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## Welcome

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Summer is just around the corner and its time to celebrate! Start with Flag Day on June 14. In 1777, the United States Continental Congress declared the Stars and Stripes the U.S. flag. It was one hundred years later, in 1877, on the 100th anniversary that public buildings started displaying the flag. A few years later, in 1885, a Wisconsin teacher began celebrating Flag Day with his students, and June 14 was officially named as a holiday in 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson. Finally, in 1949, the National Flag Day bill was signed by Congress.

For books related to Flag Day, go to the Children's Literature web site: [http://www.childrenslit.com/th\\_flagday.html](http://www.childrenslit.com/th_flagday.html). The site's reviewers read and critically review more than 4,000 books annually to help teachers, librarians, childcare providers and parents make appropriate literary choices for children. Read *The Flag We Love* by Pam Munoz Ryan or *Stars and Stripes: The Story of the American Flag* by Sarah L. Thomson.



## Meet Dylan Baker, Ada Community Library, Boise

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Meet **Dylan Baker**, the newest member of *The Scoop* advisory committee. He replaces Tony Hurst who recently moved to the Washington D.C. area with his family while his wife attends law school. We wish Tony well in his new endeavors.

Although Dylan graduated last year from Albertson College with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry, he says, "And yet here I am, working full-time with children at a public library. I place the blame squarely on all the librarians in my life: through their love for this profession, I've come to love it as well. And for that and for so many other things, they have my gratitude." The photo shows Dylan in his tie-dyed lab coat that he usually wears when he runs his "Gadget Garage" program. The kids in that program call Dylan the "Gadget Mechanic".

Dylan has been employed at the Ada Community Library for eight months, since October 2005 and has worked in the library field for nearly five years, mostly as a page and/or circulation clerk. He is currently a full-time Youth Services Library Assistant II at the Ada Community Library. Dylan usually works with children and particularly school-aged children (ages 6-12). However, he also works with young adults, parents, and even grandparents.

Dylan ends up doing a little bit of everything: he has a weekly evening "Family Storytime" that he plans, prepares and delivers. On top of that, he also has a weekly technology program called "Gadget Garage" and a weekly card game program called "Card Sharks." He does some collection development and occasionally gets to help with outreach events. He is the backup for Ada Community's Young Adult librarian and also coordinates the library's Teen Volunteer program. He often provides assistance with computers and technology, in addition to the IT staff.

When asked about his favorite thing about his job, Dylan responded, "The sheer diversity of it all! There's always something new to work on and some new skill to hone. The beauty of working in Youth Services is that there are so many different facets to the job. I can think of few careers that are as challenging in so many different ways -- and likewise, few careers as rewarding in so many different ways."

In his free time, Dylan likes to read, game, think, talk, and write. "But not necessarily in that order. And not necessarily all at the same time," he adds. Asked about his favorite children's author, Dylan replied, "I'm a huge fan of John Erickson's *Hank the Cowdog* series. (In fact, I'm such a fan that I donned a Hank costume for Caldwell Public Library's Summer Reading Program Kickoff last year -- and wore it outside in the blistering heat for over 5 hours!)"



## Library to Library

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Cathy Schleif, with the Ada Community Library, presented a program on "Toddler Time: Terrific Storytimes for Tykes" at the Southwest Regional ILA Conference and shared some great ideas. She keeps 20-30 bandanas in with her storytime supplies and uses them if she does a "hat" theme so the kids can each wear one on their heads when she reads *Caps for Sale* and *Hats, Hats, Hats*. She uses the same bandanas or scarves for wash clothes when she does a "bath" theme. There are some great bath songs on children's CDs (like Hap Palmer's *So Big*) and the kids can wave them around and pretend to scrub all their little body parts to the songs!

Another tip she shared was when using puppets, she doesn't have the puppets talk to the toddlers. She usually has the puppets whisper their ideas to her directly. That way she doesn't need to worry about voices, moving her lips, or frightening any children who may not be familiar with puppets.

