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DATES & DEADLINES

- Apply now for **Bright Futures** summer outreach programs:
 - **School Partnerships: Due Feb. 1**
 - **School Visits and Reaching Underserved Children: Due March 31**
- **February 25** is the deadline for **Idaho Elementary School mini-grant applications**.
- Apply to participate in **EatPlayGrow™** any time.
- Apply to participate in **Jump Start**, the kindergarten registration program, as soon as you know registration dates!

WELCOME

By Staci Shaw



Seasons Readings! There are Olaf of great holiday and winter displays in our libraries--we'd love to see some of yours! Post your library's best on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/readtomeidaho/>. Be sure to tell us which library the display is in.

We hope your holidays are full of love, peace, and cozy reads.

Read to Me Program Accepts Donations!

Individuals who contribute to the Idaho Commission for Libraries are eligible for tax savings. [Idaho Code section 63-3029A](#) allows individuals or corporations to take a tax credit for charitable contributions made to public libraries, library districts, and the Commission for Libraries. Donations to the Read to Me Program are used to get more books into the hands of children in Idaho who are unlikely to have books at home.

An individual taxpayer's contribution to a public library is allowed as an itemized deduction on the federal return and on the Idaho return. In addition, the taxpayer receives an Idaho tax credit for the contribution. The credit is limited to the smallest of one-half of the amount contributed, 50% of the individual's income tax, or \$500 (\$1,000 on a joint return). For corporations, the credit is limited to the smallest of one-half of the amount contributed, 10% of the corporation's income tax, or \$5,000.

If you have questions, check with your accountant or the Idaho State Tax Commission for complete information. **To receive a deduction for 2015, individuals must donate by December 31, 2015.**

To donate, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/donate>



LIBRARY TO LIBRARY

Idaho Falls Public Library's Extreme Book Nerd Challenge Part of "Book Rich" Community

Almost a year ago the IFPL dared patrons to get through 52 books in various assigned topics in one year in exchange for a hooded sweatshirt. This is no small feat. One book a week is over twice as many books as the 20 a typical reader gets through in one year.

But in Idaho Falls, so many participants signed up for the "Extreme Book Nerd Challenge," many had to wait until the end of the summer to record their reading efforts in their library-provided journal. The library expected 50 or so to participate, but, according to Liza Evans of IFPL, 1,001 signed up. The project was so successful, in fact, library personnel are planning another challenge for 2016.

[Read article in the Post Register...](#)

Leadore Pulls in Science for Family Fun Night

The Leadore Community Branch of the Lemhi County District Library combined a Math & Science Event with their Family Reading Week Event on November 19th. "We called it Family Reading and Technology Night. Activities included Puffy Paint Moons, a Blanket Fort, Invisible Ink, Legos, K'NEX, Adult Coloring, Circuits, and Blocks," Leadore Directory Sherry Kauer said. Although bad weather hurt attendance, the activities were a big hit with those who made it. The following pictures show some of the fun activities.



Idaho Family Reading Week Teaser

This annual celebration of reading as a family has wrapped up for 2015. We had 114 public and school libraries participate in a variety of activities to "Curl Up with a Classic." Some programs were a one-time event, some were ongoing for 1-3 weeks, some were online, and some had to be cancelled because of inclement weather. The theme allowed for a wide range of activities from wild rumpuses to visits from favorite children's book characters. Library staff are still in the process of submitting final reports and photos, so there will be a feature article about Family Reading Week in January. We will share participation numbers, ideas for partnering and funding the program, as well as sharing highlights and photos of events. Next year's theme is "Laugh It Up," so be thinking of ideas to bring families in, books to read, and ways to involve community partners in your event. Idaho Family

Reading Week is an excellent tool for highlighting the importance of reading and the valuable resources that libraries offer to children and their families.



Left: Scott Dorval, Meteorologist for KIVI Channel 6, reads *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* with Bonnie Arriola and families at the Star branch of the Ada Community Library. Below: Family fun at the Patricia Romanko Library in Parma.



