As we immerse ourselves in the holiday season it is a good time to stop, take a breath and remember the little things that bring your heart joy. Maybe it is a really good cup of tea on a cold winter morning or a rereading your favorite picture book to a group of kids who have never experienced it before. Or maybe if you are lucky like me, you think about those special people in your life—those that mean so much. One such person is on my mind, a dear friend and children’s librarian extraordinaire. Her name is Azam Houle and after 20 years of delighting young and old with her endearing ways and kind heart, she has decided to retire. She will remain forever in the hearts of the thousands of children and parents she has touched while working at Boise Public Library! If you would like to bring a little joy to your heart, watch the video clip of her spreading love to the little ones at this Idaho Statesman article.

P.S. You can also check out a separate interview with the local news station - KTVB.

P.P.S. One day, if I ever grow up, I hope to be like Azam! #belikeAzam
The Scoop Newsletter

LIBRARY TO LIBRARY

Idaho Family Reading Fun in Photos

Thanks to all of you for helping us celebrate this year’s Idaho Family Reading Week.

Be sure to complete your post-event summary report (link is: https://tinyurl.com/frw-summary) and tell us all about your impactful community partnerships for this program. Libraries who actively partnered to implement this activity will be entered in a drawing to win one of five Lakeshore Learning’s Fairy Tales Problem Solving Kit - Three Billy Goats Gruff: https://tinyurl.com/ThreeBillyGoatsSTEM

Some photos were borrowed from Idaho Libraries’ Facebook sites and can be viewed on the Read to Me Facebook page

YOUNG ADULT CORNER

Teen Services Competencies

YALSA recently published the newest edition of Teen Service Competencies for Library Staff. With 10 content areas and a gradation of proficiencies within, their goal is to guarantee the all teens receive high quality service from their school and public libraries. To help you better understand these competencies, they are gearing up for a series of webinars beginning in March.

Learn More / Register
SCHOOL ZONE

Save the Date:

Counting down the days till winter break (6!) and blocking out time in your calendar for parties, projects, and appointments? While your calendar is open, pencil in Summer Summit 2018 for School Librarians on July 17-19, 2018 in Boise! We will be covering some fundamentals, learning from national speakers, and networking with librarians all over the state! Unlike our last fundamentals Summit, this one is open to librarians with any amount of experience. Mark your calendars and we’ll see you in Boise!

AASL National School Library Standards

You may have heard about the release of new National School Library Standards from AASL. They are comprehensive, well thought-out, and cover the learner, the school librarian, and the school library program. They are three sets of standards in one! Over the next few months, we will cover some aspects of the standards in School Zone, as well as provide some links to more learning about them. It is a lot of information, but take heart; you will find lots of things mentioned in the Standards that you are probably doing already. The Standards are not linear, school librarians can begin where they are and still find lots of value in incorporating these standards a bit at a time.

The Framework for Learners starts with Common Beliefs that AASL compiled from feedback from more than 1,300 school librarians and were “identified as central to the profession.” It seems a good place for us to start, as well:

Common Beliefs:

1. The school library is a unique and essential part of a learning community.
2. Qualified school librarians lead effective school libraries.
3. Learners should be prepared for college, career, and life.
4. Reading is the core of personal and academic competency.
5. Intellectual freedom is every learner’s right.
6. Information technologies must be appropriately integrated and equitably available.

To read summary descriptions of the Common Beliefs, visit the standards.aasl.org website, or find them at https://goo.gl/JHqRJu. While you are there, take a look at the wheel chart illustrating the working parts of the Framework for Learners. If you’ve been using the previous version of the AASL Standards, the Think, Create, Share, and Grow components will look familiar.
New in December

Accept a Winter Reading Challenge with December’s **Low Hanging Fruit**!

December’s **Nonfiction Book of the Month** is for those who love all things gross:  The Science of Snot and Phlegm: The Slimy Truth About Breathing by Fiona MacDonald

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jump Start Kindergarten registration OPEN!

