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Welcome

Roses are red, violets are blue, youth services librarians, we salute you! You open the world of books and information to children across Idaho. Without you, we wouldn't have future library users and supporters. Take time today to celebrate your accomplishments and acknowledge the difference you make in the lives of children in your community. Be sure to read Library to Library to see some examples.

And, we're keeping our fingers crossed for public library bond elections scheduled for Tuesday, February 7 in **Lewiston, Boise** and **Twin Falls**. All three elections need a super majority to pass, so if you live in those communities, or know people who live there, remember to vote!





Meet Leann Wicks

Leann Wicks is the **Media Coordinator for Grangeville Joint School District #241**. The Grangeville School District has a total student population of around 1,400. There are seven libraries in schools located in Grangeville, Riggins, Kooskia, and Elk City. For more information, see the district's web site at: www.jsd241.org/library.htm.

Leann's interest in the library field began in high school when she worked in the school library. Her career with School District #241 started as an aide/substitute some 20+ years ago. She has been a first grade teacher, elementary school librarian and high school librarian. Most of these years were spent at the Clearwater Valley schools in Kooskia, before accepting her current position seven years ago.

Currently, Leann is working on a grant to complete the final migration of the libraries' holdings into the VALNet/WIN Consortium. [See report in [Jan. 20th Scoop - Library to Library](#) column – for a progress report.]

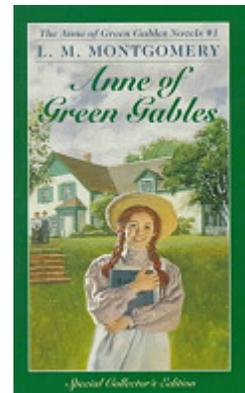
“We have been very fortunate in receiving several grants that we have applied for. The biggest challenge is to see all the work that needs to be accomplished in these grants and not being able to help each and every librarian each day. I am a hands-on person who has trouble leaving the work for others to do when I cannot be there,” she says.

While primarily in an administrative capacity now, Leann also does collection development for all the schools and does storytime periodically at the elementary schools.

Leann does not have a favorite children's author or book. “I like almost every style, genre and subject.” As a child, she says, “*Anne of Green Gables* really hooked me into dreaming and reading.” Now Leann reads everything except science fiction. “Sorry about that but that is not the kind of dreaming I do.”

It's not surprising that her favorite things about her job are the books and the children. “I love both. Library work is a dream come true for me. A librarian can be there for students who need someone to listen to them without feeling threatened. Children need to be heard and to feel safe when they share with an adult. Helping children find reading pleasure can open a whole new world for them and expand their dreams too.”

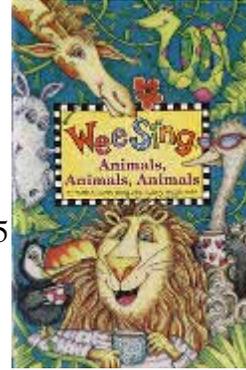
Outside of the library world, Leann has a variety of interests that keep her busy - crafts, gardening, hiking, camping, photography, traveling, and enjoying friends and family.



Library to Library

 **Karen Yother**, children's librarian at the **Hayden Library** sent us an announcement about a program the library is hosting for their Twilight Tales on February 7. Susan Nipp of Wee Sings will present an evening of music, fun and the library will provide door prizes and refreshments. This is a special program with their summer reading target school Atlas Elementary (formerly Hayden Lake Elementary). Their partner in the Boomerang program will also receive a special invitation to the event.

Susan Nipp is the co-founder (along with Pam Beall) of Wee Sing, which began as a songbook created in 1977 to preserve traditional music from their childhood and that of their parents that was being lost. Wee Sing has been going strong for over 25 years with more than 60 titles having been created in different formats including songbooks, cassettes, CDs, coloring/activity books, toys, and videos. For more information, visit the Wee Sing web site at: www.weesing.com/homepage.htm.



 **Valerie Stewart-Rice**, assistant librarian at the **Cascade Public Library**, shared their success with a special event they had for Benjamin Franklin's 300th Birthday Party.

Valerie writes, "Our library clerk Melanie comes up with the most fantastic ideas. We made a life-size figure of Ben and everyone had their picture taken as him. And we aren't through with the party yet. The kids have passports to fill up by visiting some of the places Ben was famous for in one way or another (police station, newspaper, fire station, LIBRARY, insurance agency, -- to name a few.)