YOUNG ADULT CORNER

Get Ready for the 2016 Teen Tech Week™

YALSA has everything libraries need to plan great TTW activities for March 6 - 12 at www.ala.org/teentechweek. Visit the site to sign up for a free webinar on Dec. 15th. Join YALSA in celebrating the A in STEAM with the “create it at your library” theme.

Free Teen Tech Week™ Webinar Dec. 15 & TTW Grants!

Visit www.ala.org/teentechweek to apply for grants and sign up for a free webinar on Dec. 15th about how to plan project-based learning activities for and with teens. Join YALSA in celebrating the A in STEAM with the “create it at your library” theme March 6 – 12, 2016. Apply by Jan. 1 for one of twenty \$1,000 grants to help you implement programs to support digital literacy skill development with underserved teens.

LAST CALL: Apply by January 1 for Summer Learning Grants

YALSA is giving away 20 \$1,000 grants to support libraries’ summer learning efforts, as well as another 20 \$1,000 grants to support hiring teen interns over the summer. Learn more and apply at <http://summerreading.ning.com/page/summer-learning-grants>

The Year's Best YA Nonfiction & Debut Authors

YALSA announced the finalists for the Nonfiction and Morris Awards in early December. The Nonfiction Award honors the year's best nonfiction written for teens, while the Morris Award honors the year's best debut author writing for teens. Visit www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists for details.

YALSA Webinar

YALSA is sponsoring a webinar on "Making the Leap from Summer Reading to Summer Learning" on Feb. 18. See www.ala.org/yalsa/webinars for more information.



SCHOOL ZONE

Librarian Super Heroes use Journal Alerts!

It is a little known fact that Barbara Gordon, a.k.a. Batgirl, started her career as a librarian. It's true! Librarians can become superheroes outside Gotham City, too, by providing the right resources and information at the right time. Journal alerts are a great tool to start your utility belt and gain superhero status at school!

Here is how it works:

[Continue reading article...](#)

Here are two wonderfully short tutorials from Ebsco on how to do it:

[Email Alert for new articles](#)
[Journal Alert in Ebscohost](#)

Once you get started, it is quick and easy to set up these tools, and it is also easy to disable them when they are no longer needed. Enjoy the superhero life!

Nonfiction Book of the Month

Lewis and Clark in a Graphic Novel Format. <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/non-fiction-books-month>

Low-Hanging Fruit

Citation Tools are not what they used to be – they are easier to use than ever! <http://libraries.idaho.gov/low-hanging-fruit>

School Libraries Work! 2016 Edition

School Librarians are always on the lookout for research and data about the benefits of good school library programs. Scholastic has just published the 2016 edition of *School Libraries Work!*, which has done all the compiling of the most current information on the topic for us. This new edition builds upon the 2008 edition, and reinforces the conclusion that quality school library programs elevate student learning. Some of the studies mentioned are from NCTE, National Center for Literacy Education and, of course, all the state studies. The 30-page

report is free, but a code is required to access the download. Get the code by visiting www.scholastic.com/SLW2016/ or by Googling "2016 School Libraries Work!" Enter your name, school, and email address and you will receive a code good for one download. The directions are easy and the information is invaluable.

Idaho Future Fund Triples Its Support of Education

The Idaho Future Fund in ICF will increase its available grants from \$100,000 in 2015 to \$300,000 in 2016. Grants will be distributed throughout Idaho's three regions – the north, east and southwest. Idaho Future Fund grants support preschool scholarships, charter schools, public schools and public school libraries. Idaho Future Fund recipients received grants between \$9,000 and \$20,000 in 2015.

[More Info](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALA Youth Media Awards



The American Library Association (ALA) Youth Media Awards will be announced **Monday, January 11 at 8:00 a.m. EST**, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibition in Boston. Join ALA for a [live webcast](#) of the press conference or follow I Love Libraries on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to be among the first to know the 2016 winners. The official hashtag for the 2015 Youth Media Awards is [#ALAyma](#).

