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Welcome

Welcome to the 10th issue of *The Scoop*. As summer reading programs start to wind down, we hope you'll consider sharing a little information about what's going on at your library. We know you are busy, but sharing what you are doing, what's worked for you or what you thought would work and didn't, good books you've read, tips and ideas is what people look forward to reading. We need more of it! So don't worry if you think you can't write or don't have more than a few minutes, here's a few tips we hope will motivate you to send us a quick e-mail:

- Think blog, bullet points, even random thoughts! We'll proof and edit if it needs it, but the important part is just sharing your ideas, thoughts and questions.
- No time to type? Give Peggy or me a phone call and we'll even write it up for you.
- If you've had to write a summary report on summer reading or a service area you've been working on for your supervisor, board, or grant funder, then you already have the information others would like to hear about. Please send it our way!
- They say a photograph is worth a thousand words. We love sharing photos! We especially love seeing programs and kids in action. We do need signed permission from parents or guardians to publish photos of children in *The Scoop*. [A photo release is available by clicking here](#) (pdf). E-mail us a digital photo or send us a hard copy, and we'll scan it and get it right back to you.
- Still need a little motivation to drop us an e-mail? We'll do a free drawing once a month for cool books or other fun things for your library. We'll enter names of anyone who submits anything to *The Scoop* and let you know if you won a prize. This month's drawing prize is *Days of Knights and Damsels: An Activity Guide* by Laurie Carlson. So send an e-mail to Stephanie (stephanie.bailey-white@libraries.idaho.gov) or Peggy (peggy.mcclendon@libraries.idaho.gov)! Please! The next issue is August 19.



Meet Heather Stout

Dynamic, energetic, and upbeat are just a few words we would use to describe Heather Stout, the Community/Youth Services Librarian at the Lewiston City Library. Heather has worked at the library for five years and has been in the library field since 1991. She worked at an Elementary School Library when she began working towards her MLS. At the Lewiston Library, Heather works primarily in Youth Services, but in the “Community” part of her position she is responsible for programming and PR for the entire community, ages 0 to 100. Heather also provides all outreach services, storytimes, and collection development for JE, J and YA.

When asked about her favorite part of the job, Heather replied, “The kids.” Her favorite book as a child was *Charlotte’s Web* and all the E.B. White books. She said, “I have collected pigs since I was 5 years old. As an adult, I read *Peace Like a River* by Lief Enger a few years back and have not read another book to top it.....yet.”

In her free time, Heather is an AVID scrapbooker. She also loves photography, and says, “The older I get the more I enjoy gardening, although I don’t know what I am doing, and I love watching movies. On a personal note, Heather shares, “I live on a farm/ranch. We raise wheat, peas, lentils and cattle. I have two daughters, one at U of I, and one that will be a senior in high school this fall.”



Library to Library

Harry Potter at the Mountain Home Public Library

For one of our Family Nights, during the Summer Reading Program, we had a “Harry Potter Night.” Families made magic wands, they had wizard punch and pretzel wands, and the biggest hit of the



night was our Quidditch game held outside at the park (our library is under construction).



Hoola-hoops on six-foot wooden stakes were the goals, water noodles were the broomsticks, a beach ball was the quaffle, soft water balls (not wet) were the bludgers, and a ping pong ball painted gold was the golden snitch. This was by far the biggest hit of the night. Kids were so excited that the wind and heat didn't seem to bother them. The parents were involved as they stood on each side of the playing field and passed the snitch back and forth across the field (like keep away) until it was caught by a seeker.

Potter at Moscow Public

Moscow Public Library, and the two branches of Juliaetta and Bovill, are planning Harry Potter parties as a wrap-up to the end of the summer of "Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds." There will be crafts, food, trivia, and a presentation of "The Care and Feeding of Magical Beasts" featuring puppets prominent from the books. - Betsy Bybell, Outreach Services Manager, Latah County Library District

Harry in the Silver Valley

The Silver Valley libraries hosted a Harry Potter Party on Wednesday, July 20th on the Pinehurst library lawn at 11:30 a.m. All five libraries were involved--each library was in charge of one to three activities--depending on the amount of work required. They planned for 200 children.