"We just keep getting better all the time. The SWIRLS meeting this week, which featured BSU education professor Stan Steiner, was such perfect timing for me. I have a Pre-Teen Group, 4th - 6th grade, that meets here every Thursday. (After our first teen night the pre-teens started a petition demanding a night of their own, what else could I do?) I was having a hard time helping them come up with activities that would live up to their expectations. When Stan read *Once upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude* (by Kevin O'Malley, 2005) to us, I knew that was it. I still have to present it to the kids but I am sure they will love it. I have ordered the book and will read it to them with as much enthusiasm as Stan did. I hope they will want to write their own stories with someone whose ideas are very different from their's. I will keep you posted.



"By the way, after the Ben Franklin party, I got hit up by several kids (grades K-3) wanting to know when their night will be. I think they have decided on Mondays after school. What else can we do? We have really become a place for kids to hang out. Most days after school we have at least 10 kids show up. And we get

more and more every day. Believe me, our kids sure know the difference. Come in anytime and they will tell you 'LIBRARIES ROCK!' They even think their librarians are cool to hang with. Many of our kids want to be library volunteers. I hope you have a workshop soon, we need more ideas on what kids and teens can do as volunteers."

LEGO-rama - A library program to build on

LEGO builders take their play very seriously. That was the message on a Saturday in January for the first LEGO-rama program at the **Coeur d'Alene Public Library**. Children and adults filled the Youth Department--complete with original designs-- to hear about plans for the new library building, to eat a little LEGO cake and to exercise their imaginations.



"The message from the participants was loud and clear," said David Townsend, Public Relations/Volunteer Coordinator and LEGO Leader for the activity. "They like LEGOS and they want to see this program back next year in a bigger space and involving more people."

The photo at the right shows Vanya Hummel, 9, with his first-place design, "Dino Fortress," one of several entries in the library first LEGO-rama. (Library photo by Susan Thorpe.)

Townsend said Youth Supervisor Susan Thorpe and library staff are already talking about how to expand the program for 2007. Among the ideas being discussed are adding younger and older age groups – this year's event involved participants ages 7-12 – and holding it at a site where more people can participate and see the LEGO creations.

"Of course, once the new library is built we can schedule it in the multipurpose community room along with a variety of other youth and adult programs," Townsend said.

Kevin Jester, representing Architects West, the firm that is currently working on construction plans for the new building, was the guest speaker for the day and fielded questions about the facility from young and adult participants. Ground will be broken for the building this spring and it should be occupied in the spring or summer of 2007.

Many of the young LEGO enthusiasts brought their original designs for a competition. The entries were voted on by the children and their accompanying adults. The library announced winners in three age groups (ages 7-8, ages 9-10 and ages 11-12).

LEGO-rama 2006 is one of the library youth programs supported by a grant for the Friends of the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. For more information about the library visit www.cdalibrary.org.

 In 2004 **Pinehurst Elementary School** converted an empty classroom into a library with the help of a grant from the Albertson's Foundation. This school had been without a library for many years. In fact, books were checked out from the school cafeteria.

According to **Mary Lou Cobb, Media Specialist for the Kellogg School District**, the teachers painted the walls and new carpet and shelves were purchased. Resource Room teacher Lynne Fullbrook etched a wonderful hallway window using ideas from drawings submitted by students.

The library is now automated and staffed by an aide three days a week for a total of 15 hours. The library is supported by the PTA, staff and community with donations and memorials.

Mary Lou says it has been fun to watch how quickly the library has grown. "The Albertson's Foundation deserves credit for helping to establish not only the library at Pinehurst but also the library at Sunnyside Elementary School. We greatly appreciate what they have done for our children," she says.

Young Adult Corner: Grant available to serve **at-risk teens**

Great Stories CLUB (Connecting Libraries, Underserved teens and Books)

The Great Stories CLUB is a book club grant program organized by the American Library Association Public Programs Office (PPO) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), with a grant from Oprah's Angel Network, to provide young adults with the opportunity to discuss books relevant to the challenges in their lives.

