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Published bi-weekly by [Read to Me](#), a service of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL)

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Welcome

"Eighteen Flavors"

Eighteen luscious, scrumptious flavors
Chocolate, lime and cherry,
Coffee, pumpkin, fudge banana
Caramel cream and boysenberry.
Rocky road and toasted almond,
Butterscotch, vanilla dip,
Butter brickle, apple ripple,
Coconut and espresso chip,
Brandy peach and lemon custard,
Each scoop lovely, smooth and round,
Tallest ice-cream cone in town,
Lying there (sniff) on the ground.



~By Shel Silverstein (*Where the Sidewalk Ends*)

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated July as **National Ice Cream Month** and the third Sunday of the month (July 19 this year) as **National Ice Cream Day**. He recognized ice cream as a fun and nutritious food that is enjoyed by a full 90 percent of the nation's population. In the proclamation, President Reagan called for all people of the United States to observe these events with "appropriate ceremonies and activities." Here are a few sites, compliments of your "Scoop" editors, to help you celebrate!

[Ice Cream Quiz](#): How much do you know about ice cream?

[History of Ice Cream Cone](#)

[History of ice cream](#)

[Ice Cream Flavorology](#): What does your favorite flavor say about you?

Resources for ice cream themes:

http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Ice_Cream/

<http://stepbystepcc.com/foods/icecream.html>

<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek3/icecream.htm>

Meet Erika Ambriz



Erika Ambriz is the new programs specialist at the **Kuna Library District**. Erika has been at the library since June of 2008 and was recently promoted to this new position. "I love my job," she says. "It's wonderful to be able to be around people, to help enrich their lives with what I do and at the same time have so much fun!"

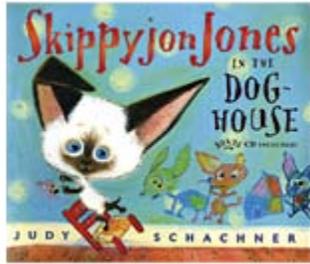
Kuna is a rural library district serving 19,000 people, 57 percent of whom are registered patrons. They offer approximately 40 programs during the year for people of all ages, from birth to senior citizens. During the school year Kuna offers a dozen story times a week, along with 10 Music & Movement sessions. They also host afterschool programs for students from elementary-age through teenagers, and do weekly outreach with local daycares. In addition

to these programs, Erika coordinates services for Spanish speakers, such as bilingual story time, computer classes, and Spanish story time.

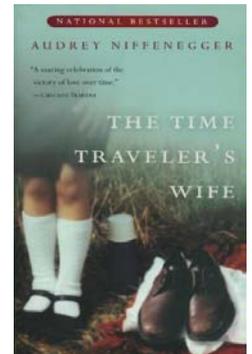
Erika has been very busy in her new position, as KLD is currently offering a wide range of summer reading programs. Each week features a new theme, with three different programs during the week. Erika is also coordinating Kuna's outreach with the Boys and Girls Club, and overseeing the launch of their first ever teen summer reading program. (For more information about KLD's summer reading programs, visit their blog at <http://kunareads.wordpress.com/>).

Erika came to the library because she was attracted to the idea of helping the community and being a part of the growth and development of Kuna's kids. "I love the interaction with the patrons, especially the kids," she said. She also likes the feeling that as a library staff member people know her and love her because of what she does. "I think when a person approaches me and says, 'This is great, thank you for doing this,' and, 'It was so much fun,' that, for me, is success!"

Erika feels that her biggest challenge is that English is not her first language, so many times she feels self-conscious and worried that she hasn't been projecting what she really wants to.



Growing up, Erika read a lot of the classics, as well as mysteries and adventures. She says that one of her current favorite authors is Judith Byron Schachner, because "she is so original in her stories but at the same time so funny. I like her a lot." Skippyjon, a Siamese kitten who wants to be a Chihuahua, has many adventures in his closet and uses a lot of words in Spanish. *Skippyjon Jones in the Dog House* is Erika's favorite.



Erika recently read *The Time Traveler's Wife*, by Audrey Niffenegger (motion picture coming out in August of 2009), and *Luke's Story*, by Tim LaHaye. She is currently reading *The Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding, for her book club.

When Erika is not at the library, she enjoys taking her kids to the park or Eagle Island, going to the local fairs, and watching movies. "But, of course, the best thing is to curl up with a good book!" Erika's favorite flavor of ice cream: German Chocolate, a mix of brownie, coconut, pecans and caramel with chocolate ice cream.