The [ALA Youth Media Awards](#) honor children's and young adult authors and illustrators, as well as producers of children's audio and video materials. These include the Newbery, Caldecott, Printz, King, Batchelder, Belpre, Carnegie, Geisel, Odyssey, and Sibert awards and more. For more information:

www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/presskits/youthmediaawards/alayouthmediaawards

TIPS AND TOOLS

Book Club Podcasts for Teens and Tweens

Check out these great podcasts of books like *Chains*, by Laurie Halse Anderson, *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl, Anthony Horowitz's first Alex Rider book *Stormbreaker*, and many more. These would be great to use in your own librarian-led book clubs, or just for stealth programming or On-Your-Own book clubs.

www.bookclubforkids.org/

Idaho Community Foundation Northern Region Grant Cycle Open

Northern Region: Opens Nov. 1, closes Jan. 15. Distribution is scheduled to begin in June. Open to applicants from Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce and Shoshone counties.

[Click here](#) to see a sample Regional Competitive Grant application.

[Click here](#) to see how to apply.

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Provides Grants

Established by children's book author and illustrator Ezra Jack Keats, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation is accepting applications to its mini-grants program from public schools and public. In honor of Ezra's 100th birthday, all Mini-Grant proposals should have a Keats theme. Programs, from puppet shows to science projects, should be informed by one or more aspect of Keats's books, life and vision. Grants of up to \$500 will be awarded. Projects funded in the past include murals, pen pal groups, quilts, theater productions, newspapers and other publications, intergenerational activities, and programs that bring disparate communities together. The program will also fund activities that support the Common Core Standards. Public schools, public libraries, and preschool Head Start programs are eligible to apply. Private and parochial schools and charter schools are not eligible. Applications are due March 31, 2016. See www.ezra-jack-keats.org/how-to-apply-for-a-mini-grant/ for more information.

Free Art Books for Underserved Schools and Libraries

Teachers and librarians can place an order for free books with Art Resources Transfer's Distribution to Underserved Communities Library Program (D.U.C.): www.artresourcestransfer.org/duc. The D.U.C. provides public schools and libraries with free books on contemporary art and culture. All public institutions who self-define as underserved are encouraged to create an account and place an order through this website.

Check out the 295 new titles, as well as new educational and editorial content at www.artresourcestransfer.org/#blog. Questions and comments can be directed to: duc@artresourcestransfer.org.



SUMMER READING NEWS

Apply for School Partnerships, Increase SRP Attendance!

Strengthening School Partnerships is an opt-in Bright Futures Outreach Program. Based on what we're learning statewide and nationally, the following components make the strongest impact on participation in the library's summer reading program:

- Face-to-face planning between public library staff, the school librarian, and the school principal
- Clear goals and expectations for student participation rate
- Active promotion in the spring by both school and public library
- Personal contact with parents and caregivers in the spring
- Communication by principal to students and/or parents over the summer
- Achievable goals for what "participation" means
- Access to books during summer months for children who can't come to the library
- Recognition in the fall for students who participated

- “Challenges” or “contests” can greatly motivate students and staff to accomplish a goal

This program is designed to increase student participation in the library’s summer reading program and minimize summer learning loss by offering a framework and resources for a successful partnership.

- The application must be submitted by the public library, but school librarians/staff are welcome to initiate the application process with their public library.
- School librarian, school principal, and public library staff meet face-to-face to develop a “Reading Challenge” for the school. A **toolkit** is provided that explains each component of the Reading Challenge.
- The school and public library will each receive a partnership package of books and promotional materials to help meet goals and components of program.
- **Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2016.**

Learn More

Wilson Elementary participated with the Caldwell Public Library in Strengthening School Partnerships for 2015.

To reward Wilson Elementary (Caldwell) students for meeting their Summer Library Reading Program participation goal, Principal Tabby Bruegeman agreed to kiss a pig. To the delight of Wilson students and parents, out trotted Wednesday, the mini pig (not so "mini" from Mrs. B's standpoint) and Mrs. B made good on her promise.