All types of libraries (public, school, academic and special), in partnership with facilities serving troubled teens (such as juvenile detention centers or alternative high schools) in the United States and its territories are eligible to apply. Selected libraries will present three-part book club discussions featuring three theme-related books selected by YALSA for teen audiences. **Applications will be accepted online January 25 through February 20, 2006.**

Up to 200 libraries will each receive ten sets of the three books to provide to members of the book club, along with online resources to plan and implement the program. Book selections, theme and program support materials are developed by YALSA's Outreach to Young Adults with Special Needs Committee. For more information, visit www.ala.org/greatstories.

Book Look



Award Winning Books

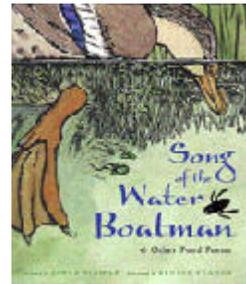
The winner of the **2006 Caldecott Medal** is *The Hello, Goodbye Window* illustrated by Chris Raschka (written by Norton Juster)

The window in the title refers to the window at her grandparents' house through which a young girl views her world, both imaginary and real. She sees a dinosaur and her parents coming to pick her up. Using mixed-media illustrations in a rainbow palette, Raschka captures intimate and happy family moments that will please children and adults alike. This book also won the Boston Globe-Horn Book honor award.

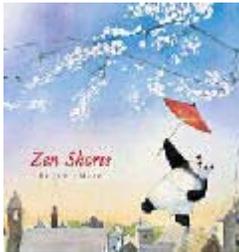
The 2006 Caldecott honor books are:

Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems illustrated by Beckie Prange (Joyce Sidman author)

Language and nature combine in this unique book to celebrate the natural world found in wetlands. Beautiful hand-colored woodblock illustrations bring to life scientific facts and poems that trace the seasons in the ecosystem of a pond.



Zen Shorts written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth

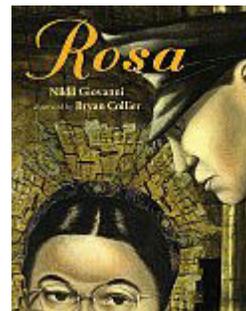


The shorts refer to three short tales that are interwoven into a gentle story about three young children who find a panda in their backyard. The Zen stories told by the panda are linked to the children's conversation. Soft watercolor illustrations featuring the three children contrast with the "Zen shorts" which are illustrated with black lines on pastel-colored pages.

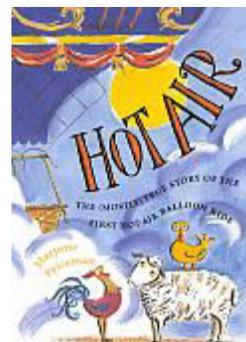
Author notes at the end provide basic background on Zen concepts.

Rosa illustrated by Bryan Collier (written by Nikki Giovanni)

Bold pictures, combining the realistic and the surreal, are rendered in watercolor and collage to dramatically capture the story of Rosa Parks and provide an overview of the Civil Rights movements. The illustrations of Parks' quiet strength in a turbulent time of U.S. history are riveting and powerful.



Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride written and illustrated by Marjorie Priceman.

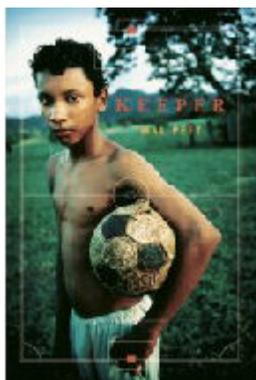


The scene of the first hot-air balloon ride is Versailles in 1793. Three animals--a sheep, a duck and a rooster-- are taking the first ride, and their comical capers form the story. Based on real events, minus the animals of course, readers get a history lesson leavened with humor. Vibrant watercolor illustrations help keep the story aloft.

In the next issue we will profile the Newbury Medal winners or you can see them today at

www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/2006MediaAwardWinners.htm.

Idaho library staff share some of their favorite titles from last year:

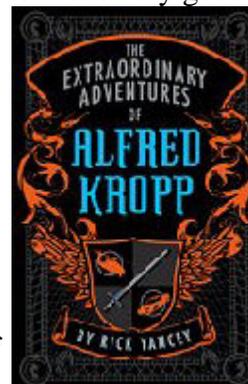


April Harward, Children's Librarian at the **Community Library in Ketchum** says that one of her favorites from 2005 was *Keeper* by Mal Peet. "I just can't seem to stop recommending it." April adds that she "really appreciates getting ideas from other librarians about what's good and what's working. Thanks a ton!"