And, one of her favorite fingerplays is "Two Little Blackbirds" because she just changes blackbirds to whatever theme she is using like puppies, mice, snowmen, etc. Here are the words:

### **Two Little Blackbirds**

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill, (put two fists in front of you)

One named Jack, one named Jill. (nod fists to match words)

Fly away Jack. Fly away Jill. (Put one fist at a time behind your back)

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill.



## Young Adult Corner: Portneuf gets Get Real, Get Fit! grant

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The Portneuf District Library recently received a national Get Real, Get Fit! grant. This is a national library-based program promoting physical fitness and healthy eating made possible by a grant from the MetLife Foundation and Libraries for the Future. They were the only Idaho library to receive a grant.

Get Real, Get Fit! targets teens and their families in an effort to combat the epidemic of obesity and physical inactivity among young people. Almost 9 million children and teens in the U.S. are overweight and more than a third of young people in grades nine through 12 do not regularly engage in vigorous physical activity.

The program enables libraries to bring together teens and their parents for discussions and activities sparked by film and literature that emphasize the importance and benefits of fitness and healthy eating. It offers opportunities to increase physical activity and adopt healthy eating habits. Through library collaboration with community partners, Get Real, Get Fit! also aims to promote awareness and use of public libraries as key resources for health and wellness information. Jeanne Farnworth, a youth librarian at the library in Chubbuck, said the \$1,500 grant will be used to pay for \$1,000 worth of health books for teenagers that will be housed in the library's Teen Zone and four interactive, inter-generational programs at the library.



Farnworth attended a training session in New York City in March to learn more about the program and said it was an inspiring event. Their first program was held May 18. and Farnworth reports it was quite a success. “We aimed at registering 50 kids and 50 of their adult counterparts. We actually had a few more than that show up. Over 120 folks of all ages came to participate in a power walk, view "In the Mix," (a PBS program made by teens for teens) and visit fitness stations and sports samplers.”

“Our library gave each adolescent their choice of novels. Each teen also received a free pedometer and prize bag with recreation trail maps, maps of our downtown's art walk and Pocatello "smile" bracelets (Pocatello is the SMILE capitol of the world) and more. Everyone participating received a free Lava Hot Springs Pool pass. Who would want to pass up such fun freebies? It was easy to get our registration filled up quickly with the newspaper, television and school promotions that we had. We had healthy snacks donated by Great Harvest Bread, Idaho Dairy Council and Culligan. Everyone seemed to have a great time and we have a list of folks wanting to participate at the next event in September,” Farnworth said.



Portneuf’s partners include Gate City Wellness, Portneuf Medical Center, Idaho on the Move, Healthy Pocatello, Healthy Youth, Sixth District Health Department, Health and Welfare, Bannock County Juvenile Justice and 4-H Extension Office, School District 25 and the Sho-Ban School District.

Forty libraries in 25 states, from Montana to Florida, were awarded this competitive grant. Farnworth said the "Get Real, Get Fit!" project received several applications from Idaho libraries. She hopes the project will be able to fund new sites next year, but there are many program ideas libraries could do on this topic

that don't require participating in the national program. Farnworth hopes to share more of these ideas and a list of materials they are getting in future issues of *The Scoop*.



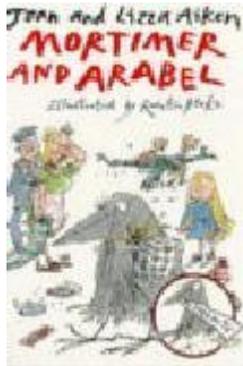
## Book Look

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**Nevermore!** by Kathryn Poulter, Marshall Public Library youth services supervisor

Joan Aiken, one of the world's most prolific children's writers, wrote four books that tell the hilarious history of Arabel and her pet raven. These books, which you can check out at the public library, have become some of my family's favorite bedtime reading.

