



Volume 1; Number 19 December 9, 2005

Published bi-monthly by Read to Me, a service of the Idaho State Library

In this Issue:

- Welcome!
 - Meet Debbie DePaola
 - Library to Library
 - NexGen YS: Getting Graphic
 - Young Adult Corner
 - Book Look
 - Upcoming Events
 - Summer Reading News
 - School Zone
 - Know the Numbers
 - A Closer Look at Public Funding for Preschool Education
 - Tips & Tools
- News Beyond Idaho



Welcome

Happy Holidays! We're only sending one issue of *The Scoop* this month, so the next issue will be sent on January 6th. We hope everyone out there in library land has a healthy and happy holiday season.

Congratulations **Nancy VanDinter**, school librarian at Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, our book drawing winner for November!

Mary Nate (profiled in the last issue of *The Scoop*) wrote to tell us that BYU is hosting a Mid-Winter Symposium on Books for Young Readers on January 28th in Provo. The first annual Mid-Winter Symposium will feature Katherine Paterson, two-time Newbery Medal winner; Eric Rohmann, Caldecott Medal

winner; and Kimberley Heuston, award-winning author and teacher. For more information or to register, go to <http://ce.byu.edu/cw/wbfyr/>.



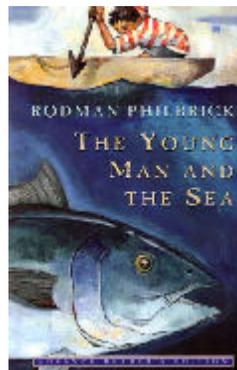
Meet Debbie DePaola

Debbie DePaola is Assistant Director/Head Librarian at the **Lava Branch of the South Bannock County District Library** in southeastern Idaho. Debbie has been at the library for 15 years. She also worked as a student for a half year during her senior year of high school.

Debbie shared with us a little about her library. The Lava Library is a branch of the South Bannock Library District, which serves a total of 8,155 residents. The Lava library has 1,300 regular patrons and a large number of visitors year round, as Lava Hot Springs is a resort town. The Marsh Valley School District is a consolidated school district with 5 towns and surrounding areas attending. South Bannock County District Library serves the same patrons as the school district. The elementary school has approximately 100 students in Pre - 6th grade. Approximately forty 7th and 8th graders from Lava attend the Marsh Valley Middle School, and eight to one hundred 9th through 12th graders are at the Marsh Valley High School.

Debbie works with all ages of youth. She has taken training for youth services through the Idaho State Library, such as: Begin with Books! Emergent Literacy Workshop, Get a Jump Start on Reading, Idaho Read To Me, Youth Services training at Summer Institute, Plugging Parents into Early Literacy and also the Idaho PBS trainings with First Book. Currently, Debbie is involved with preschool outreach, middle school outreach, storytime kit circuit, and the books on tape circuit.

Debbie has worked with the Marsh Valley Preschool for four years with the First Book program, and this year she has worked with Success by 6 and the Read to Me Boomerang project. The library is also working with the Marsh Valley Middle School English teachers providing a "Read it Forward" program using Rodman Philbrick's book *The Young Man and the Sea*. (For more about this program, visit their blog: <http://southbannocklibrary.blogspot.com/>.) It's too early to tell the success of this program, but the staff hope it is very successful so they can implement it with other age groups. Debbie also works with the elementary school by collaborating for Family Reading Week, summer reading, Children's Reading Week, etc., which helps to ensure the success of each program.



Storytimes are done once a week during the school year, and summer reading programs are held during the summer. The library goes into the preschools and daycares with stories and invites children to storytime at the library. The library also has a "Teen Central" where teens can gather to read, study, and socialize. It is a popular place for the teens to gather.

Debbie says, "I've always loved working with children/youth. The small children are fun to work with as you can see them learn and grow through books and hands on cognitive activities. I love to read to the children and watch them get so involved in the stories and pictures. I must admit the older youth used to scare me as to how to reach them. Now, through a number of experiences and helping at the middle school and high school, I've come to know this age group is a lot of fun with lots of energy and ideas."

When asked about challenges and successes, Debbie replied, "The biggest success here at the Lava Library was when our library was enlarged in 1995 and the biggest challenge is to keep from getting too crowded (we are very crowded now). Another big success was the moving of the Downey Library to a donated building and having the community come together to renovate and take ownership of their library. As a part of the South Bannock Library District, the biggest success was the passage of the Plant Facilities Override and Permanent Levy Override this past May."

Debbie shared the favorite thing about her job, "The people I work with daily, staff and patrons. I love people and learning. When I can make someone happy by finding the answer or book they need, it is very satisfying."

Debbie has two favorite children's books. Barbara Robinson's *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is her favorite book from childhood, which she still reads at least once a year. She says, "Maybe I can relate to the children or I secretly wish I could have acted like them (I'm unsure)." The second is Margaret Rey's *Curious George*. "I like George's antics and again maybe my inner self is wanting to come out," Debbie jokes.