Beth Abbott, with Nampa's South Middle School Library, says, "I have to plug *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini again. We can't keep it on the shelf. I haven't read *Eldest* yet and I can't wait for the movie to come out. Zach's *Lie* is very good

and I am looking forward to its sequel as well. *Deathwatch* by Robb White was very enjoyable. Although it is an older book, it is still a good read for teens."

And, Stephanie Bailey-White, State Library, says her favorite title of 2005 was *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp*, by Richard Yancey. It's a quick read for kids in the middle-school age range. She liked it so much, she's checked out Yancey's adult titles and hopes he keeps writing for kids! She's looking for more fast-paced page-turners like this one. If you have any recommendations (from any year), [send them her way!](#)



Upcoming Events in March

March is **Music in Our Schools Month**. This began as a single statewide celebration in 1973, and has grown over the decades to encompass a day, then a week, and then in 1985 to become a month long celebration of music in our schools. For more history on MIOSM see: <http://www.menc.org/guides/miosm/whatisMIOSM.html>.

March is **National Women's History Month** and more can be found on this observance at www.nwhp.org/whm/themes/themes.html.

Celebrate **National Peanut Butter Month** in March by having a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch. For more go to www.peanutbutterlovers.com/loversmonth/ or if you're not in the mood for peanut butter you could celebrate International Hamburger & Pickle Month, Noodle Month, or Chocolate Month. After all that eating, remember Dentist's Day and Doctor's Day on March 6th and 30th respectively. For more celebrations during this third month of the year, search www.123child.com/act/mar.html.

March 2 is **Read Across America Day**. Originally created as a one-day event to celebrate the joy of reading on March 2, **Dr. Seuss's birthday**, the National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America has grown into a nationwide initiative that promotes reading every day of the year. The 2005 theme is "Where it's Hat" and NEA is leading the nation in a multicultural, multi-hatted way! Read more about this celebration at: <http://www.nea.org/readacross/index.html>.

Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. This year it begins at sunset on March 13th and ends at nightfall March 14th. The origins of Purim, told in the Book of Esther, commemorates a time when the Jews living in Persia (present day Iran) were saved from extermination. More on this festival and a recipe for the delicious triangular pastry Hamentaschen can be found at www.jewfaq.org/holiday9.htm.

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day! The festive holiday has everyone wearing green (so they don't get pinched) and chatting of four leaf clovers, shamrocks, lucky leprechauns, and kissing some big rock called the Blarney Stone. Does it all sound a bit strange? It did to me too but after a bit of research it all made sense. Here's what I found out at www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/patrick/history.html.

Watch out for those yucky things around the house and find out about **Poison Prevention Week** during the third week of March by going to www.poisonprevention.org.

March 24-30 is **TV Turn Off Week**. For great ideas from other public and school librarians on how to organize a TV Turn Off event in your community, visit www.tvturnoff.org. If your library is planning something for 2006, please send a quick e-mail to Stephanie so she can share it with others!

March Author Birthdays:

March 2 – **Theodor Seuss Geisel** (1904 - 1991). Better known by his pen name, Dr. Seuss, this famous American writer and cartoonist was best known for his children's books, such as *Cat in the Hat*, *The Butter Battle Book*, *The Foot Book* and other fanciful tales. He also wrote under the pen names Theo LeSieg (Geisel spelled backward) and Rosetta Stone. For more on Dr. Seuss go to www.seussville.com or www.seuss.org .

March 3 – **Patricia MacLachlan** (born in 1938). Although she has lived in Massachusetts most of her life, Patricia MacLachlan was born in Wyoming. She

still feels a strong connection to the wide-open prairie. "I carry around a little bag of prairie dirt with me, like a part of my past," she says. This love comes through strongly in her books *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and *Skylark*, as does another of her loves — the sea. For more on Patricia MacLachlan go to www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/maclachlan.html.

March 12 - **Virginia Hamilton** (1936-2002). Virginia Hamilton grew up on a farm near Yellow Springs, Ohio, listening to stories spun by her mother and father. She knew from a very early age that she wanted to tell stories too. She is the author of *The Girl Who Spun Gold*, *The People Could Fly*, *Paul Robeson* (a biography) and others, see www.virginiahamilton.com/ for more.