Lewiston City Library Wins Harry Potter Book

More than 9,000 public libraries nationwide entered the sweepstakes for a chance to win the new Harry Potter book. Due to the overwhelming response to the sweepstakes, *Scholastic* announced 49 additional prizes. Author J.K. Rowling graciously agreed to sign 49 bookplates to be placed inside special library-bound editions of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* and presented to one public library sweepstakes participant from each of the other 49 United States (in addition to NC). (See complete list on their web site http://www.scholastic.com/aboutscholastic/news/press_07152005_CP.htm). Lewiston City Library was the Idaho winner. Congratulations!

Signing babies can reduce families' frustration levels

Families with babies who can use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate may experience less frustration and stress – perhaps the best baby gift of all.

The next session of the free Signing Babies Class is Thursday, Aug. 4, 9-10 a.m., at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. The class is for expectant mothers, babies age newborn to two years old, their parents and other caregivers. It is not necessary to bring your child, but he or she is welcome. Participants receive a 50-word dictionary of ASL to begin teaching their babies and sharing with other family members.

Infants who are using their hands to express their needs – pointing at objects, for example – can be taught to use ASL to communicate before they begin to speak, according to Russ Patterson, the Library's Interpreter for the Deaf and instructor for the class.

"The parents and families of babies who learn sign language will tend to experience lower frustration levels, deeper bonding and higher levels of trust when their baby knows that you understand what he or she is trying to say," Patterson said.

Patterson also said that children who learn sign language before they speak communicate their wants and needs at an earlier age, may learn to speak earlier and will have an earlier understanding of the English language. "Signing babies may also have an above-average ability later in life to learn other languages," he said, "and may have higher IQs – perhaps as much as 20 points higher."

For more news and information about the library visit www.cdalibrary.org. For more information about the Signing Babies program, contact [David Townsend](#) or Russ Patterson at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library, 208/769-2315.]



Fairy Tale Fear Factor – How - To Instructions

Stephanie Stokes, Coordinator of the California Summer Reading Program

Collaborative, is a great source of ideas. She recently sent out this to other Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) members:

"CSLP's **Indiana State Rep Jody Maples** shared this recently on an e-mail list, '.....200 kids came and made swamp slime (gak), ogre ears, and challenged themselves to participate in the Fairy Tale Fear Factor.....'

To which I wrote back..... Ok Jody hand it over <grin> I want the instructions? or outline or food list? for the 'Fairy Tale Fear Factor.' And how do you make ogre ears?

So here you all go.... Many thanks to Jody Maples, Youth Services Manager, Lawrenceburg Public Library District, Lawrenceburg, Indiana, for sharing her food list guide, parents permission letter and photos from her 'Shrek Fest' Event. Jody says, 'I was surprised how many kids were freaked out by the challenges! It was so much fun. The ogre ears are also included. I had some teen volunteers paint the picture of Shrek and Donkey on thick cardboard I got from Sears for the kids to have their pictures taken. They really enjoyed this. I used a digital camera and made copies from our color copier for them to take home. Enjoy!'

Fairy Tale Food List & Ogre Ears (pdf) Fairy Tale Permission Slip (pdf) Shrek Fest Fear Factor pictures (pdf)

You can download everything now at..... <http://www.casummerreading.org/resources.html>."



Young Adult Corner

The following article appeared in *The Hitchhiker*, New Mexico's State Library publication. Special thanks to them for sharing what's going on with teens & summer reading in their state!

Most Summer Reading programs (SRP) around the state find it easy to cater their programs to younger children, but teens must be considered separately. Here are some ways youth librarians in the state are involving this age group in their summer programming.

Put 'em to work. Laura Metzler, the children's librarian at the Erna Fergusson Library in the Albuquerque/ Bernalillo County Library System has found that using teens as volunteers for the Summer Reading Program is a very successful way to bring in this age group. She has teens sign kids up for the program and hand out prizes as the younger SRP participants complete their reading.

It is very helpful to the librarians and makes the teens feel an important part of the library team. She also does a weekly lunch program for teens by having them bring in a sack lunch, which they eat out in the courtyard where they talk about what books people are reading. This is combined with a craft project or an activity. She tries to keep the cost at about one- to one-and-a-half dollars per person. This year they are doing origami, comic art, life-sized board games, Japanese calligraphy, Frisbee golf, fantasy miniature painting, miniature castle building, and t-shirt painting.