As for her own reading, recently she has read *Christmas Jars* by Jason F. Wright, *Hot Flash Holiday* by Nancy Thayer, *There's Something About Christmas* by Debbie Macomber and *It Happened in Idaho* by Randy Stapilus.

When not working at the library, Debbie likes to read, do crossword puzzles, knit, cook, read to her daughter, spend time with family, and sit on the patio and watch the scenery. She adds, "I love being a librarian and all the opportunities for learning and growing it has offered me. I often say the library is my solace; it's my dream job come true."

Library to Library

Libraries who sponsored events during Idaho Family Reading Week are enthusiastic about their outcomes. Forming new partnerships, boosting circulation, bringing new families to the library, raising the visibility of the library, and issuing first-time library cards are some of benefits they have reported. Here are a few more highlights from Family Reading Week celebrations:

Ada Community Library partnered with three elementary schools: **Pepper Ridge, Lake Hazel, and Silver Sage** to host puppet shows at the library. About 35-40 people attended. Two puppet shows were presented on the main floor of the library followed by cookies and a craft activity held downstairs in the children's area. Librarian **Amanda Pittman** reports, "It was a great way to connect with local schools and spread awareness about Idaho Family Read Week."

The **Tri-Community branch of the Benewah County District Library** partnered with the **Upriver Elementary School in Fernwood** and **St. Maries' Heyburn Elementary School** for one event in each community targeting Title I families. "Together Is Better" was the theme for a family dinner followed by a literacy and math training session for parents and children's activities going on simultaneously. Children received take home packages. Over 130 total attended the two events. Librarian **Joanne O'Dwyer** said, "Having a family event during Family Reading Week promoted community connectiveness for our communities."

The **Caldwell Public Library** reported an overwhelming success for their Family Reading event. They had over 700 people come to **Snake River Elementary School** for pizza, parent workshops and story time for children. They gave away over 500 books. Children's librarian **Candi Ciscell** said, "This drew more people than we ever imagined, and we could not have pulled this off without all our partners' support."

Coeur d'Alene Public Library hosted an event which featured stories and songs from Australia and New Zealand. Guest readers included director Bette Ammon, two library board trustees and Ray "The Swagman" Smith (see photo on right), whose wife works at the library. Smith is of British extraction, but he lived in New Zealand and Australia, and it has modified his accent to the American ear to sound Australian. He had the kids spellbound. Children decorated foam-board boomerangs and entered their names for the two give away books. Thirty-seven children and adults attended. Library coordinator **David Townsend** said, "The library attracted families and children who had not previously attended a storytime at the library--probably three- fourths of the people attending. And the library issued three first-time library cards."



The **East Bonner County District Library** and the **Farmin-Stidwell Elementary School in Sandpoint** partnered to sponsor weeklong activities at both the public library and the school during Family Reading Week. Youth services librarian **Suzanne Davis** wrote, "Family Reading Week was a wonderful opportunity to encourage reading."

At the public library, a book raffle and contest to guess how many books are in the public library was held all week, and over 250 entries were received. The library presented two evening storytimes. The 38 children and 19 adults who attended brought their favorite books to be read. Then they made "Books about Me," to reinforce the importance of books in children's lives. The library also presented a storytime to Head Start, which reached 56 children and seven adults.

At the elementary school, a Family Literacy Night was held for parents with children in kindergarten through third grade. Parents were grouped by their children's grades and teachers taught parents strategies to help their children read better. The public library, the PTA, and Title I distributed information. Child care was provided in the form of games and arts and crafts. Refreshments were served and then a drawing for a Thanksgiving turkey was held. About 25 parents attended. The school also hosted an assembly and poetry writing workshop with Spokane children's poet Kenn Nesbit.

Larsen Sant Public Library in Preston partnered with the **Franklin County Reading Association**, the **Friends of the Library**, **school lunch staff** and three elementary schools: **Harold Lee Elementary**, **Pioneer Elementary**, and **Westside Elementary** to put on "Dinner and a Book." Dinner, milk and cookies were served to 510 people. Families came together to eat and listen to stories. Three story areas were set up (one was Spanish) and librarians and teachers read stories throughout the evening. A big hit was the drawing for a recliner chair, donated by a local furniture store. Many other door prizes and about 175 books were given away. This is the fourth year for this annual event at the library. Director **Cloteele Dahle** commented, "Our circulation for November 17th (the day of the event) was 877, the highest day of the month."

Lewiston City Library partnered with **all seven elementary schools** for a book drive and family event at the library. All elementary school students and their families were encouraged to donate a brand new, unwrapped book to Operation Wish Book and to create a mini-scrapbook at a Family Night at the library. Librarian **Heather Stout** said of their event, "It was a wonderful success! I visited with over 50 children at each of the seven elementary schools here in Lewiston. At one school, our local First Book program showed up and gave each child a book. At another school, KLEW, our local TV station showed up to interview me and to film all the children for the evening news. The Family Scrapbooking Night was great too, as we had families who came because of our school visit and the flyer that had gone home with the school kids."