Ever since Ebenezer (Ben, for short) Jones heard a thud one dark and stormy night as he was driving his taxi home, life has been, well, rather exciting for the Jones family. The thud Mr. Jones heard was the sound of a gang of notorious thieves committing a hit-and-run accident involving a motorcycle and a large, hungry raven. Mr. Jones kindly took the raven home to see if he could revive it, and life was never the same again. His little daughter Arabel befriended the raven and named him Mortimer. The two became inseparable and before long Mortimer was an accepted member of the Jones family. Unfortunately, Mortimer had some rather unusual habits, as the Jones family discovered when he ate their stairs and turned their house upside down. In fact, wherever Mortimer went, he left a trail of chaos in his wake.



*Arabel's Raven* (1974), the first in the series, explains how Mortimer came to the Jones family, ate much of their furniture, and foiled the Cash and Carat gang at the Rumbury Town train station. The adventures continue in *Arabel and Mortimer* (1981), where the Jones family returned a large diamond ring Mortimer found in the back seat of Mr. Jones' taxi and received an all-expense-paid cruise to Spain as a reward. During the cruise, Arabel heard loud screams coming from the direction of the beauty salon. "Screams always made Arabel anxious if Mortimer was anywhere in the neighborhood; so often they seemed to have some connection with him." No one could have guessed that by the end of the story Mortimer would have to be rescued from a locked piano that was drifting out to sea!

In *Mortimer's Cross* (1984), the famous rock star Naughty Madge Owens was kidnapped by a crime ring and was being held for ransom in a deserted building. The story of how Mortimer and Arabel rescue her, and in the process just happen to discover why so many books have been disappearing from the Rumbury Public Library, will be sure to make you laugh. Finally, in *Mortimer Says Nothing* (1987), Mrs Jones has worked herself in to a state after an unexpected announcement by the Rumbury Ladies Kitchen Club. At the same time a visiting

professor wants to make a tape-recording of Mortimer. Even after an episode with a meringue-covered cat and an invasion of thousands of mice, Mortimer persists in silence. But the only words he ever does say are “Kaaark” and “Nevermore.” Nevermore will your home be the same after you make Mortimer, Arabel, and her parents part of your family.

## Upcoming Events

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Here are some links to web sites with calendars which may be of interest:



[www.kidsliteracycolorado.douglascountylibraries.org/calendar.htm](http://www.kidsliteracycolorado.douglascountylibraries.org/calendar.htm)

The Douglas County Library (CO) has a **calendar of activities for promoting literacy** for children care providers and parents of young children. Each month has five activities, many of which can be shared casually during the day. The same site also lists specific literacy-related dates in each month.



[www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=ISL](http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=ISL)

The State Library's calendar lists items of importance to the Idaho library community as well as the State Library's meeting and training schedule.



**YALSA's Power Up with Print Institute** is scheduled for three locations in Idaho, brought to you by Read to Me, a service of the Idaho State Library. The dates are:

- Thursday, September 15 at the Nampa Civic Center
- Friday, September 16 at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls
- Monday, September 19 at the Coeur d'Alene Inn in Coeur d'Alene

The one-day Institute is free and is designed for public and school librarians working with youth ages 12-18. Watch for registration information later this summer. If you have questions, contact Peggy or Stephanie at (800) 458-3271 or 334-2150 (Boise area) or by e-mail: [peggy.mcclendon@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:peggy.mcclendon@libraries.idaho.gov).



### **Idaho's Journey for Diversity and Human Rights Workshop**

The University of Idaho Extension is pleased to announce the first installment of Idaho's Journey for Diversity and Human Rights. Idaho's Journey is a traveling workshop designed to explore the historical roots of the state's peoples and their human rights challenges of the past and present. This educational program is designed for anyone who would like to better understand Idaho and its people, including those in youth development and family life, business, social services, education, health, and government, as well as community members and leaders.

The first installment of Idaho's Journey for Diversity and Human Rights will be July 14-16 in northern Idaho, beginning in Coeur d'Alene and featuring stories of

the area. For full details, see the program and registration information at [www.agls.uidaho.edu/fcs](http://www.agls.uidaho.edu/fcs). The workshop is eligible for teacher Professional Development Workshop credit (1 semester hour).

Future Idaho's Journey workshops are planned for other regions of the state, exploring the human rights issues in those areas.