ICfL’s Jump Start program incorporates the five Every Child Ready to Read practices, encourages parents of children registering for kindergarten to get a jump start on reading, and connects public and school libraries in their common goal of providing reading readiness for children through access to books and library services. Public libraries, we encourage you to reach out to your local school library to start planning your events now.


Be sure to review the Jump Start web page as a few things have changed in our program this year: a new title (with the five early literacy practices printed on the inside book cover), a new daily reminder (a school picture magnet), and a new summary report (we want to improve the program and hear more feedback from you!).

EatPlayGrow Micro-Grant Now Open!

The Idaho Commission for Libraries, with financial support from Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation, is offering a final year of support for up to eight Idaho public libraries interested in hosting EatPlayGrow™ programming. Micro-grants from $300 to $500 are offered to support your efforts. Programs can be
The Scoop Newsletter

held anytime in 2018. Applications are due by January 10, 2018 and applicants will be notified regarding their application status by mid-January. A one-hour program webinar will be provided to micro-grant recipients in late January. [Apply Now button - http://libraries.idaho.gov/eatplaygrow]

EatPlayGrow™ is a program aimed at preschoolers and their parents that shares information about developing healthy habits along with early literacy and art activities. EatPlayGrow™ consists of a series of 11 healthy lifestyle lessons that are geared toward children under the age of six. It incorporates hands-on educational lessons along with storytelling, music, art-making and movement to teach young children and their families the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

To learn more about the program and view the great resources provided by the program developer, please visit: www.eatplaygrow.org.

ALSC needs an editor

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) seeks a member content editor for its Everyday Advocacy (EA) initiative, which launched in 2013 to educate youth services librarians on the importance of advocacy and provide them with tools to assist in articulating their own value within the library profession and community. Applications for the position are due December 31, 2017.

Tips and tools

“Light the Way” Outreach Grant

Is your library reaching out to the underserved children, caregivers and families in your community? Does your library need funding for an innovative idea or expansion to provide a service or program for this population? This

$3,000 grant, made possible by Candlewick Press in honor of Newbery Medalist and Geisel Honoree author Kate DiCamillo, will go to a library conducting exemplary outreach to underserved populations through a new program or an expansion of work already being done.

Next Steps Idaho—A tool for students Gr. 8 – 12

As part of ongoing work on the Next Steps Idaho website for the Idaho State Board of Education, Apply Idaho has been launched. This easy, four-step online college application allows students to apply to Idaho’s public institutions for free. Apply Idaho is the latest initiative in a multiyear approach to
improving Idaho’s “go-on” rate. Since September, more than 8,200 students have submitted over 20,000 applications.

Future Findr, a new career exploration tool that is now featured on the Next Steps website, was also launched. This tool is modeled after fun and engaging online quizzes that attract teenagers’ attention. Students respond to questions about their interests and skills, and their answers are matched to corresponding careers. Career results pages provide salary and market demand data; they also show where corresponding degrees are offered at Idaho institutions. Give it a try and see what your future holds.

**SUMMER READING NEWS**

**2018 Summer Reading Program Manuals have been shipped!**

Summer Reading Program manuals were shipped out to every publicly-funded public library and branch in Idaho that submitted their 2017 Summer Reading Report. Manuals were addressed to the library’s youth services department, so if you haven’t seen yours yet you might ask around your library to see if you can track it down. Manuals were sent with the following label:

If you did not request a specific format last spring, you are receiving a **USB drive** with the manual and all artwork. This year online access will also be provided with each manual order. See enclosed instructions in your package for how to access your online manual.

**New this year:** On the inventory sheet in your package is a link to let us know you received your manual. Please take a few seconds to go to that link: [https://form.jotform.com/icfl/2018-SRP-manual-received](https://form.jotform.com/icfl/2018-SRP-manual-received)

**Reminder to order early:** Upstart will not invoice you until your order ships (usually around January or February), so please place orders early to ensure stock availability. Orders placed by **December 1** will arrive by March 1.