Library to Library



Grand Opening of New Boise Public Library Branch

BPL celebrated the Grand Opening of the Library! at Cole and Ustick on Tuesday, June 30, 2009. Boise Mayor Dave Bieter triumphantly cut the ribbon and officially opened the doors to the cheers and applause from curious patrons, Boise City Council members, BPL Trustees, staff from Lynx



Consortium libraries, and ICFL staff. In the first half-hour 1,250 adults and children filed through the new doors, and there were lines at both the desk and self-checkout until closing that night.

The building incorporates sustainable features such as maximized daylighting, efficient use of energy, and the use of recycled and local materials. The library has two AV-equipped meeting rooms, 46 public computers with Internet access, and spaces for children's programs and reading. Friends of the Library contributed \$150,000 toward the collection of over 40,000 books and other materials. "In just a few weeks this area will change," said Library Board of Trustees President Martie Brennan. "These crosswalks will be helping moms with strollers come to the library for storytime. Residents...will come out for an evening stroll, stopping for an ice cream cone, then on to the library to check out a book or DVD."





Got Caught Reading!

Congratulations to Jolene Waltman, Media Center Specialist at Aberdeen High School, who was our winner of the “Get Caught Reading” contest in May! Jolene sent in two titles: *A Monstrous Regiment of Women*, by Laurie R. King and *Fablehaven--Secrets of the Dragon Sanctuary*, by Brandon Mull. Jolene received a “Summer Fun” care package, with a copy of *Breaking Dawn*, an “Express Yourself t-shirt,” some give-away books, and, of course, one of the infamous kazoos (instructions included).



Major Summer Youth Employment Program Under Way

Hundreds of Idaho young people began five- to eight-week jobs last month in a major summer youth employment program sponsored by the Idaho Department of Labor. Over 700 young people ages 14 to 24 are involved at over 130 locations in a range of activities from outdoor conservation projects and community-based jobs to indoor office work. The program is made possible through the federal stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and is targeted toward youth from low-income families. Cities, counties, organizations and agencies throughout the state are providing supervision and helping young people understand the importance of punctuality, showing initiative, developing relationships, completing tasks and other traits important to success. The following Idaho libraries are participating in the 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program:

- Coeur d’Alene Library: Library Assistant
- Rathdrum Public Library: Library Assistant and Clerical Support
- Sandpoint Public Library: Summer Children’s Program Assistant/Library
- Lewiston Public Library: Student artist to paint a mural on city library
- Moscow Public Library: Library Technicians
- Mountain Home Library: Library Assistant
- Weiser Public Library: Office and Administrative Support
- Jerome Public Library: Library Assistant
- Grace Public Library: Office and Administrative Support
- Marshall Public Library: Library Technician



Buhl Public Library Celebrates Twilight, TAG Graduation

The staff at Buhl Public Library have been working hard to keep the kids who start out in storytime and summer reading engaged in library activities all through the grades. They have had good luck reaching ‘tweens and teens with a strong partnership with the local middle school and by nurturing an active TAG (Teen Advisory Group) for many years.

One of their most successful events aimed at this age group was a big Twilight party they held in the spring. The event was hosted at the middle school library and over 100 ‘tweens and teens showed up for the after-school party. The public library purchased a one-time license to show the Twilight movie and energetic students worked hard to transform the library into the

town of Forks, complete with many pine trees, gossamer, Werewolf Kibble, and other fun items that helped set the stage for the successful party.



Library Director Cynthia Toppen also sent photos of some of the teens who recently graduated from high school. Many had been involved in the Teen Advisory Group since seventh grade. “They were such an amazing group of kids and it was great to watch them grow and learn during those seven years.

We feel that keeping them engaged for that long was quite an accomplishment and we’re kind of sad to watch them go,” Cynthia said. The group was involved in several community service projects from making blankets for needy kids to collecting food during the holiday season. Games, reading, food, and fun were also big draws for the group.

Young Adult Corner



Mountain Home Teens “Get Their Game On”

The Mountain Home Public Library recently completed an LSTA-funded project to reach more teens in their community and help them feel welcome and enjoy coming to the library. In planning for the project, the library noted that they served about one third of the 1,000 ‘tweens and teens between the ages of 12 and 17 in their community. They decided to partner with the city Parks and Rec Department who was also trying to provide more services for this age group. The idea was that they would share the equipment and games, cross-promote both programs, and reach a larger audience.



Circulation specialist Robin Murphy who coordinated the project, shared some of the ups and downs of their project:



The gaming equipment purchased included: Two Wii, one Xbox and two Playstation 3 game consoles along with various games, including Guitar Hero, Rock Band, Dance-Dance Revolution, Karaoke Revolutions, and Pokémon Battle Revolutions. They also purchased four projectors and three screens so that multiple games could run concurrently.