March 13 - **Thomas Rockwell** (born in 1933). Rockwell is the son of the American artist, Norman Rockwell and the author of a number of books for young readers. He was the recipient of the Mark Twain Award, the California Young Reader Medal and the Sequoyah Award for *How to Eat Fried Worms*. For more go to <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000570.shtml>.

March 16 – **Sid Fleishman** (born in 1920). Sid Fleischman, Newbery Award-winning children's author, saw a magician for the first time when he was in fifth grade and was enthralled. For most children, fascination with magic is a passing fancy, but for Fleischman, it has stayed with him over the years. For more go to www.sidfleischman.com/.

March 18- **John Updike** (born 1932). He has published 21 novels, children's books, more than a dozen short story collections, poetry and literary criticism. Updike's most famous novels are his Rabbit series, two of which won him Pulitzer Prizes. For additional information on this contemporary writer search http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Updike.

March 20 – **Lois Lowry** (born in 1937). "From the time I was eight or nine, I wanted to be a writer. Writing was what I liked best in school; it was what I did best in school." Lois Lowry is the author of *The Anastasia Series*, *Attoboy Sam*, *Number the Stars* and more. See www.loislowry.com for more.

March 20 – **The Reverend Frederick McFeely Rogers** (1928 - 2003). He became known internationally to millions of viewers as host of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. This ordained Presbyterian minister's show won four Emmy awards. Rogers earned a Peabody Award in 1983. At a 2002 presentation of the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his contributions to children's education, President George W. Bush said "Fred Rogers has proven that television can soothe the soul and nurture the spirit and teach the very young." To read more about Mr. Rogers, go to: www.misterrogers.org/.

March 26 – **Robert Frost** (1874 - 1963). This leading American poet of the 20th century won the Pulitzer Prize four times for his verse. The website www.americanpoets.com comments that three of his verses--*The Road Not Taken*,

Birches and *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*-- “exemplify Frost’s ability to join the pastoral and philosophical modes in lyrics of unforgettable beauty.”

For an entire website on authors with March birthdays search Google and type in Books by Authors with March birthdays.



Summer Reading News

Summer Reading PSAs Now Available

Late breaking news: The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) has just made available the video PSA for the 2006 theme: "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales." Two versions of the Video Public Service Announcement are available for preview at the CSLP web site at www.csllreads.org/psa.htm. These new PSAs, produced by the multi-state CSLP, are 30-seconds in length and are available in English and Spanish. The video takes a whimsical look at the Summer Reading Program’s 2006 theme of “Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales” as a shambling figure disassembles itself into clothing and animals leaving an astonished librarian with an empty coat and a rabbit. The videos were filmed last year at the Pasadena Central Library in California and will be used by libraries nationwide. Beginning February 11 member libraries may order broadcast quality versions in BETACAM, VHS, and DVD from Highsmith/UPSTART at www.highsmith.com/upstart/2006CSLP.htm. If you are interested in ordering one or more, if you have questions, please contact [Peggy](#).

Summer Reading Steering Committees

The Scoop has been profiling new opportunities to expand summer reading participation in 2006. In this issue we will look at **Summer Reading Steering Committees** and how they can help libraries build their summer reading capacity. The first 25 libraries who form a steering committee and send in the minutes from their first meeting, are eligible to win \$100 in free hardback books for their library.

A steering committee is a group of community supporters who take an active role in your summer reading program. They may help publicize your program, help with fundraising or securing prizes, or even be involved in planning and volunteering at summer reading programs and events.

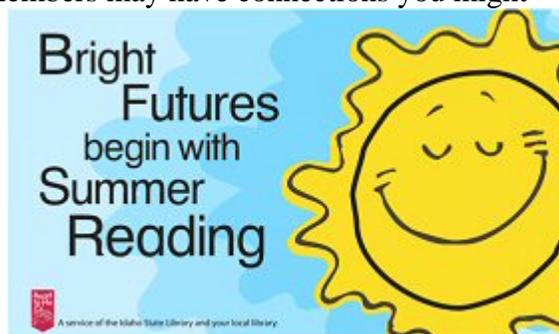
How many people should you have on a steering committee? While there is no correct number, keep in mind that if the committee is too big (say over 10), people

can opt out of assignments. On the other hand, if you have too few (say less than 5) your supporters may burn out.

Where do you find potential members? Think about who in your community has the expertise and community contacts you need to help build the capacity of your program. Someone with organizational skills can oversee fundraising activities or plan programs. Someone with media contacts can help with program publicity. Someone who works with at risk families can help you broaden your program to underserved children.