The **South Bannock District Library** sponsored and co-sponsored several events. The **Inkom Elementary School** hosted a Pajama Pizza Party at the school media center. Everyone came in their pajamas, ate pizza and then families read together. Three guest readers were invited to read. VISTA volunteer coordinator **Margaret Hunt** remarked, "It was very rewarding to watch the families sit and read together and catch the vision of the importance of reading."

In **Lava Hot Springs**, the public library sponsored "Pop-Pop-Fizz-Fizz" awareness event to call attention to family reading time. Working with the **Lava Elementary School**, the library set up a table during Parent/Teacher Conference. They handed out pencils, bookmarks, coloring books, and brochures, and had a book drawing and signed up parents for library cards. They reached 75 parents. Librarian **Debbie DePaola** said, "It was good for the community to see the school and public library working together for the same cause."

At the public library during Family Reading Week, a drawing was held each day for passes to Lava Hot Springs pool, t-shirts, books and other prizes. **DePaola** shared, "Patrons came in each day to see what we were doing that day. On one day, each family who came in received a plastic family reading bag containing a 2-liter bottle of root beer and a bag of microwave popcorn. It was a great success! Our circulation was up 1.3%; patrons up 1.2% for the week. We were really 'poppin' at the library."

Stanley Community Library hosted an "Idaho Evening," featuring live music, Idaho book and author displays, a storytime, and a potato printing craft activity. A low turnout was disappointing to library staff. However, a "Read-a-Book" day later in the week at the elementary school reached 23 children. Guest reader Gary Gadwa, a retired Idaho Conservation Officer, read *First Storm* by Jean Craighead.

Weippe Public Library partnered with the **Weippe Elementary School** to sponsor "Families Reading and Crafting Together." The library set up craft tables for children. In between craft sessions, stories were read and a drawing was held for give away books. Kids got a "Love My Library" bag. Forty children and adults attended. Director **Lori Bonner** writes, "Family Reading Week was a hit in Weippe." Children's librarian **Brandy Bivens** added, "[It was] easy to make happen and promote. I like the requirement of partnering with another library."

Kudos also go to Boise Public and Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries for their web sites which featured Idaho Family Reading Week.



Members of the **Idaho State Library Board** are touring five Treasure Valley libraries while in Boise for their board meeting on December 8th and 9th. The Board and several State Library staff toured **Timberline and Mountain View High School** libraries on Thursday along with **Garden City Public Library** and **Eagle Public Library**. On Friday, they tour **Boise Public Library** before starting their board meeting. Each year, the State Library Board tours several libraries in a different region of the state. **State Librarian Ann Joslin** notes these annual tours

are important to show trustees how the State Library is carrying out its mission to "assist libraries to build their capacity to better serve their clientele."



NexGen YS: Getting Graphic

By Dylan Baker

They're already in your library. They're the ones that instinctively pounce on the nonfiction area that contains Calvin and Hobbes and Garfield. They're also the ones that regularly spout exotic-sounding words such as "anime" and "manga" in everyday conversation. They're even the ones that make you want to tear your hair out at the reference desk as they incessantly ask for more and more materials with Pokémon, Spider-Man or Yu-Gi-Oh!

Of course, they are none other than the children in your library. Raised on a diet of cartoons and comics, young people today are fascinated with all that is illustrated. They greedily gobble up shows on stations like Cartoon Network or Nickelodeon and then beg for the toy tie-ins and fast food promotions that spring up everywhere.

Fortunately, what appears as a diet of junk food for the mind actually leads to worthwhile opportunities for your library. By embracing youth popular culture, you can position your department as being in-touch and relevant to the savvy kids and teens who enter your building each day. Even better, you can help to satisfy even the most reluctant of readers while instilling a life-long love of books.

One of the best ways to bridge the gap between animation and reading is with a graphic novel collection. Loosely defined, a graphic novel is a type of book that uses both words and images to tell a story. Though similar in style to comic strips, graphic novels resemble traditional novels in form because they tell an extended, detailed story. Because it is such a broad genre, graphic novels run the gamut from light and simple stories to some of the most weighty, literary works.

Many libraries have recognized the need for teen graphic novel collections, but have not yet developed one for their juvenile collections. Even after children "graduate" from picture books and easy readers, rarely do they lose their love for books that blend illustration with text. Graphic novels offer the next step along the reading path by featuring more words, more plot, and more age-appropriate subjects than their picture book cousins.

More attention has been focused on graphic novels for young adults and older, so finding quality titles for these younger audiences can be a challenge. However, publishers are gearing up to answer the growing demand while library journals and related publications are rising to the call of providing librarians with reviews and recommendations. Email listservs and websites maintained by academics and

library professionals also play an important role in advising those who brave the graphic novel frontier.

If you're not on that frontier already, it's high time to bring graphic novels for all ages into your library. The children and teens that use your library will thank you for it – and their parents and teachers will thank you for getting them to read. The children in your library are already clamoring for it, so why not give them something graphic to read?