Between the library and Parks and Rec, 11 programs were held. Two of the programs featured a variety of games; four were performance events (Rock Band , Guitar Hero, and Dance Dance Revolution); two were sports events (Wii Sports and Madden Football); two were competition events (Battle of the Rock Bands); and one program was open

to only younger ‘tweens. On their “tech days” the library has had between 40 and 75 kids participating. In the future, the library plans to hold some adult programs and use the gaming equipment with other age groups.

The library hoped to increase teen program attendance by five percent, and they more than doubled their participation in summer reading (from 10 kids in 2007 to 23 in 2008). While Robin felt they fell short of their program attendance goal, she said, “Each of the open events had about 75 kids in attendance. The other programs that were more specific had about 40 kids each time. I did not see a big increase after the first events, but we saw kids we had never seen before in the library at several of the events. “



The library requires a library card to login on the in-library computers. This has increased the number of teen cards issued. However, many of the kids attending at the game events still do not have cards.

The project also gave staff the opportunity to talk with teens to plan other non tech-based activities. Staff had intended to survey teens but found that one-on-one interviews were more productive. They learned that although the teens liked the gaming and computers that the library offered, they still were not always comfortable at the library. Kids also said they would like to be able to work on the computers together in groups. Computers seem to be a big attraction. The library also drew more teens (mainly girls) for their “Twilight” party which was a lot of fun.

Here are the questions used for the survey/interview:

- 1) How often do you go to the Mountain Home Library? (never / once a week / twice a week or more)
- 2) What do you use the library for? (Internet / research /check out books / meet friends)
- 3) Are the library’s service hours convenient for you? (no / sometimes / always)
- 4) Are library programs offered at a time that is convenient for you? (no / sometimes / always)
- 5) What would you like to see at the library?

The library intends to maintain the tech programs by budgeting funds to help maintain the equipment and purchase new products as needed to keep the gaming materials fresh. In the future the library will use the equipment with seniors for special programs. They will invite teens to help with these programs and promote a feeling of community.

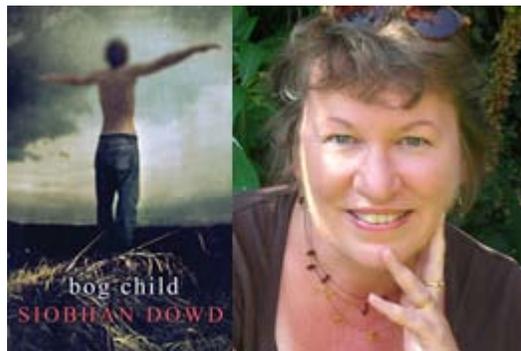
Robin said, “We are going to be using this equipment for many activities this summer and throughout the year. We have seen many opportunities come for use of this equipment, with teens and adults and younger kids. We are anxious to keep reaching out to find what it is we need in order to get teens more involved in the library.”

Book Look



The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) Medal Winners for 2009:

The **Carnegie Medal** is awarded annually to the writer of an outstanding book for children. This year's winner is *Bog Child*, by Siobhan Dowd.



The **Kate Greenaway Medal** is awarded annually for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people. This year's winner is *Harris Finds His Feet*, by Catherine Rayner.

Visit www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/home/index.php for more information about the awards, to see the shortlists for 2009, to see past winners, or to check out their cool “shadowing” site.



BookExpo America 2009

Here are some of the most talked about books from this year's Expo in New York. For more favorites and librarian reviews, see the [complete article](#) in *School Library Journal*.

Young Adult:

Candor, by Pam Bachorz: A story about a kind of “Stepford” group of teens controlled by subliminal messages in music.

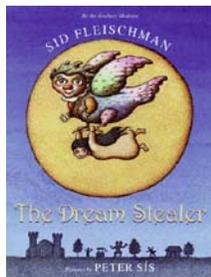
Catching Fire (The Second Book of the Hunger Games), by Suzanne Collins

Going Bovine, by Libba Bray: A comedy about a teen diagnosed with Mad Cow disease

Leviathan, by Scott Westerfeld



Picture Books:

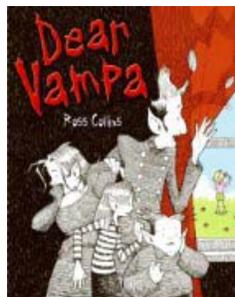


The Dream Stealer, by Sid Fleischman: This fast-paced adventure story is set in Mexico and is illustrated in black and white by three-time Caldecott Honor winner Peter Sis (Aug. 2009).