The CSLP theme this year is “Libraries Rock!” See an overview of the 2018 theme at [http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources](http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources) under “Quality Resources.” Now is the time to begin planning for 2018! (And remember, you are not required to use the CSLP theme.)
Bright Futures Outreach program applications are open now!

If your library would like to participate in additional summer reading programming that targets those children might not or cannot access your library’s in-house programming, you can apply for these programs, sponsored by ICfL: See more information…

Parent Outreach: deadline to apply is March 21

Strengthening School Partnerships: deadline to apply is March 21

Summer Outreach to Underserved Children: deadline to apply is May 1

FEATURED: WORLD RECORDS & THE LIBRARY

World Records Broken at Idaho Library!

We all know how magical kids find the Guinness World Records Book. It is never on the shelf and always in need of another piece of book tape to keep it circulating. The next time you find it on the shelf open it up and take a look inside….oh! who am I kidding, that day will never come, so take a look online to read about our friends at the Lake Hazel Branch of the Ada Community Library. During their Summer Reading program, library supporter and STEM educator, David Rush broke TWO world’s records. It’s official!!!


What a fantastic way to showcase the library as a community center and gets kids excited about all that libraries offer. Way to go Lake Hazel Library Branch!

CE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Continuing Education as easy as 1,2,3

It’s that time of year. How many countdown lists have you seen so far? Are you ready for a countdown of the Top Ten CE Opportunities You Just Can’t Miss? Right, neither am I. Who has time for that with managing things ahead of the holiday break, thinking about exams and grades, and don’t forget your personal holiday preparations. Forget the countdown, here are 3 EASY and JOYFUL things you can do for your learning needs:

1. REGISTER for learning in early 2018. ICfL’s CE program has partnered with other organizations to get you the training that you want. See them all at http://library.idaho.gov/page/partner-training-opportunities. But consider the Foundations of Early Literacy: Using Your Knowledge to Enrich Library Experiences for Young Children and Their Families. It’s offered by Library Juice Academy and you can attend for free when you request a pre-paid course using the Course Request for on our website.

2. READ any of the articles from the latest edition of YALSA’s Young Adult Library Services journal. You can get to it through LiLi.org by going to the Publication Finder and search for the journal title. Browse by date. The Fall2017 issue is all about building partnerships with several articles on school & public library partnerships.

3. APPLY for a first-time attendance conference grant through the ICfL CE program. The Public Library Association 2018 conference is March 20-24 in Philadelphia, PA. If you’ve never been to PLA before and want to give it a try, a 1st time conference grant can cover up to $900 of your expenses. Applications are due at least 60 days prior to the conference start date.

Three things to do that don’t take a lot of time out of your busy end-of-year season, and all will reap great rewards for 2018. Give it a try. And if you need help finding an education or training opportunity that is right for you, feel free to contact gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov.

DIVERSITY IN ACTION

Serving Diverse Communities

Serving Diverse Communities: ALSC Supporting Libraries in Today’s Changing Environment a list of resources intended to help librarians support children and families through uncertain times. Download a printable PDF here: www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/professional-tools/Serving%20Diverse%20Communities%20Resources.pdf

Additional resources are available in this public Google document: http://bit.ly/alscsdc
Computer Science Education Week

This year’s Computer Science Education Week takes place December 4-10, 2017. It is the perfect time to introduce your customers of any age the free online coding resources. Hour of Code is an easy place to start. The self-paced online tutorials make coding fun and accessible at any level with or without code-savvy facilitators. If you would like to give it try and don’t know where to start contact Tammy Hawley-House.
BOOK LOOK

School Library Journal’s “Best of 2017”

Need to double check your collections to make sure you have ordered all the great books this year? Or maybe you are just needing to freshen up your reader’s advisory go-to list. Look no further than SLJ’s annual “Best of….” Lists.


Talk Back: We welcome your feedback on anything in The Scoop. Just email Staci, Tammy, or Kristina and we’ll print your comments in The Scoop.

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