Talk Back: Dylan welcomes your feedback. Just email [Peggy](#) or [Stephanie](#) and we'll print your comments in *The Scoop*.

Young Adult Corner

Tips for Turning Teens on to Books by Michael Cart

1. Do a personal introduction to each book (book talks).
2. Create a mechanism for offering teen peer recommendations (e.g., post teen reviews on bulletin board or on web page).
3. Encourage teens to select from a narrowed range of choices.
4. Model reading behavior.
5. Read the same books as your teens.
6. Talk about books with teens.
7. Encourage personal reader response.
8. Read aloud to teens.
9. Use audio books (unabridged, please).
10. Encourage teens to read magazines.
11. Introduce teens to nonfiction.
12. Arrange opportunities for teens to meet authors.
13. Ownership of book(s) encourages reading.

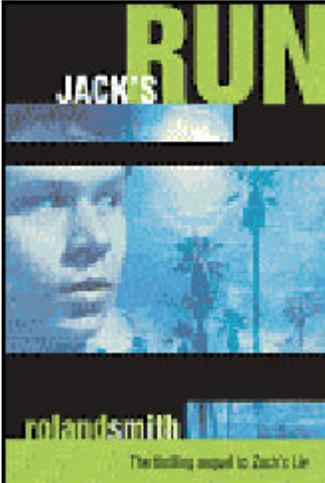
14. Schedule time for reading.

15. Think visual; i.e., look for visually attractive books, especially picture books for young adults and graphic novels.

*Former director of the Beverly Hills Public Library, **Michael Cart** is a nationally recognized authority in young adult services and literature, which he teaches at UCLA. A Past President of the Young Adult Library Services Association, he is the 2000 recipient of the Grolier Foundation Award. The author or editor of eleven books, including From Romance to Realism: 50 Years of Growth and Change in Young Adult Literature, Michael Cart is also a monthly columnist for Booklist magazine and is the founding editor of "Rush Hour," a new literary journal for young adults published by Random House.*

Book Look

New releases:



Jack's Run, by Roland Smith. Stephanie and her 5th - grade son read *Zack's Lie* this summer as part of Boise's community reading program. They gave it a thumbs up and are looking forward to reading the sequel. In *Zack's Lie* the family entered the Witness Security Program to hide from a dangerous drug cartel. They land in Elko, NV, and learn a little about the Basque culture. In the sequel, Jack arrives in Los Angeles to stay with his college-age sister, Joanne, only to find that she has foolishly blown their cover. This is sure to be as much of a page-turner as the first one. You or your patrons can read the first chapter of the book on Roland Smith's web site, www.rolandsmith.com/.

Poppy's Return, by Avi. Grade 3-6. This is the latest installment in the Tales from Dimwood Forest series.

Stan's Picks

Stan "The Book Man" Steiner, a BSU Literacy Professor and friend of the Read to Me program, highlighted the following titles during a Young Adults & Books session at the Idaho Library Association Conference. To see more titles, check out Stan's web site at <http://education.boisestate.edu/stansteiner/>.

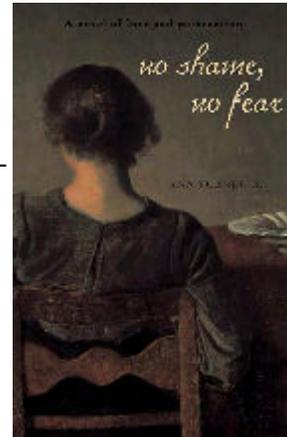
Daniel, Half Human and the Good Nazi, by David Chotjewitz translated by Doris Orgel.

In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish, threatening the friendship even as

life in their beloved Hamburg, Germany, is becoming nightmarish. The book also details Daniel and Armin's reunion in 1945 in interspersed chapters.

No Shame, No Fear, by Ann Turnbull.

In England in 1662, a time of religious persecution, 15-year-old Susanna, a poor country girl and a Quaker, and 17-year-old William, a wealthy Anglican, meet and fall in love against all odds.

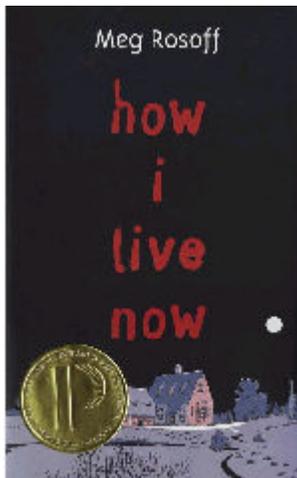


Replay, by Sharon Creech.

While preparing for a role in the school play, 12-year-old Leo finds an autobiography that his father wrote as a teenager and ponders the ways people change as they grow up. Includes the text for the play, "Rumpopo's Porch."

The Darkest Evening, by William Durbin.

In the 1930s, a young Finnish-American boy reluctantly moves with his family to Karelia, a communist-Finnish state founded in Russia, where his idealistic father soon realizes that his conception of a communist utopia is flawed.



How I Live Now, by Meg Rosoff.

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, 15-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land.