The Lion & the Mouse, by Jerry Pinkney: The author's first wordless picture book, this story is based on the Aesop fable. A possible Caldecott nomination? (Sept. 2009)



Graphic Novels:



Dear Vampa, by Ross Collins: about a young vampire who writes to his "vampa" about the strange neighbors who live next door

Storm in the Barn, by Matt Phelan: a haunting tale set in the Dust Bowl in the 1930s (Sept. 2009)



Upcoming Events

More Idaho and national library events can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/upcoming-events> .

First Book / Every Child Ready to Read meetings: Libraries participating in 2009-10 First Book or who are hosting an Every Child Ready to Read family workshop in 2009-10 are invited to [sign up for face to face or online meetings](#) held in August to discuss these programs.

Navigating Youth Services workshops in eastern Idaho have been set for September 14th in Rigby and October 23 at the Portneuf District Library in Chubbuck. Topics include great ideas for Family Reading Week, reaching parents who don't come to storyhour, great programs for the after-school crowd, event-planning, teen programs, fun new books for kids, and music and movement / toddler storytimes. Register at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/read-to-me-fall-training-2009> . Public and school library staff are invited. There's no charge to attend and lunch is provided. It should be a great day to relax, learn, and share with your colleagues.

Dates and locations for Navigating Youth Services workshops in northern and southwestern Idaho will be announced soon!

August Events:

August is **Immunization Awareness Month** designated to increase awareness about immunization across the lifespan as parents and children prepare for the return to school, and the medical community begins preparations for the upcoming flu season. Read more at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ or www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=52750

August 22 – 28 is **Australia's Book Week**, which is the longest running children's festival in Australia, celebrating its 64th birthday in 2009. The theme in 2009 is... Book Safari. Read more about the Australian event at <http://cbca.org.au/>

August 2 – **American Family Day** – It was first established in 1978, as the 14th Arizona state-recognized holiday. For more... www.americanfamilydayholiday.com/index.php

August 12 – **International Youth Day** - The theme for International Youth Day 2009 is “Sustainability: Our Challenge. Our Future.” Young people will be encouraged to adopt a global sense of social responsibility. Go to www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/iyouthday.htm for more.

August 19 – **National Aviation Day** – This day celebrates the myriad of amazing contributions, inventions, and developments leading to and resulting from human flight. It coincides with the birthday of Orville Wright who, together with his brother Wilbur, made significant contributions to powered flight. Read more at www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/national-aviation-day

August is a month of fairs and rodeo's throughout Idaho. **Other fun dates include:** August 3 – National Watermelon Day, August 6 – Wiggle Your Toes Day, August 10 – S'Mores Day, August 12 – Middle Children's Day, August 14 – National Creamsicle Day, August 15 – National Relaxation Day, August 18 – Bad Poetry Day, August 22 – Be An Angel Day, August 24 – National Peach Pie Day, and August 30 - National Toasted Marshmallow Day.

Birthdays to Note:

August 1 – **Gail Gibbons** (born in 1944). It is out of this natural curiosity for how things work and how things are made that she has based a successful career as an author and illustrator of children's books. Some of her works include: *Dinosaurs*, *Tornadoes*, *The Vegetables We Eat*, and many more. Go to www.gailgibbons.com/index.htm for more.

August 6 – **Frank Asch** (born in 1946). Frank Asch has written in almost every category of children's literature including poetry, concept books, juvenile nonfiction, and children's novels. He is the author of *Happy Birthday Moon*, *Good Night Baby Bear*, *Baby Ducks New Friend* and many more. Check out this website for more on [Frank Asch](#).

August 9 – **Seymour Simon** (born in 1931). Seymour is the author of 200 highly acclaimed science books. He has introduced millions of children to a staggering array of subjects, including the human body, animals and animal behavior, climate and weather, earthquakes, volcanoes, mirrors, optical illusions, rocks and minerals, star gazing and space, oceanography, and the list goes on and on. Find out more at www.seymoursimon.com/meet.htm

August 11 – **Joanna Cole** (born in 1944). She also writes under the pseudonym B. J. Barnet, and is an author of children's books who teaches science. She is most famous as the author of *The Magic School Bus* series of children's books. She has written over 250 books ranging from her first book *Cockroach* to her famous series *Magic School Bus*. For more go to www.edupaperback.org/showauth.cfm?authid=22

August 11 – **Don Freeman** (1908-1978). Don is known by many people as the author of *Corduroy* and other children's books. He is also known as a graphic artist who vividly portrayed the street life and theater world of New York City in the 1930's and 40's. Check out the [Don Freeman](#) website for more.