Principal involvement and enthusiasm is critical in keeping students reading over the summer and participating in the library’s SRP.



Backpacks for School Visits!

As most of you know, federal funding requirements prohibit ICfL from providing items such as backpacks for promotional purposes; however, through a partnership with the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, funding is being provided to offer special backpacks that libraries can hand out at school assemblies and field trips to the library to promote summer reading and a Summer of Code (details coming soon). The backpacks will be provided to libraries who apply for our **Bright Futures School Visits** outreach program. Here are some basic requirements:

- Libraries must apply—this is an opt-in program. Since the funding is private, we can offer this program to public *and* volunteer libraries this year.
- Backpacks can be distributed at elementary schools, middle schools, and junior highs. The target audience for Summer of Code is elementary and junior high students. Private and



parochial schools can be included. Preschool children are *not* included in the target audience.

- All libraries participating in School Visits must formally evaluate their summer reading programs.
- Libraries that agree to track the number of students who read at least 10 hours or 10 books over the summer will be given priority; however, this is not a requirement and if supplies are available after the deadline, libraries not tracking will receive backpacks in the order in which their application was originally submitted. *Note: We are receiving 100,000 backpacks this year. We will likely have plenty to go around!*
- Libraries must submit the number of schools and backpacks distributed in their annual summer reading report, due September 15.

Apply

Register for Free CSLP Webinars

The editors for the CSLP early literacy and teen program manuals will share insightful tips for building excitement for the 2016 program and get your planning off to a great start!

On Your Mark, Get Set... READ! Early Literacy Webinar

In this hour-long webinar, Editor Amanda Struckmeyer will highlight age-appropriate books, fingerplays, songs, and activities from the early literacy manual that will inspire your youngest library patrons to develop a love of learning.

Date: January 12, 2016

Time: 1 p.m. Mountain Time, noon Pacific Time

Register



Get in the Game...READ! Teen Webinar

In this hour-long webinar, you'll hear programming and display ideas to inspire a fun and active summer. These highlights from the manual will help you discover ways to motivate teens to get in the game and keep their minds and bodies healthy.

Date: January 28, 2016

Time: 1 p.m. Mountain Time, noon Pacific Time

Register



FEATURED:

What is the Idaho AfterSchool Network?

The Idaho AfterSchool Network (IAN) is a statewide program charged with the mission to ensure that all Idaho youth have access to high quality out-of-school programs.

The IAN was officially launched in October of 2014. The IAN is the only program of its kind in Idaho, but similar programs exist in 47 other states. As seen in other states, school networks have a track record of providing critical resources and organizational capacity for out-of-school programs and most have experienced an increase in number of youth enrolling in summer and afterschool programs. The IAN is currently working to:



- 1) Survey out-of-school programs and create a statewide interactive GIS-based directory that will help connect youth with out-of-school activities in their local communities.** An interactive map/directory of out-of-school programs has been launched at idahoafterschool.org. All programs listed in the IAN's *2015-2016 Out-of-school Program Survey* will be searchable in the directory and/or map. The survey is collecting responses from any provider that offers resources to youth outside of the school time. The survey was launched in partnership with the University of Idaho in June 2015 and will allow for a deeper understanding about the current status and needs of out-of-school time in Idaho. Libraries with afterschool programs can participate in the survey by going to the IAN website.
- 2) Build statewide awareness about the importance of out-of-school programs.** The IAN is collecting stories from program providers about the impact their programs are having on young lives. Also, the IAN would like to help promote your events or news to your community or local press. If you have a story to share, contact the IAN. The IAN is encouraging out-of-school program providers to connect to the IAN and each other via the IAN newsletter, Facebook, and Twitter (hashtag #IDAfterschool).
- 3) Offer trainings and support to enrich and expand current and new programs and partnerships.** The IAN is working to build a library of resources for out-of-school programs from grant opportunities to tools on social and emotional development. The IAN is hosting monthly webinars to dive deeper into topics of interest. In spring of 2016, the IAN will host regional breakout sessions to help connect providers across Idaho and tailor resources & training to local needs.