Whisper in the Dark, by Joseph Bruchac.

An ancient and terrifying Narragansett Native-American legend begins to come true for a teenage long-distance runner, whose recovery from the accident that killed her parents has stunned everyone, including her guardian aunt in Providence, Rhode Island.

Theories of Relativity, by Barbara Haworth-Attard.

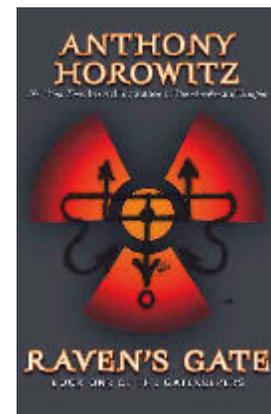
When his volatile mother throws him out of the house and he loses contact with his two younger brothers, 16-year-old Dylan is forced to live on the streets and beg for money, yet through it all, he finds a way to survive.

Among the Enemy, by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

In a society that allows families to have only two children, third child Matthias joins the Population Police to infiltrate their system. This is the sixth book in the series.

Raven's Gate, by Anthony Horowitz.

Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled 14-year-old English boy, uncovers an evil



plot involving witchcraft and the site of an ancient stone circle.

The Fashion Disaster that Changed My Life, by Lauren Myracle.

Seventh-grader Alli inadvertently arrives on the first day of school with underwear static-clinging partly outside her pant leg.

Crackback, by John Coy.

Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.



Upcoming Events in January

National Hobby Month. Enjoy reading as a hobby! Beat the winter blahs this month by cultivating a new hobby or family activity. Whether it's learning a new game to play with your child, picking up that project that has been waiting for a rainy (or snowy) day, or finding a new volunteer opportunity, now is a great time to get involved in something new. You can find links to information about new hobbies and interests at: www.cyfernet.org/hottopic/hobymonth.html .

January is also **Family Fit Lifestyle Month** – “Healthy living is achievable. Try for at least one month to reduce the fat, sugar and salt in your diet.” It is also **International Creativity Month, Jump Out of Bed Month, National Clean Up Your Computer Month, National Get Organized Month, and National Mentoring Month.** Better hop to it!

January 17 - Inventor and early American leader **Benjamin Franklin** was born in 1706. The Library Company, the country's first subscription library, was founded by Franklin and friends in November, 1731. You can find a brief biographical sketch of Benjamin Franklin at: www.ushistory.org/franklin/facts/ .

Author Birthdays:

January 4 - **Phyllis Reynolds Naylor** (born in 1933). Author of *Shiloh* and *The Fear Place*. Read about the author at: www.simonsays.com/content/index.cfm?sid=510 .

January 5 - **Lynne Cherry**. Author of *A River Ran Wild*, and more. See www.lynncherry.com/ for more.

January 11 - **Rodgers, Mary** (born in 1931). Rodgers is a Jewish-American composer of musicals and an author of children's books. She also compiled the album *Free to Be... You and Me*. Her children's books include *Freaky Friday*, *Summer Switch*, *A Billion for Boris*, and *The Rotten Book*. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Rodgers for more information.

January 12 - **Jack London** (1875-1916). Author of *The Call of the Wild*, *In A Far Country*, and more. <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/London>

January 14 - **Louis Braille** (1809 – 1852). The inventor of a widely used touch system of reading and writing for the blind was born at Coupvray, France. Permanently blinded at the age of three by a leatherworking awl in his father's saddle making shop, Braille developed a system of writing that used, ironically, an awl-like stylus to punch marks in paper that could be felt and interpreted by the blind. The system was largely ignored until after Braille died in poverty, suffering from tuberculosis, at Paris, Jan. 7, 1852. For more info on Louis Braille go to http://www.historychannel.com/thcsearch/thc_resourcedetail.do?encyc_id=203629 .

January 14 - **Jacob Grimm** (1785 - 1863). On this day, the older of the two Grimm brothers, Jacob, is born in Hanau, Germany. His brother Wilhelm is born the following year. As young men, the two brothers assisted some friends with research for an important collection of folk lyrics. One of the authors, impressed by the brothers' work, suggested they publish some of the oral folktales they'd collected. The collection appeared as *Children's and Household Tales*, later known as *Grimm's Fairy Tales*. Tales in the collection include *Hansel and Gretel*, *Snow White*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Rapunzel*, and *Rumpelstiltskin*. The brothers developed the tales by listening to storytellers and attempting to reproduce their words and techniques as faithfully as possible. Their methods helped establish the scientific approach to the documentation of folklore. For more on the Grimm brothers' go to <http://www.historychannel.com/tdih/tdih.jsp?month=10272953&day=10272969&cat=10272947>

January 17 - **Robert Cormier** (1925-2000). Author of *The Chocolate War*, *I Am the Cheese*, *Frenchtown Summer* and other young adult novels. www.teenreads.com/authors/au-cormier-robert.asp

January 18 - **A.A. Milne** (1882-1956). Anniversary of the birth of A(Ian) A(lexander) Milne, English author, especially remembered for his children's stories: *Winnie the Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*. He is also the author of *Mr. Pim Passes By*, *When We Were Very Young* and *Now We Are Six*. He was born in London, England, and died at Hartfield, England, Jan. 31, 1956. For more go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_A_Milne .