August 22 – **Will Hobbs** (born in 1947). He is the author of seventeen novels for upper elementary, middle school and young adult readers, as well as two picture book stories. Some

of his novels include: *Bearstone, Downriver, The Maze, and Jason's Gold*. Check out www.willhobbsauthor.com/meet.html for more information.

August 27 – **Ann Rinaldi** (born in 1934). Rinaldi is a young adult fiction author. She is best known for her historical fiction, including *In My Father's House, The Last Silk Dress, An Acquaintance with Darkness, A Break with Charity, and Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons*. Read more about [Ann Rinaldi](#).

August 28 – **Brian Pinkney** (born in 1961). Pinkney is an illustrator and author who works' in a striking and unusual medium: oil painting over scratchboard. His unique illustrations have graced the pages of numerous books for children since he began his career in the late 1980s. Some of his writing include: *Max Found Two Sticks, The Adventures of Sparrowboy, and Cosmo and the Robot*. Find out more at www.answers.com/topic/jerry-brian-pinkney

August 30 – **Laurent de Brunhoff** (born in 1925) is an author and illustrator of children's books. He began to work seriously at painting about 1945; at the same time he became involved in continuing the "Babar" picture book series his father had originated. For a complete listing of his works go to <http://biography.jrank.org/pages/400/Brunhoff-Laurent-de-1925.html>



Summer Reading News



Update on Fred Meyer "Books for Summer Readers"

For the past four years, the Fred Meyer Fund has supported the Idaho summer reading program. On June 7th, the Commission received a \$15,000 check to purchase paperback books for public libraries to distribute to summer readers. One hundred eighteen libraries signed up to receive books. We received the books on July 7th and they were mailed to participating libraries 2 days later. We regret that some of you received the books after your program was completed, but we encourage you to distribute the books throughout the summer at outreach events, storytimes or other activities that bring families to the library.



If you would like to express your appreciation to Fred Myer, you may write:

Glynda Brockhoff
Philanthropy Coordinator
The Fred Meyer Fund
Mail Stop 04002/34N
PO Box 42121
Portland, OR 97242



CSLP News

The CSLP website <http://www.csllpreads.org> is a great source for information on summer reading. Youth services librarians and staff are encourage to register in order to get full benefit of the site. In the future there will be lively discussions on the forum, training webcasts and more - but only for registered users. Registration is not automatic - once you register you will need to be approved as a public librarian from member state. You will then receive an email giving you information and a password for access. So it really is best to register now so that you can get easy access to summer reading resources when you need them.

Future summer reading themes:

The general theme for **2010** programs is water.

- The children's slogan - **Make a Splash - READ**
- The teen slogan is - **Make Waves at your library – READ**
- The adult slogan is - **Water Your Mind @ the Library**

The general theme for **2011** is World Culture and Travel. The title selected at the CSLP Annual Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, in April is:

- The children's slogan - **One World, Many Stories**
- The teen slogan - **You Are Here**

For **2012**, the general theme topic is: night.



Annual Summer Reading Survey is available online



Each year the Commission collects data from public libraries who sponsor summer reading programs. We know the programs help keep kids reading over the summer and sharpen their reading skills. The information you provide helps us document the impact and plan for future years. Since 2004, participation has increased over 60%. Last year the largest impact was felt in outreach. Libraries doubled the number of free books distributed through outreach programs from 7,000 in 2007 to 14,000 in 2008. The deadline for filling out the survey is **August 31st**. You can get to the survey from the summer reading webpage: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading>.

Know the Numbers

Why ICFL Invests in Read to Me First Book

Many of us “bookworms” grew up with books in our homes- so it might be surprising to some of us to know how many kids in Idaho and across the country have no children’s books of their own. Take a look at some facts and figures:

- 📖 **17% of Idaho children live in poverty. For Latino children the rate is 35% and for children in single-parent households it is 36%. (2007 Idaho Kids Count)**