The Burley Public Library convened a steering committee for their 2005 program. Summer reading coordinator Carolyn Chinn said, "We worked with a committee which was great--will do this again. Members may have connections you might not think of."

Don't miss your opportunity to get some great resources (like to banner shown right) for summer reading. "Bright Futures Begin @ your Library" applications are available online at www.lili.org/read/summer/librarians.htm and are due at the State Library by March 10th.



If you have questions, please email Peggy or call her at 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271.



School Zone

A good source of information for school librarians can be found on the web site for the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). Go to www.ala.org/aasl/ and choose from the buttons at the top of the screen or click on "Site Map" (under Quick Links on the right) for an easy-to-use list of topics.

Under "School Libraries & You," you will find resources to help you work effectively with your school administrators and board members. Preview the brochure, "*The Principal's Manual for Your School Library Media Program.*" You may also request a single copy free.

There is an excellent annotated bibliography on the relationship of the school media center to student achievement. Links to articles and reports are included whenever possible. Nationally recognized library promotional events are listed with web links.

Under "Parents & Community" there is a short article on information literacy to share with parents. "KCTools" under "K-12 Students" presents the four basic phases of the research process.

Know the Numbers

According to a recent survey conducted by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and SmartGirl.org, a web site that surveys teens, almost 16 percent of teens don't visit their public or school library. This finding is confirmed in a report by OCLC that looked at public attitudes toward libraries and resources, "Perception of Libraries and Information Resources," which found that many young adults don't expect to visit libraries because they use search engines on home computers to find the information they need. Fifty percent of teens and college students describe search engines as a perfect information source.

Librarians who serve "digital natives" may be interested to hear YALSA's executive director Beth Yoke's interpretation of these findings. "The results may show that teens prefer accessing the library remotely from the Internet, rather than in person.... They may also mean that libraries need to focus more attention on teenagers because they tend to visit libraries that have dedicated teen centers or teen librarians." (Source: "Libraries Losing Teens," *School Library Journal*, January 2006, pg. 18)



A Closer Look at Using Music in your Library Programs

[Editor's Note: Michelle Minard and other staff at the Kent District Library in Michigan have graciously allowed The Scoop to reprint some of the articles they publish in their youth services newsletter. We love sharing ideas from Idaho with others around the country and hope to keep tapping into programming and other great youth services ideas from libraries near and far. A special thanks to Michelle for sharing these ideas on how to use both classical music and movement songs in the library. To learn more about Michelle's library, see www.kdl.org/.]

Classical Music Kids Will Like

Why would I want to incorporate classical music into my library and programs? Research from www.amc-music.org outlines the following reasons:

- Young children with developed rhythm skills perform better academically in early school years.

- A ten-year study, tracking more than 25,000 students, shows that music-making improves test scores.
- Just listening to music can fill a space with joy and add an extra dimension to kids' lives. People who make their own music enjoy these benefits many times over.
- It is becoming more and more popular. Research on music has led to products like "Baby Einstein" and even a new Playhouse Disney show, "Little Einsteins."

How can I incorporate classical music into my library and programs? Play classical music:

- In your kids area during the day and/or evening.
- Before your storytimes.
- During craft time.
- During playtime at infant programs.
- During a game of musical chairs, have a parade with the children marching along to one of the more energetic classical tunes.
- Have children draw how the music makes them feel.
- As a movement activity during your storytime, let the kids move however the music makes them feel. This is a lot of fun if you give the kids scarves.

Michelle's Top Classical Kids Music Picks

Baby Einstein: *Baby Mozart, Baby Bach, Baby Beethoven, Baby Vivaldi and Baby Neptune.* I forgot how much I truly love the Baby Einstein music CDs until I started listening to them again recently . . . by myself . . . with no children around. Baby Einstein is the perfect tempo for babies, children, and even adults. I have started playing these during the playtime at the end of my infant programs. The caregivers are really enjoying it, and the babies are too.

Heigh-Ho Mozart. This CD is full of your favorite Disney tunes in the style of great classical composers. The insert includes notes on each composer's style and a little bit about the song. The insert also includes a picture of each composer. I had fun trying to sing along to some of my favorite Disney tunes. (For one shining moment I was an opera star in my car!)