January 28 - **Vera Williams**. Author of *Lucky Song*, *Something Special for Me*, *"More More More," Said the Baby* and others. <http://www.kidsreads.com/authors/au-williams-vera.asp>

January 29 - **Bill Peet** (1915 - 2002). Author of *The Gnats of Knotty Pine*, *Big Bad Bruce*, *The Caboose Who Got Loose*, *Farewell to Shady Glade*, *Bill Peet An Autobiography* and many more. <http://www.billpeet.net/>

January 29 - **Rosemary Wells**. Author of *The Fog Comes on Little Pig Feet*, *Timothy's Tales from Hilltop School*, *Lassie Come Home* and other stories.
www.rosemarywells.com

January 30 - **Lloyd Alexander**. (1924-) Author of *The Cat Who Wished to be a Man*, *The Book of Three*, *The Black Cauldron*, *Border Hawk* and more.
<http://friend.ly.net/users/jorban/biographies/alexanderlloyd/index.html>



Summer Reading News

The Scoop has been profiling new opportunities to expand summer reading participation in 2006. In this issue we will look at **summer reading outreach**.

Outreach starts before ever leaving the library. The library director, board members, and staff need to be onboard with summer reading. One of the first questions to address is:

Why is summer reading important?

Summer reading programs help children maintain their school year gains, catch up to grade level, or even get ahead. They provide a wholesome activity for children to engage in during their out-of-school time. Reading and related activities stimulate intellectual growth and provide creative outlets.

Librarians know how to help kids find books they will enjoy. Librarians are also looking for ways to reach more kids in the community who are not already using the library.

Fifty percent of kindergarten children in Idaho are behind when they enter school. Forty-four percent of 3rd graders were below grade level (Idaho Reading Indicator, fall 2005).

Many low income children have no books or other age-appropriate reading materials in their homes. Children who have access to books read more. Children who read more are better readers.

Children cannot get to the library on their own and depend on an adult in their life for transportation. Children who attend day care all day or who live in rural areas may have no way to get to the library.



Children who are English language learners may not hear English spoken or get to practice their English reading, writing and speaking skills during the time they are out of school. Idaho public schools serve children who speak over 82 first languages. Sixty-two percent of Hispanic 3rd graders were reading below grade level. (Idaho Reading Indicator, fall 2005)

Who can the library partner with to reach more underserved children?

Here are some examples of partnerships from 2005 summer reading reports:

The **Summer Food Program** is coordinated by the Idaho Department of Education. The **Armorial Tuttle Public Library in New Plymouth, Ada Community Library in Boise, Stanley Community Library** and **South Bannock County District Library** in southeastern Idaho are some of the libraries who have integrated this program into summer reading. See an the [April 29th article of The Scoop](#) for more details.

Daycares. About 50 libraries target daycares for outreach during summer reading. Some of their outreach activities include promoting summer reading at daycare centers, holding special programs at daycares, and allowing daycares to register children and participate as a group. The daycares have also promoted summer reading to parents. The **Bear Lake County District Library** in Montpelier took books and flyers to their daycares.

Boys and Girls Clubs. The **Buhl Public Library** invited the children to come for five additional weeks and they did storytimes and book talks for them.

Elementary schools. The **Boise Basin District Library in Idaho City** stays visible at their elementary school by reading to classes throughout the year and being part of their assemblies in the spring. The **Bruneau Valley Library** promoted their summer reading program at a school assembly, put an article in the PTA newsletter and sent out flyers to everyone in school. The **Caldwell Public Library** and the **Caldwell School District** partnered to operate two satellite locations. Two of the outlying schools in the district were open during the summer reading time frame, and the library managers at each school registered children and handled books and incentives on site.

Migrant summer schools. The **American Falls District Library** invited children attending the Migrant Summer School to visit the library for five consecutive weeks for a 45-minute visit. They printed registration information and reading logs in Spanish. One hundred children participated. The **Blackfoot Public Library** did a storytelling event for their migrant program.

Children with no public library service. The **Burley Public Library**, a city library, issued special non-resident library cards for \$1.00 for rural children attending summer reading. They sold about 200 cards.



School Zone

Survey Your Teachers about Use of Electronic Databases

Would you like to see more students and teachers utilize the LiLI databases and other electronic resources available through the school library media center? We would too! Many students still think Internet sites are the same thing as an electronic database because it is accessed through the Internet. Many teachers have a similar misunderstanding of the advantages of using databases.