-  In 2008-2009, 41% of Idaho public school children, and 12% of Idaho public charter school children, were eligible for free and reduced school lunch. (*National Alliance of Public Charter Schools*)
-  In April 2009, there were 174,056 children participating in Free and Reduced Lunch in Idaho –a 2.2% increase over April 2008. (*US Dept of Agriculture – Food and Nutrition Program, “National School Lunch Current Participation,” June 30, 2009*)
-  61% of low-income families (nationally) have no children’s books in their home. (*National First Book, www.firstbook.org*)
-  In middle-income neighborhoods, there are on average 13 books for every child. By contrast, in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio drops significantly to one book for every 300 children. (*Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2, 2006*)
-  The availability of reading material in the home, whether owned or borrowed from the library, is directly associated with children’s achievement in reading comprehension. (*National Center for Education Statistics, 2001*)
-  80% of preschool and after-school programs serving low-income populations have no age-appropriate books for their children. (*Neuman, Susan B., et al. Access for All: Closing the Book Gap for Children in Early Education. Newark, DE: International Reading Association, 2001, p. 3*)
-  Across the nation just under half of children between birth and five years are read to every day by their parents or other family members. (*Russ, Perez, Garro, Klass, Kuo, Gershun, Halfon, Zuckerman. Reading Across the Nation: A Chartbook (2007): Reach Out and Read National Center, Boston, MA*)
-  By the age of 2, children who are read to regularly display greater language comprehension, larger vocabularies, and higher cognitive skills than their peers. (*Raikes, Pan, Luze, Tamis-LeMonda, Brooks-Gunn, Constantine, Tarullo, Raikes, Rodriguez, (2006). “Mother-child book reading in low-income families: Correlates and outcomes during the first three years of life.” Child Development, 77(4)*)
-  Children who are read to at least three times a week by a family member are almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% in reading compared to children who were read to less than 3 times a week. (*Denton, Kristen and Gerry West, “Children’s Reading and Mathematics Achievement in Kindergarten and First Grade.” U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Washington, DC, 2002*)
-  Children entering kindergarten with basic math and reading skills are the most likely to do well in school later, even if they have various social and emotional problems. (*Northwestern University. “Early Academic Skills, Not Behavior, Best Predict School Success.” ScienceDaily 19 November 2007*)
-  The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print. (*Newman, Sanford, et all. “Americans Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy”; Fight Crime; Invest in Kids, 2000*)

📖 **“Public libraries are helping to close the “book gap” by providing children of all backgrounds access to high-quality reading materials and rich language experiences.”** (from *“The Role of Public Libraries in Children’s Literacy Development: An Evaluation Report,”* Dr. Donna Celano and Dr. Susan B. Neuman, 2001)

Through the Read to Me First Book program, librarians visit schools, preschools, and child care centers each month from September through May to read stories focusing on the six early literacy skills. They then distribute brand new paperback or board books to every child in the program, from birth to first grade. In the upcoming year ICFL will make it possible for over 1700 Idaho children to take home their very own book each month during the school year. For more information see <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/first-book>.



A Closer Look at Every Child Ready to Read Family Workshops

During the 2008 – 2009 program year 23 Idaho libraries participated in the pilot of the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Every Child Ready to Read (ECRTR) Family Workshops.

This six week program involves young children and their parents in learning about the six early literacy skills that help prepare children to be successful at school. The program is based on the Every Child Ready to Read® workshops developed by the American Library Association. ICFL contracted with Early Childhood Literacy Consultant Saroj Ghoting to adapt the ECRTR® information into a customized family workshop series for parents/caregivers and their children, so that once a week, for six weeks, parents and their children attend an ECRTR workshop at



Ada Community Library staff and workshop “graduates”

their local library. One of the six early literacy skills is highlighted each week and parents have a chance to practice the skill with their child(ren) during the 45-minute workshop. They also get a book each week that goes with the skill to take home to keep and use with their child. Fun interactive activities, practical tips, and resources are shared during each session, and families also get to take home a set of magnetic letters. During one of the sessions, parents hear from a public school representative on what the school expects from children entering school.

In August of 2008 participating libraries received training, all the materials needed to run a successful workshop, publicity materials, scripts, and evaluation tools. Participating libraries agreed to host at least two series of workshops, one in the fall and one in the spring, and they agreed to distribute and collect parent surveys for evaluation purposes. They also agreed to submit a final report documenting the number of children and families served, as well as comments and suggestions for improvement.

In July of 2008, ICFL contracted with Dr. Roger A. Stewart, professor of literacy education at Boise State University, to conduct an extensive evaluation of the ECRTR program and other ICFL early literacy programs. Dr. Stewart has 30 years of experience in education, as a public school teacher for seven years and a professor of education for 20 years. He has published

widely and conducted numerous program evaluations. His most recent evaluation involved a three-year longitudinal, comprehensive, state-wide evaluation of the Idaho Reading First initiative. Dr. Stewart collected the fall and spring reports and parent surveys that were submitted and analyzed the data.