Mommy and Me: *Mozart for Young Minds, Classical Daydreams, Sleepytime Strings, and Piano for Playtime.*

Classical Kids Series: *Tchaikovsky Discovers America, Mr. Bach Comes to Call, Beethoven Lives Upstairs, Mozart's Magic Fantasy, Mozart's Magnificent Voyage, Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery, Daydreams and Lullabies, and Hallelujah Handel.* This award-winning series introduces kids and adults to the joys of classical music as well as telling a story. I really enjoy all of these CDs. (There are videos too)

A Child's Celebration of Classical Music. This CD includes music from the Boston Pops, Bobby McFerrin, and narration by Meryl Streep.

If you're looking for a change of pace, while still incorporating music at your library, Michelle also wrote this article:

Ball Activity Fun at Storytime

Ball Activity Fun: Activities for Coordination and Enjoyment, a CD by Jill and Michael Gallina

You are probably saying to yourself “Michelle, are you nuts?!? You want me to pass out balls in my storytime???” My response is a hearty “Yes,” because this CD contains seven fun songs that use balls and will get your kids moving to the music. It also contains instrumental versions of each song. I highly suggest using smaller foam balls, since they are light and inexpensive.

“Mash The Trash” is a familiar tossing game that I never thought to set to music until I heard this song. Children line up and try to shoot their ball into a trash can placed several feet in front of them. We have played this game many times in storytime, but it is so much more fun set to music.

“Hot Potato” only requires one ball, and is sure to be a lot of fun. It is your traditional game of hot potato, but with a funky little sound that lets kids know when it is time to pass the ball in the other direction. Once your kids get the hang of the game, you can do some fun variations, including pass the ball above your head or through your legs. This is a great “follow the directions” song. I got requests for “one more time” and “what about with our eyes closed” on this one, which is always the sign of a hit!

What are your favorite children's CDs to use during programs and/or suggest to library users? Send a quick e-mail to [Stephanie](#) and we'll publish a list of favorites in the next issue of *The Scoop*!

Tips & Tools

Animals in the Library



*Editor's note: Recent discussion among Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) members concerns performers and/or community members bringing animals to the library for programs. This article is adapted with permission from an email sent by **Barbara Huntington, Youth and Special Services Consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and CSLP past president.***

"It is a good idea that program publicity includes information that live animals will be present. This helps parents decide if the program is appropriate for a child with allergies, and in general alerts parents to the presence of the animals.

"As far as liability goes, public libraries always have a degree of liability when they offer a program. Libraries should provide a reasonable level of supervision for all programs they sponsor. A staff person or adult volunteer should be sitting in on all programs, including those done by a performer. That way if something is not safe or following library policy, the adult can step in, or go get someone who can. Another important reason someone who represents the library should be in the room during programs is to help evacuate in case of a fire or other emergency. The library shouldn't need any special liability insurance for programs, they should already be covered under the local community's insurance policy.



One precaution I would take is to hand out 'Wet Ones' as children leave the program and tell them to wash their hands before they leave the room. I would put out several waste baskets to keep the crowd moving and to encourage them to toss the moist sheets as they walked out of the room.

Program liability is an issue that some people are more concerned about than others. While few performers are going to have liability insurance, and requiring it limits the range of performers who will be available, librarians can check to see if the presenter does have liability insurance for their live animal programs. These kind of programs are the most likely to have special insurance so it would not be inappropriate to ask.

"I advise my librarians that there are always liability issues involved at library programs, but the same degree of liability is involved for every program they do, whether there are animals at the program or not. I would certainly encourage librarians to carefully check references on anyone bringing animals into the library to make sure they use good judgment, are experienced in handling animals around children, and take reasonable precautions. That alone helps demonstrate that the library acted responsibly in selecting the person coming in for the program which in turn proves reasonable precautions were taken.

"If the library doesn't usually require written permission or give out tickets for other programs, I don't think they need to for a program that involves animals. It might be a good idea to ask that an adult accompany children under five years, but most libraries might require that as a routine policy. The publicity should indicate that there will be live animals at the program. That brings the parent into the liability equation. If they come to the program or send their children, knowing there are animals present, they share a degree of the liability with the library and the presenter.



