficient) / Special Education (children on Individualized Education Plans)

To see what kinds of reading skills are assessed at each grade level see the Parent Brochure, or visit the [Idaho Reading Indicator homepage](https://www.sde.idaho.gov/ipd/iri/IriAnalysis.asp) for more information.
The Stars so Far – 2012 – A compilation of titles you just have to see!
Compiled by Elizabeth Bluemle of Publishers Weekly

The Stars So Far is a project gathering all the year’s starred reviews for children’s and YA books from Booklist, The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, the Horn Book, Kirkus, Publishers Weekly, and School Library Journal (and VOYA — Voice of Youth Advocates — whose starred titles will be added in the next update).

So far 719 starred reviews, representing several hundred titles have been added to the list. See the entire article and list of titles here:

100 Best-Ever Teen Novels
Last month NPR asked their audience to nominate titles for a top-100 list of the best young adult fiction ever written. Thousands sent in nominations. The results have been tabulated and, with the help of an expert panel, they narrowed the list to the 235 finalists. The public then voted to narrow the list to these 100 books. It will give you ideas for several years’ worth of reading!

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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