The results were outstanding! Combined, libraries reached over 900 children and over 600 adults throughout the course of the year. “We were very pleased at the parent involvement. We also were very pleased with how well the children remembered each of the skills from week to week.” – *Menan-Annis branch of the Jefferson County District Library*

The data collected from the parent surveys showed that the workshops were overwhelmingly successful at getting parents and caregivers to adopt more effective early literacy behaviors with their children. In both the fall and spring, the adults reported increased modeling and interaction with their children, increased time spent reading, and greater awareness of/emphasis on early literacy skills. “From their comments I know that a number of families are trying new things at home-- non-fiction as well as fiction; songs and rhymes; playing with words, and more writing activities.” – *Boise Basin Library District*

Parents also reported utilizing the library more, making reading and learning to read fun and less stressful, and spending more time with their children and family. “We know when we do outreach to at-risk and underserved families that we can expect to never see them at our library. Because of the ECRTR program we met some new families and were able to talk about literacy skills and libraries. This week we celebrated Idaho Family Reading Week with a pirate party. One of the first families to arrive was a family from the ECRTR workshops. I was speechless to see them there, knowing they had to take a cab from across town to be there and the expense that was for them.” – *KSAL, Hayden Branch*

Parents found virtually all of the information to be useful, and rated the overall quality of the workshops and presenters to be of extremely high quality. Families also appreciated the free books and other literacy materials. “My granddaughter just came to live with me and this program has made all the difference in our home. Having the free books to take home just makes her day, and mine. Thank you so much! She really looks forward to reading together and it’s made the transition easier for us.” – *Council Valley grandparent*



Laura Burnett, Jerome Public Library, with the display and book titles that ICFL provides for the workshops

The participating libraries reported that hosting the ECRTR workshops benefitted their libraries and communities by increasing library usage, providing a venue for parents to get to know one another and socialize, developing partnerships with schools and community organizations,



Tamra Hawley-House and Boise Public Library workshop participants

developing relationships with families as patrons, and reaching underserved populations. Library staff also felt that their knowledge of early literacy increased, and many found they more naturally began incorporating the six skills into their regular lapsit and storytime programming. “Parents are appreciative of this kind of programming that provided high quality content and is beneficial to children. The children in our community benefit from the early literacy skills and those benefits will be far-reaching.” –*Garden City Library*

Beginning in September of 2009, 22 Idaho libraries will host ECRTR Family Workshops. From the comments and suggestions from past library staff and participating families, Dr. Stewart has helped to identify strengths and challenges of the pilot program, and his recommendations have been incorporated into upcoming ECRTR training sessions. For a more detailed description of the findings, recommendations, and data collected from the ECRTR pilot year, see "[Results From the 2008 – 2009 Read to Me Evaluation Report](#)," at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/doc/resources-ecrtr-participants>.

Dr. Stewart's full evaluation of Read to Me programs will be available in August at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/read-to-me-resources>.

If you did not apply to host ECRTR Family Workshops for the 2009 – 2010 program year, but would like more information about how to participate, please contact Stephanie Bailey-White at stephanie.bailey-white@libraries.idaho.gov.

Tips & Tools



Free Books from First Book National Book Bank

Looking for ways to sustain your Read to Me First Book program, or want to start a new program? Your library may qualify to receive free/low cost books!

Eligible organizations must register with First Book and be a nonprofit organization with at least 80 percent of the children coming from low-income families, a Title 1 school, or a specially designated government institution.

The First Book National Book Bank distributes large quantities of publisher-donated brand-new books to programs serving children from low-income families. The cost is just \$0.25 per book to have them shipped. After registering with First Book, organizations will receive email notifications alerting them when book distribution applications are available.

Web Site• [Register with First Book!](#)



Libri Foundation Books for Children

Deadline: August 15, 2009

The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries throughout the United States. Local sponsors can contribute \$50-350, which the Foundation will match on a 2-to-1 ratio. A library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books. Qualifying libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department.

Web Site• [The Libri Foundation](#)



Recycling Fundraiser

More than 22,000 schools, clubs, and churches have raised much-needed funds for their organizations through the EcoPhones Recycling Fundraiser. The fundraiser pays up to \$300 for cell phones, ink-jet printer cartridges, DVD movies, videogames, portable DVD players, laptops, MP3 players, digital cameras, Wii, Sony Playstations, and more. Participants should ask parents, neighbors, co-workers, and local businesses to donate and recycle their used consumer electronics. Participants can also receive money for damaged, non-working, and non-listed models. Web Site• [Recycling Fundraisers](#)



Kindersay

Kindersay is a free online video website designed to help preschool and English as Second Language (ESL) children learn English words. Over 500 online activities are available in a special Word Show format. It also matches American Sign Language simple signs with words. The “My Family” section allows uploading of family photos to personalize words.