The IAN is one of the programs of the nonprofit Jannus, Inc. It is supported by financial partnerships with the C.S. Mott Foundation, the University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development, the Idaho Department of Education, the Idaho Commission for Libraries, Boise Parks & Recreation, the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, and the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health. Additional support is also offered by other members of IAN's Steering Committee. For more information about IAN, visit their [website](http://www.idahoafterschool.org) or contact Program Director Marie Hattaway, mhattaway@jannus.org or (208) 336-5533 x 283. Find them on Facebook at [idahoafterschoolnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/idahoafterschoolnetwork) or follow them on Twitter on [IDAfterschool](https://twitter.com/IDAfterschool).



CE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Info2Go: Bright Futures programs

Join us to learn about our three Bright Futures Summer Outreach programs for 2016 on **January 4, 2016** at **12:30 pm**: <http://icfl.adobeconnect.com/ce>

Free Webinars

December 15, 2015: [Data Visualization for the Rest of Us: A Beginner's Guide](#)

A Webjunction webinar on how to effectively turn data into visuals that tell the story of your library's impact.

Other Free Webjunction Webinars can be found at <https://www.webjunction.org/find-training/free-events.html>

December 21, 2015, 6:00 pm Mountain Time - [This Month in School Libraries \(TL Virtual Cafe\)](#)

This is a LIVE show presented in news show format featuring a Wrap up of "This Month in School Libraries" and deeper discussion of topical school library issues with special guest experts. Did we mention it was LIVE?

December 23, 2015, 9:00 am Mountain Time - [Best New Teen Books of 2015 \(Nebraska Library Commission\)](#)

Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission's Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Service, and Jill Annis, Librarian at Elkhorn (NE) Grandview Middle School, will give brief book talks on new titles that could be good additions to your library's collection. Titles for middle and high school ages will be included.



MULTICULTURAL CONNECTIONS

About Día

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is reaching out to organizations nationwide to build a national database that showcases all types and sizes of Día programming.

Día is a nationally recognized initiative that emphasizes the importance of literacy for all children from all backgrounds. It is a daily commitment to linking children and their families to diverse books, languages and cultures. The common goals of all Día programming are to:

- Celebrate children and connect them to the world of learning through books, stories and libraries.
- Nurture cognitive and literacy development in ways that honor and embrace a child's home language and culture.
- Introduce families to community resources that provide opportunities for learning through multiple literacies.
- Recognize and respect culture, heritage and language as powerful tools for strengthening families and communities.

Tell ALSC what you are doing at your library throughout the year to celebrate Día. The information will display on the website, in both the map and database format, allowing you to share it with other librarians and the public interested in learning more about Día programs happening around the country.

[More Info](#)

KNOW THE NUMBERS



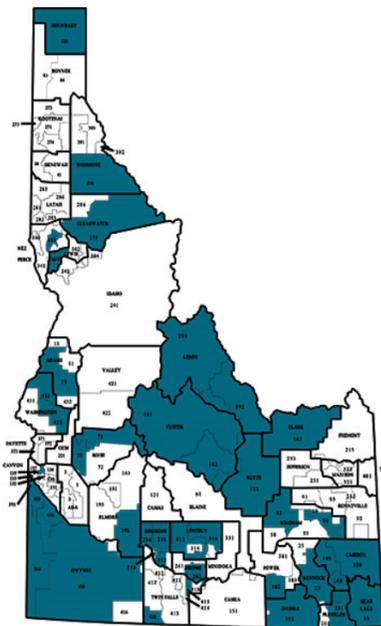
The Four-day School Week in Idaho

From Idaho Ed News, Nov. 19, 2015

Four-day schools represent a dramatic trend in Idaho education. This year, 9.1 percent of Idaho’s public school student body, or **26,881** students, will spend just four days per week in school. Their days run 45 minutes to an hour longer than a five-day school.