## Summer Reading News

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**Correction:** The last issue of *The Scoop* reported that Treasure Valley libraries had garnered \$41,000 in incentives and media support. Actually the figure is closer to \$400,00. Way to go!

**Kathy Smith, library director, and Aubrey Foote, youth services librarian, at Garden Valley Library District**

created a Summer Reading blog for their teens at <http://dragonsanddreams.blogspot.com/>. The blog is a way to communicate with teens about program information and to provide descriptions of books on the recommended reading list. To find out how they did it, read on.



Kathy said she got the idea from a technology trend article she read in the State Library newsletter and thought it would be a neat idea to try. Kathy set up the blog on <http://blogspot.com> and then she and Aubrey spent about 8 hours posting the information and graphics, including a list of 10 books related to the theme "Joust Read." Kathy laughed and said, "It was simple but not easy."



After reading three books, blogging on three books, and volunteering at two children's programs, participating teens are eligible to sign up for a group raft trip sponsored by Idaho Whitewater in August. The trip is limited to nine participants and is on a first-to-finish, first-to-sign-up basis; however those who complete the program, but miss the much sought after nine spots, are invited to a teen only pizza and movie party.

Aubrey talked about the blog at a school assembly and at a separate presentation to teachers. One teacher, the high school principal and Aubrey will be going on the float trip also.

*If your library has a blog, let us know so we can share that information in a future issue of *The Scoop*. Contact Peggy at [peggy.mcclendon@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:peggy.mcclendon@libraries.idaho.gov).*



Still looking for books to go with the summer reading theme: "**Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds?**" The Logan Public Library in Utah has compiled annotated lists on their web site. <http://library.loganutah.org/BOOKLIST/children/JuvFiction.html>

## Know the Numbers

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In a previous issue of *The Scoop*, we highlighted statistics showing improvement in the status of Idaho's children. This data, from *Idaho Kids Count, 2005*, also includes areas in which there is no improvement or worsening conditions. Among these are:

- 19% of Idaho's 9th graders do not graduate from high school.
- In 2001, 8,000 teens were neither attending school nor working.
- Idaho schools continue to have a higher ratio of students to teachers than the nation as a whole.
- The number of children receiving free and reduced school lunch continues to increase from 35.3% in 1999-2000 to 42% in 2003-2004.

The 47-page report contains more information on Idaho's kids. Sections are divided by topic and presented in easy-to-use charts and graphs. You will find the report at [www.idahokidscount.org](http://www.idahokidscount.org).

## Tips & Tools

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### Are you ready for Harry?

*The Scoop* would like to hear how Idaho libraries plan to celebrate the publication of the newest Harry Potter novel on July 16th. **Send us your plans by June 22nd, and we'll enter your library in a drawing for a Harry Potter gift package, which includes a Harry Potter doll, a Hogwarts' water bottle, and a book. We'll publish the activities in our June 24th issue.**

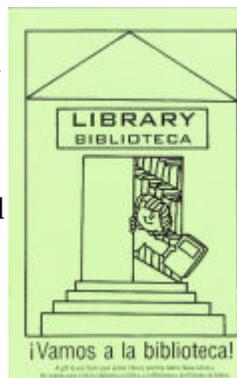
Scholastic has a web site (<http://www.scholastic.com/harrypotter/essay/>) dedicated to the hoopla surrounding the July 16 release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Kids can enter as essay contest "Why I Love Reading Harry Potter."

Also, one lucky U.S. public library will **win a signed copy of *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince***. Scholastic, the global children's publishing and media company, and the U.S. publisher of Harry Potter, announced a sweepstakes for

public libraries nationwide to win the first author-signed copy of the American edition of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, as well as additional books for the winning library's collection. Author J.K. Rowling will sign the book in the U.K. and it will travel to America under tight security to be presented to representatives from the winning public library at Scholastic's corporate headquarters in New York City on the morning of July 15. The book will then be kept on display under lock and key at Scholastic until the July 16th 12:01 a.m. release time. **Deadline for entries is June 30.** For more details and to download an entry form, go to: [www.scholastic.com/librarians/hprules.htm](http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/hprules.htm).