Web Site• [Welcome to Kindersay](#)



Make Beliefs Comics

Created by Bill Zimmerman, Make Beliefs Comix is a free site that allows users of all ages to create their own comic strip. Visitors can choose their characters, their characters' emotions, and add talk or thought balloons. The site is great for ESL learners and creative types.

Web Site• [Welcome to MakeBeliefsComix.com](#)

Here's one created by your Scoop editors:

The Read to Me Sagas

Staci



This comic strip was created at [MakeBeliefsComix.com](#). Go there to make one yourself!

CE News You Can Use



Webinar: Bilingual Storytimes to Build Early Literacy

Join your colleagues on **July 29** for a free one-hour webinar titled Bilingual Storytimes: Building Early Literacy and Community. Libraries are expanding storytime programming to build early literacy skills in their community. [The Mission Branch of the San Francisco Public Library](#) recently added to their popular Bilingual Toddler Tales Program (300–400 attendees!) hands-on literacy activity stations for caregivers to explore. Seattle Public Library has expanded their [Summer Reading Program](#) to include bilingual storytimes in Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish. Both libraries have had great success in their early literacy programming and continue to build deep connections with caregivers in their communities. Join **Laura Tarango**, children's librarian at the Mission Branch, and **Valerie Wonder**, immigrant and refugee programs manager at Seattle Public Library, as they describe how they assessed the community's needs, developed and adapted the programs. They'll also provide practical steps for you to apply to your outreach and programming efforts.

[Register for this and other WebJunction events »](#)



Idaho Commission for Libraries is now accepting applications for Continuing Education Grants. Applications must be submitted 45 days before the event for consideration. Check the following links for grant details and applications:

- [Application Instructions](#)
- [First Time Attendance](#)
- [Staff & Trustee Development for Individuals/Groups](#)
- [Support for Formal Library Science Courses](#)

If you have questions, please call Shirley at 208-629-4149 or email at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov



A “Competency Index for the Library Field” is now available from WebJunction. It is a compilation of competency statements that address a broad spectrum of library practice and service. Think of it like a competency LEGO® set - building blocks from which to construct a foundation for your organization that will help guide the development of staff training, recruiting, succession planning, and other personnel strategies.

<http://www.webjunction.org/competencies/-/articles/content/67024491>

This is a great tool for individuals and library organizations to use in the area of personal mastery / professional development.

Eventually all of these competencies will be listed on the WJ Idaho courses page with reference to available courses and online resources to access training regarding these individual competencies. The Library Management, IT, and Customer Service areas are already there!



We’ve featured Wordle in past Scoop issues, but this is a great article about 5 ways teachers – or librarians – can use Wordle with students – a great little program that makes the creator look fabulous! <http://techlearning.com/blogs/20322>

Although the article goes in to detail, here is a summary in Wordle ...



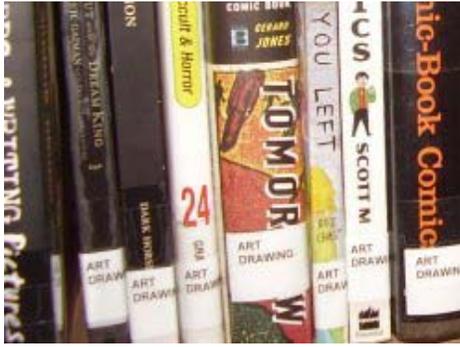
<http://www.wordle.net/>

News Beyond Idaho

Library District in Colorado is first in the nation to fully drop the Dewey Decimal system

As part of Adams County Rangeview Library District’s “Customers First” philosophy, the district is replacing the 133 year-old Dewey Decimal Classification with its own WordThink system. This new method was generated from a retail-based standard for organizing materials. Similar to what you might see in a bookstore, materials are arranged by simple categories like history and science instead of the old numeric system.





Rangeview's WordThink system draws on BISAC (Book Industry Standards and Communications). However, they have had to adjust and/or create their own categories for easy browsing. "For instance, materials on parenting and child rearing were in two different categories because BISAC classifies them under two different subject headings," Rangeview spokeswoman Stacie Ledden said in a [School Library Journal article](#). "WordThink places them in a single main category called 'Parenting.'"

Patrons seem to like the ease of use of this new system, which is geared more toward browsing, and helps them find what they need quickly and intuitively without necessarily having to use the catalog system.



Talk Back: We welcome your feedback on anything in *The Scoop*. Just e-mail [Peggy](#) or [Stephanie](#) and we'll print your comments in *The Scoop*.

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Contact Us: *The Scoop* is a service of the Idaho Commission for Libraries' 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.