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Avery | Bear Lake County |
| Bingham Academy Charter | Blackfoot Charter |
| Bliss | Boundary County |
| Bruneau-Grand View | Butte County |
| Cambridge | Challis |
| Clark County | COSSA Academy |
| Council | Culdesac |
| Firth | Garden Valley |
| Glenns Ferry | Gooding |
| Grace | Hagerman |
| Hansen | Heritage Academy |
| Highland | Homedale |
| Horseshoe Bend | Idaho Science & Tech Charter |
| Mackay | Marsh Valley |
| Marsing | Melba |
| Midvale | North Gem |
| North Idaho STEM | Notus |
| Oneida County | Orofino |
| Pleasant Valley Elementary | Preston |
| Richfield | Rockland |
| Sage International Charter | Salmon |
| Salmon River | SEI TEC Charter |
| Shoshone | Snake River |
| Soda Springs | South Lemhi |
| The Village Charter | Three Creek Elementary |
| Upper Carmen | Valley |
| Wendell | |



To critics, four-day schools symbolize the state’s failure to support public education, despite language in the Constitution requiring adequate funding. To advocates, four-day schools embody local control — even innovation.

Here are some key findings from an in-depth four-month examination by Idaho Education News and Idaho Public Television:

- The academic statistics are inconclusive, but troubling. This spring, students in four-day schools struggled on [new online tests](#) aligned to Idaho Core Standards. Students in four-day schools scored lower on the

SAT, a college entrance exam. Most four-day schools lag well behind on Idaho's overarching education goal: [boosting a meager college attendance rate](#).

- Many districts adopted the four-day schedule to stay afloat during the recession, but saved little money in the process. Some districts balked at cutting staff hours — always a difficult decision in rural communities, where jobs are often scarce.
- Many teachers have grown to like the four-day schedule, and administrators have adjusted to a changing labor market. Many superintendents see the four-day calendar as a key to recruiting teachers to small-town Idaho, and keeping experienced teachers on the job.
- The four-day calendar has freed up Fridays across a wide swath of the state. Some four-day schools use this day for regimented and focused teacher training — considering this a key to improved student achievement. In other districts, teachers and students are on their own on Fridays.

Read more about Four-Day Schools in Idaho and in the West from Idaho Ed News:

- [An unproven experiment, involving 26,881 Idaho students](#), November 16, 2015
- [Data dive: Surprising statistics on four-day schools](#), November 18, 2015
- [Four-day school test scores are inconclusive — but troubling](#), December 7, 2015



STEAM

Crazy 8's for Libraries

Crazy 8s is a new **after-school math club** designed to get kids fired up about math. Every week Crazy 8ers build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess... all while bonding with new friends over math. It's easy for your library to host a Crazy 8s Club! Here's how it works:

[Continue reading...](#)

Idaho PK12 STEM Grants Available

The Idaho STEM Action Center is offering a new PK12 STEM Grant for up to \$2,500 for innovative STEM projects. These grants are open to both formal and informal educational settings. To learn more and to apply go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDSTEMGrants>. **Grant applications are due Dec 18, 2015.** Projects will be selected and monies made available by January 22, 2016 with projects to be completed by June 30, 2016. For full details, please follow the link.

LearnStorm Coming to Idaho!

Idaho libraries and other afterschool programs and organizations are encouraged to help promote LearnStorm -- a free math challenge that celebrates student progress and hustle on Khan Academy. Over nine weeks, students in grades 3-12 master math skills to earn rewards for themselves and their school.

LearnStorm is powered by Khan Academy, a not-for-profit on a mission to provide a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere. LearnStorm is coming to the state of Idaho with help from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation.