"Here are some tips I give my librarians:

- Talk with the performer in advance to know how far back the children should stay from the animals and arrange the room with that safety margin in mind.
- Make a line with some masking tape, or lay down a length of rope and tell the children to stay seated and behind the line.
- Supervise the program. Help supervise if the children are going to be allowed to touch the animals.
- Help watch the area when the performer is taking things back to his car.
- I think the most problematic issue with animals in the library is more likely to be protecting the carpet, rather than having children injured by the animals. Experienced animal handlers who do multiple programs each year, should know how to help keep the children and animals safe.

"Libraries are wonderful venue for bringing nature and the world of animals together with children. This is done without problems in many, many libraries all year round. Take reasonable precautions, check references, provide supervision, have the children wash their hands after the program, and enjoy."

[Editor's note: The appropriate place for program liability to be addressed is in the library's policies, which require board approval. Check with your library director (or for school libraries with the school principal or district coordinator) to make sure program-related policies are comprehensive enough to address programs featuring live animals as well as more traditional programs. You can also check on library procedures that have been established for programs.] ***Have you had a successful program at your library featuring animal(s)? We'd like to hear from you. Email [Peggy](#) or [Stephanie](#) and we'll print your comments in *The Scoop*.***

Announcing the 2006 Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest!



Editor's note: The Learning Services staff at Idaho Public Television sent out this announcement:

Reading Rainbow and Idaho Public Television are calling on kids to enter the 12th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. Children in kindergarten through third grade are encouraged to submit their original and creative stories by the deadline of March 24th.

A flyer and entry forms will be mailed to each public library in Idaho, and all public and private schools with grades K-3. Please encourage your young patrons to enter by making these materials available to them and helping us to promote this contest. Feel free to make copies of the entry forms if needed.

If you have any questions about the contest or need additional materials, please email the Learning Services staff of Idaho Public Television at learn@idahoptv.org or call (800)424-1226 or 885-1226 from Moscow.

See the IdahoPTV Web site (www.idahoptv.org/kids) for complete rules, entry form and to see the 2005 winners' entries. **READING RAINBOW**, hosted by LeVar Burton, airs on Idaho Public Television weekdays at 2:30/1:30 p.m. MT/PT.

Bookshelf grants available.

As part of its We the People initiative, The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is collaborating with the American Library Association (ALA) to present the We the People Bookshelf, a program that encourages young people to read classic books and explore themes in American history, culture, and ideas.

School (K-12) and public libraries are invited to apply for fifteen thematically related books which embody the theme of "Becoming American." See <http://www.neh.gov/wtp/bookshelf/becomingamerican-guidelines.html#program> for the booklist and link to the application. **Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2006.**

New at the State Library --

Boys and Literacy: Practical Strategies for Librarians, Teachers, and Parents, by Elizabeth Knowles and Martha Smith. Libraries Unlimited, 2005. [028.55 KNOWLES]

The authors first present the research on boys and their reading habits and then list strategies for change – both at school and at home. Each chapter focuses on a genre that boys find interesting -- horror, adventure, science fiction, war, fantasy, and mysteries. Includes annotated bibliographies and discussion questions. There is also a chapter on graphic novels. Reading levels are included for each title.

This book can be checked out by direct loan or through interlibrary loan at your library. Go to www.lili.org/isl/card-application.htm to fill out an application for a State Library card.

Are you looking for something fun for your library that will appeal to all ages?

Tie in to the **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** movie and host a Narnia program or book discussion. Check out www.narniaresources.com/pdfdownloads/ for a wide variety of *Chronicles of Narnia* resources available in PDF format including games, crafts, activities, book discussion guides, and snack ideas.

News Beyond Idaho



The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) recently announced its **KIDS! @ your library® Campaign**. Building on The Campaign for America's Libraries, a multi-year, public awareness and advocacy campaign sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA), ALSC's initiative will provide

promotion tips, sample press materials, downloadable art, and other tools to help local libraries reach out to kids, their parents and caregivers.

“The main goal of this dynamic new campaign is for all school age children to use their public library. Parents will know that taking their children to the library is one of the best and most important things they can do for their family,” said ALSC President Ellen G. Fader.

KIDS! @ your library® is being developed by children's librarians for children's librarians based on focus groups with children and feedback from librarians across the country. The first phase of the campaign will focus on children in grades K-4, their parents and caregivers. A national launch to the public is planned for fall 2006. For more information and to access resources, go to ALSC's campaign website: www.ala.org/ala/alsc/projectspartners/Kidsyourlibrary.htm.

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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.