Inspire ‘em. Judith Isaacs at the Jemez Springs Public Library has planned a list of activities for her teens. Programming will cover a wide range of crafts, activities, and interests. Her list looked like this: June 9 – did you know that the Braille system was invented by a teenager? Learn about Braille and record a book on tape. June 16 – watch a video on the artist Wyland and his life-size murals of whales. Help plan a mural for the book barn. June 23 – they can be simple or complex... Get creative with Judith and make a pop-up book. June 30 – using hula hoops and tissue paper, help put together a caterpillar float like no other. July 7 – come see and hear stories shared in sign language as well as oral language with visiting storyteller Kim Stacey. July 14 – share the northern New Mexico story La Llorona with Janet and create spooky stories of your own. July 21 – the new Harry Potter is out! Share some readings, and then play life-size Jemez Monopoly. July 28 – wear old clothes and come paint our mural. And on August 3, summer readers of all ages are invited to the End of Summer picnic.

Roamin’ gnomes. Cynthia J. Shetter, the library director of Los Lunas Public Library, is giving her teens disposable cameras and gnomes. Gnomes? You know, those short folks that like to hang out in gardens and look, well, gemütlich. The plan is that her teens will take their gnomes with them on summer vacation and activities, snapping shots of them as they roam through summer. At the end of summer, all these snap shots will go into a scrapbook.

The plan expanded when Cynthia won a prize from radio station BIG I 107.9. She found a way to turn it to a Summer Reading Program advantage. The prize was a private concert with Dierks Bentley (see <http://www.dierks.com>), the country super star on air at the BIG I Café. His recent album is titled “Modern Day Drifter.” That got Cynthia to thinking... a drifter travels ... on the road... DING! DING! DING! That’s what she wants her teens to do with their gnomes! Opportunist as most librarians are, Cynthia asked Dierks on the air (she told him he could say no) if he would take a gnome on the road and take pictures of his gnoming tour. She also included materials to make a Gnome Gnovel (scrapbook with call outs) and he said no problem. He is starting by taking a picture on stage at “Cowboys” in Albuquerque. Result? Free publicity for the SRP and an opportunity when he sends the scrapbook back for an auction to raise money for next years' Summer Reading Program.

Book Look

Is anyone out there reading anything except Harry?? How fun to see so many kids and adults excited about reading! How is your library handling the demand? How long is your waiting list? We want to know -- really!

Looking for some books that relate to food? Food is not only fun, but is also a way to reach storyhour participants with visual and physical challenges.



The Florida Division of Library and Information Services has a great annotated list on their web site from their 2002 summer reading program manual. Whether you feed your readers *Brave Potatoes* by Toby Speed, *Piggie Pie* by Margie Palatini, or *The Ugly Vegetables* by Grace Lin, you are sure to whet their appetites for more books. To see the complete list, go to:

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/bld/flyp2002/html/Pink/Pink.html>.



Summer Reading News

Boise Public Youth Services Librarian Linda Brilz shared the following SRP news item: We just got the official ½ time stats from the Summer Reading Program and for the main library and kids' enrollment is up almost 17% and teens are up 31%. Woo hoo! I think the stats for Ada Community and Meridian are way, way, way up too. Even more than Boise Public. What can I say - YS librarians RULE!



We think so too, Linda! And we want to hear more stories. Send them our way!

And how do you like the photo of **Buhl Public Library's youth services librarians Louise Nofziger (left) and Marybeth Welch**? They had fun with this year's SRP theme and had great cooperation with their local elementary school. They participated in this year's "Read for Your Library" program and their school principal did a special guest reading for them among other fun activities. Way to go!!



Early reports from libraries around the state indicate that 2005 will be an exceptional year for summer reading participation. **Linda Rassmussen, director of Grace District Library**, reported, "Another wild and crazy summer: we love it. This program increases the community awareness of library services---June always has the highest circulation."

Teresa Lynch from Payette Public Library related, "We did not have a registration cut off this year, all were welcome at any time during the program. If people saw a crowd in the park and wanted to join, we let them. The amount of people we were able to serve each week was amazing. We feel our families were very happy with the program!!"

Debbie DePaola, manager of the Lava Hot Springs Branch of the South Bannock District Library, shared, "The theme was perfect, the children looked forward to each week's theme. Our community supports us well. We feel fortunate that the community realizes the importance of reading all summer long to improve literacy among our children. The biggest success story of all was we almost doubled our participation number over last year's."

Know the Numbers

If you are looking for some data for a grant proposal or to present to your library board, this article from *Pediatrics* is chock-full of facts and research that supports the need for early literacy outreach and the need to work more closely with the health care community to reach parents. Here's one little fact from the article:

“Despite the attention given to the importance of reading and related activities that encourage young children to learn to read, many children in the United States still experience difficulty mastering basic reading skills. In the 2000 Nation’s Report Card of Fourth Grade Reading, only 32% of children in the sample tested at or above proficient level, and 37% tested below basic (partial Mastery) level.”