The challenge kicks off on January 29, 2016. See learnstorm2016.org or view the December 9 LearnStorm webinar hosted and recorded by ICfL at <http://icfl.adobeconnect.com/p4hcbfj9a1z/>. If you have questions about how libraries can help promote the challenge, please contact [Stephanie](#) at the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

Hour of Code and Code.org free training

Did your school participate in the Hour of Code this week? To help teachers and librarians take the Hour of Code a step further, Code.org (the organization that brings us Hour of Code) is offering free training to Idaho educators. Learn how to bring these skills, which will be essential background knowledge for those of us living and working in the 21st Century, to students at your school. Get more information at <https://code.org/educate/idaho>.

More news on this from Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA):

Idaho Digital Learning in collaboration with the Idaho Technology Council are working to offer elementary, middle and high school teachers the opportunity to participate in free professional development programs. Their goal is to increase access to computer science to all K-12 students in Idaho.

IDLA is actively seeking participants who would like to join the second cohort of professional development for the 2016-2017 school year. Teachers can select from the following professional development opportunities that aligns with your **high school or middle school**:

- Computer Science Principles in High School **NEW!**
- Exploring Computer Science in High School
- Computer Science in Middle School Algebra
- Computer Science in Middle School Science

OR

For elementary grades in the Treasure Valley:

Code.org has developed a free elementary school curriculum that allows even the youngest students to explore the limitless world of computing. The courses blend online, self-guided and self-paced tutorials with “unplugged” activities that require no computer at all. Each course consists of about 20 lessons that may be implemented as one unit or over the course of a semester. Even kindergarten-aged pre-readers can participate. PD credit is available.

Nampa

Location: Columbia High School, Nampa

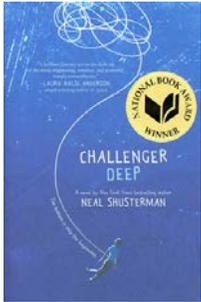
Date: December 12, 2015

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

To get up-to-date information on news for school librarians, be sure to Like School Libraries – ICfL on Facebook or follow us on Twitter [@JeannieStandal](#).

BOOK LOOK

National Book Award: YA Winner



This year's winner is *Challenger Deep*, by Neal Shusterman. Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior. Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head. Bosch is on a galleon that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. He is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images. He is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. He is torn. He is dealing with schizophrenia... and as fantasy and paranoia begin to take over, his parents have only one choice left.

[See all finalists](#)

School Library Journal Best Books 2015

Distinguished by stellar writing, luminous artwork, smart design, original storytelling, and strong appeal, these books represent a diverse array of voices and viewpoints. Here is a sampling:

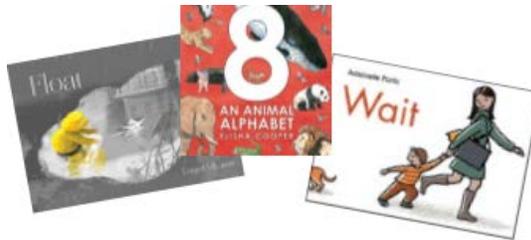
[See full list](#)

Picture books:

8: An Animal Alphabet, by Elisha Cooper

Float, by Daniel Miyares

Wait, by Antoinette Portis

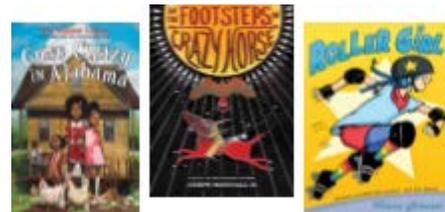


Middle Grade:

Roller Girl, by Victoria Jamieson

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse, by Joseph Marshall, III

Gone Crazy in Alabama, by Rita Williams-Garcia



YA:

The Accident Season, by Moira Fowley-Doyle

Carry On, by Rainbow Rowell

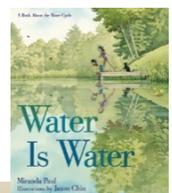
More Happy Than Not, by Adam Silvera



Nonfiction:

Water is Water: A Book about the Water Cycle, by Miranda Paul (PreS-Gr 2)

Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip through the Motown Sound, by Andrea Davis Pinkney (Gr 5 Up)



Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx, by Sonia Manzano (Gr 9 Up)

[See full list](#)



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

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