A study recently published in *Knowledge Quest** offered some ideas for educating teachers about the value of databases. In the study, they surveyed teachers at a suburban high school. Surveying the teachers in your school would be a great place to start (and the staff at the State Library would love to hear the results). Possible questions include:

- 1) What are awareness levels and opinions of electronic resources in the library media center? You could ask about specific databases like ProQuest National Newspapers, Novelist, Professional Development Collection, and EBSCO databases. If your school library has other resources (library catalog, library web site, or other databases) ask about those as well. The survey in the article let teachers choose from very familiar, familiar, or not familiar.
- 2) Do teachers require their students to use the LiLI Databases for assignments? (Never, Sometimes, Often, or Always)
- 3) How often do teachers utilize the LiLI Databases for their own use? (Never, Sometimes, Often, or Always) Or, you might ask them to rate their proficiency in the following areas (beginner, basic, proficient, expert): ____ Overall computer abilities ____ Internet use skills ____ LiLI Databases

In the published study, they found the higher teachers rated their computer experience, the more familiar they were with specific electronic databases and the more likely they were to direct students to use them. Almost 80 percent of those who described themselves as novice users did not direct their students to use library databases. In contrast, teachers who saw themselves as expert users always directed their students to these services.

- 4) What tools would help bridge gaps between teachers' knowledge and opinions of electronic resources and how these resources are best used by students?

In the published survey, several options were presented. If you were to ask, be prepared to offer the options you choose to list!

Teachers who responded to the pilot survey preferred one-on-one instruction and class or group instruction, workshops or an in-service session by media professionals to online tutorials and audio-visual training materials. Other options

may include e-mail communication, instruction handouts, or collaborative teaching.

The survey helped the media specialists in this school to target instructional methods toward teachers in their school and encourage teachers to direct their students to use the databases in assignments. The article discusses how the teacher instruction should include information on how the resources differ, the scope and currency of information provided in the databases, the credibility and reliability of each source, and how to effectively search for information.

If your library has surveyed teachers or found an effective way to involve or educate them about the benefits of electronic databases, please share with *The Scoop*. E-mail [Stephanie](#) or [Peggy](#) and we'll share all responses in an upcoming issue.

The State Library has some fun, free items you can order to help promote the LiLI Databases. We have three great displays, two training videos, pencils, buttons, posters and brochures that make great handouts for training sessions or other promotional events. Just go to www.lili.org/forlibs/marketing/lili-librarian/lili-order-form.doc to print out the order form and fax it back to the State Library (208-334-4016). If you'd like to do a LiLI database in-service training for the faculty at your school and need assistance, contact [Charlotte Fowles](#) at the State Library or any of the LiLI Mentors in your area. To see a list of LiLI Mentors, go to www.lili.org/lili/mentors.htm. These people have been trained to do LiLI database training sessions and can be contacted directly.

* To read the whole article, see "Teachers' Link to Electronic Resources in the Library Media Center: A Case Study of Awareness, Knowledge, and Influence," by Williams, Grimble and Irwin. *Knowledge Quest* Vol. 33 No 4, March/April 2005. p 26-29.

Know the Numbers

One of the issues we have been hearing about that may come up during the upcoming legislative session is public funding for preschool education. Here are some numbers to consider:

Every \$1 invested in preschool programs returns up to \$7 in savings.

Children who attend preschool for two years are twice as likely to have the language, literacy and math skills and one-and-a-half times more likely to have the social, emotional and fine motor skills needed to be ready for kindergarten.

Idaho is one of 11 states which provides no state support for preschool education. (*Education Week*, 2002)

31 percent of three-year-olds and 43 percent of four-year-olds in Idaho are enrolled in preschool. (*Idaho Kids Count*, updated October 2005)

A Closer Look: Public Funding for Preschool Education



*The following guest opinion appeared in the **Idaho Statesman** on December 2, 2005. **Tamra Hawley-House** is vice president of the Idaho Library Association and youth services librarian at Boise Public Library. We appreciate her permission to reprint*

her article.

The debate over providing public funding for preschool education is certainly not new here in Idaho.

A quick check of the Idaho Reading Indicator statistics for 2005 shows that 50 percent of Idaho children entering kindergarten lack the readiness skills needed to successfully master reading. During that same testing period, only 56 percent of third-graders were reading at grade level.

The need to create and sustain quality learning environments for pre-K children is clear. Stronger results can be expected from combining publicly funded, quality preschool programs with quality learning opportunities at home. While more quality pre-K opportunities are needed, strong examples of partnerships between public institutions and family learning spheres can be seen today in our publicly funded libraries. According to Susan B. Neuman, professor of early childhood studies at the University of Michigan and former director of the Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Ability, numerous studies support the connection between reading to a child and the child's ability to learn to read and write. Reading to a child is a simple step in the road to helping a child read, and one in which public libraries have been instrumental for many years.

Library programs for preschool-aged children introduce both child and parent to a wide range of reading building blocks. Children attending these programs become aware of phonemes, print direction, letters, numbers and syllables. Listening and direction-following skills are practiced as librarians actively engage children. Children are introduced to new vocabulary as librarians read aloud from a seemingly endless supply of quality books and literature. Library programs give children opportunities to develop eye-hand coordination through finger plays and gross motor skills during music and movement activities. Counting, subtraction, pattern recognition and other mathematical skills are practiced through song and rhyme. Exposure to a wide range of music activities helps children develop recognition of range, pitch, tone and rhythm. All of the above-mentioned skills are essential in a child's cognitive development.