“The indicator for poverty in the Nation’s Report Card was eligibility for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The relevance of poverty to literacy later in childhood is substantial. In 2000, 14% of children who were identified as low income on the basis of NSLP eligibility tested at or above proficient level, whereas 60% tested below basic level. In comparison, 41% of children who were not eligible for the NSLP tested at or above proficient level, with 28% below basic level.”

The article citation is: Kuo A.A., Franke T.M., Regladado M. & Halfon, N. (2004). "Parent report of reading to young children." *Pediatrics*. 113:6, 1944-1951.

The persistent link (from LiLI) is

<http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&an=13165595> in case you want to read the whole article.



A Closer Look

Summer Reading at the **Priest Lake Public Library** concluded last week with all the pomp and circumstance associated with a medieval banquet. Laura Davis, Library Director, sends the following report.

We really enjoyed the Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds theme and used many of the ideas provided. Twenty-two youngsters, kindergarten through 6th grade, attended the final session at the Priest Lake Public Library. While the kids were enjoying a rousing interactive story with Susie Luckey, Head Teacher from our elementary school, the banquet table (a long strip of freezer paper taped to the floor) and seating (carpet sample mats) was being prepared. We then had them line up by grade, youngest first, and called them to the banquet hall with a “Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye, a fine repast, a royal banquet, has been prepared in your honor. Come forward all ye summer readers and receive your crown!” Each child was crowned upon entering the banquet hall and announced, “I give you Prince/Princess _____,” before being seated at the great table. The serving maidens then circulated with platters of PBJ triangles, Little Smokies, cheese and crackers, dill pickles, baby carrots, watermelon, cantaloupe and red and green grapes. Dragon Juice (lemon-lime Gatorade) was the beverage. A dessert of

individually wrapped cakes completed the meal, and, as each child finished eating, he or she was excused to find books to check out. Being an “equal opportunity” kingdom, the serving maidens, Trish Tatham, Martha Grimes, Susie Luckey, Jan Bradbury (elementary school librarian), Bobbie Barg, Kay Coydendall, Anita Filliger and Laura Davis also received crowns and were allowed to enjoy the fine repast.



The serving maidens included library staff and volunteers, as well as the elementary school teacher and librarian. Pictured from left to right are Anita Filliger - assistant librarian, Trish Tatham, Jan Bradbury - elementary school librarian, Susie Luckey - elementary school Head Teacher, Bobbie Barg, Martha Grimes and Kay Coykendall. The unfinished addition to the library made a great banquet hall.

Tips & Tools

If you didn't get a chance to hear NPR's "Talk of the Nation" on July 6, you can still listen to it from their web site (at www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4731739). The topic was the whys and hows of getting kids to read and featured the following guests:

Paul Kropp, author of *How to Make Your Child a Reader For Life* and other books for reluctant readers

Esme Raji Codell, author of *How to Get Your Child to Love Reading*; creator of www.PlanetEsme.com, a web site devoted to kids and reading

Steven Johnson, author of *Everything Bad is Good For You: How Today's Popular Culture Is Actually Making Us Smarter*

Jon Scieszka, author of *The Stinky Cheeseman* and *The Time Warp Trio* series for kids

These were a few points I picked up from listening to the show:

- Listening to adults read aloud (as well as listening to books on tape) helps strengthen and lengthen children's attention spans.
- Children lose 1/3 of a grade level over the summer if they aren't reading (adds up to over two years' lost by sixth grade if they aren't reading over the summer months).
- Tips for encouraging reluctant readers: 1) Find some good books one or two levels below their grade level; 2) Hook them with humor 3) Remember it takes a lot of easy reading to make reading easy -- comic books, magazines, anything they are interested in is GOOD!
- Celebrate readers of nonfiction as readers. Nonfiction rocks! (and boys like it, too.)
- In addition to listening to adults read aloud, kids also need to read and read aloud themselves. Author Paul Kropp used the analogy that listening to someone play Bach on the piano may deepen your appreciation for playing the piano, but it's not going to help you become a better piano player. Kids need to read to become better readers.



Are you interested in bringing an author to your library? This web site features award-winning authors, a description of their presentations, bios, fees, books and more. It also includes a bibliography of articles related to author visits. For more information, see <http://www.visitingauthors.com/>.

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