**Back by popular demand:** The Idaho State Library's Read to Me program recently reprinted the bilingual "Let's Go to the Library" coloring books and they have new, red, sparkly bilingual pencils available with the same "Let's Go to the Library" theme. Coloring books, pencils and loads of other cool support materials are available free of charge to any Idaho library, school, or organization that reaches Idaho parents and children. Order materials to give to children at library tours, at school visits and outreach visits today. Just print out the order form at [www.lili.org/read/readtome/orderform.pdf](http://www.lili.org/read/readtome/orderform.pdf), fill it out and fax it to the library at (208) 334-4016.



### **AmeriCorps Funding Available**

Idaho's Promise AmeriCorps Program is a program funded through a National Competitive Grant established by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Idaho's Promise AmeriCorps Program is in the midst of its first year of administration through the Idaho State 4-H Office. Previously, the Association of Idaho Cities administered the grant. Today, Idaho's Promise is based on an alliance with Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, Idaho State 4-H, and the Association of Idaho Cities. Currently, there are 20 full-time and 2 part-time AmeriCorps member positions available across Idaho for the 2005-2006 year. AmeriCorps members will begin their year in September, 2005 and will complete at least 1700 hours of service during a full-time year of service. The Idaho's Promise AmeriCorps Program and Members are committed to educational youth and adult partnerships and believe that by partnering with a variety of organizations and programs there is an avoidance of duplication of services and will aid in gaining efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. AmeriCorps Members help fulfill and sustain the 5 Promises and the 40 Developmental Assets within a community and in youth development programs and events, especially through local Youth Action Councils. The Five Promises to and for youth are:

1. Caring Adults
2. Safe Places

3. Healthy Start
4. Marketable Skills
5. Opportunities to Serve

Applications and information can also be found at <http://www.4h.uidaho.edu/programs/Promise%20AmeriCorps/howtoapplyforamember.htm>. **The application is due to the Idaho State 4-H Office by June 20, 2005.**

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact Erin Dooling at [edooling@uidaho.edu](mailto:edooling@uidaho.edu) or (208) 885-7182.



### **Community Collaboration Funds Available**

Governor Dirk Kempthorne's Generation of the Child Initiative announced the availability of funds for 2005-2006 Community Collaboration contracts. Contracts will be awarded for any amount up to \$5,000 through a competitive process. Projects or initiatives must address a specific need in communities, target high-risk children, youth and families and demonstrate collaboration between organizations, businesses, government, and/or schools. **Applications must be received by June 30.**

The purpose of these funds is to help build or enhance partnerships that create awareness regarding issues that affect children and families; improve support and resource services that nurture and sustain families and improve communication between organizations that serve families. In the past three years, the Generation of the Child has awarded nearly \$600,000 to one hundred twenty-seven contractors.

The 2005-2006 Community Collaboration Contract application and project requirements can be found on the Governor's website at [www.gccfc.idaho.gov/CCCApp05.doc](http://www.gccfc.idaho.gov/CCCApp05.doc) or <http://firstlady.idaho.gov/>. If you have any questions, please contact the Generation of the Child Initiative (208) 334-2055.

Please note that all applicants must collaborate with a Legal Jurisdiction (please see application for details). If you are collaborating with a school district, you will need the superintendent's signature; if you are collaborating with a school, you will need the principal's signature.

## **News Beyond Idaho**

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**If you have ever wanted to host an author visit** at your library, but didn't know where to start, you may be interested in reading an article in the April/May 2005 issue of *Reading Today* (pgs. 20-21), published by the International Reading Association, entitled "Optimizing Author Visits," by Margriet Ruurs. Although written for schools, the article would be useful for public libraries as well. It

provides a concise description of the value of author visits and how to make the most of the visit before, during and after. Ruiz says, "Author visits are a powerful tool to help turn kids into readers." The article provides a bibliography of planning tools, including resource books, picture books featuring author visits, and web sites.

To see the article, go to LiLI-D:

<http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?direct=true&bQuery=Author+visits&db=aph>

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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.