A recent story aired on KBCI Channel 2 profiled one recipient of the benefits of library programs. The two-year-old child on her father's lap demonstrated her ability to use sign language in singing a song she learned at her local public library. Her father described how important these educational opportunities are for his family. This is but one of the testimonies children's librarians hear daily as they model ways to develop early reading readiness skills in children.

All Idaho children deserve the chance to succeed. Public libraries throughout the state make many opportunities available to parents wanting to educate their preschool-aged children and to teachers and caregivers in preschool settings. To take advantage of these opportunities, visit your local public library with your child today.



Tips & Tools

Editor's Note: Several years ago, the Read to Me program asked at-risk families why they didn't use their local library as part of a research project. Fines and fear of fines was often cited as the number one reason why teen parents and others avoided using library services. Some parents thought the library would still have a record of a fine they had when they were in school. Some feared their children would rack up fines they couldn't afford to pay. Food for Fines and other "fine amnesty" programs help reduce this fear for families and build good public relations in communities. Some libraries have done away with fines altogether. If your library has come up with a way to reduce this barrier to library use, share it with readers of *The Scoop*! Here are a few ideas from libraries in other states, shared on a listserv that is no longer active.

"For years we have had Food For Fines in November and December. We donate food to the local food banks. In the summer we have Food for Fido (and kitty) and we donate to the humane society shelters. Our patrons love it. They often both pay fines and donate food. We "suggest " one food item per overdue item. A few people bring a package of Ramen for a \$5 fine. Most people are very generous and bring bags of food. We post lists of the most needed foods from the food pantries." - Jo Brown, Special Projects Coordinator, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, VA

"We do this in December and for any amount of food we forgive any amount of fines on items that have been returned. It is a nice community builder with many patrons bringing in items even if they do not have fines."

"We have done a couple of Food For Fines promos. Each time we let folks know what the food bank can use (non-perishable foods, paper goods, shampoo, soaps etc.) and we suggest that they consider one item per fine. We put a huge box (keep

replacing with empties) out by the circulation desks and do not closely monitor the donations. We have collected literally tons of food, got some press coverage of the event, with photo, and built some community good will. One caution, we do not do it in any regular basis because we think our community would hold back their overdues if they could predict when the next promo would be held and that would mean that materials would not be available for even longer periods of time.”

“Due to PPP (Potential Pest Problems), the libraries with which I'm familiar limited food donations to canned goods only. Each can was valued at \$1 for the purpose of our Food for Fines program. Good luck!”

“We do our Food for Fines program in December and also in the summer and we use something related to the summer reading program theme.”

“We do an amnesty each year at Christmas; patrons may donate whatever they want (honor system) in exchange for wiping their fines (does not apply to lost items). We collected 2,704 pounds of food according to the local Food Bank.”

“We are going to do the promotion in February with the slogan "Got fines? Can it @your library!" We will forgive \$1 for each item brought in. The food will be donated to the local Food Pantry and we will promote a list of items they have need the most.” - Joan M. Cales, Winfield Public Library, Winfield, KS

News Beyond Idaho

The **Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC)**, a division of ALA, recently completed a new strategic plan. In it, they describe their desired future of library services for children:

- All children, including those with different cultural backgrounds, have equal access to library services.
- All children have a strong foundation for learning to read.
- All children recognize libraries as an integral part of their lives.
- Every child will feel welcomed at the library and will have the necessary skills to use library services.
- Parents and caregivers are partners with library staff in developing children's literacy and school success.



Most of us have had this experience. You hear about a great children's book only to find that it is no longer available from the publisher. Here is an opportunity to do something about that. The **Children's Book Council**, a non-profit association of children's publishers, is inviting librarians, teachers and parents to name an out-of-print book they would most like to see reissued. To

participate in this poll between now and February, go to the CBC web site:
www.cbcbooks.org. The top ten books will be announced next spring.

Disclaimer The Idaho State Library retains sole discretion with regard to the content of this newsletter, and reserves the right to edit, modify or delete content. Advertising will not be accepted. Permission to reproduce information in this newsletter is granted to other nonprofit organizations, so long as credit to the author and source is given, except for items which are reprinted from other sources and are protected by copyright. The Idaho State Library is not responsible for the contents of any linked sites or any link contained within a linked site.

To Subscribe: Visit www.lili.org/scoop and click on To Subscribe. Subscriptions are free!

To Unsubscribe:

1. Paste the URL below into your web browser:
http://www.islscoop.org/qmailer_ysnews/unsubscribe.php3/john@example.com
2. Replace the email address at the end (john@example.com) with your own.
3. Surf to that URL and follow the instructions.

Contact Us: *The Scoop* is a service of the Idaho State Library's Read to Me Program. To contribute or provide suggestions, contact [Peggy McClendon](#) or [Stephanie Bailey-White](#) at (208) 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271.