

The Scoop

Fun, inspiring and innovative ideas
for library youth services

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Jan 6, 2022

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WELCOME

By Jennifer Redford

The Youth Services Team at the ICfL is excited to kick off another new year of *The Scoop*! As we begin the 18th year for this newsletter, I went back and looked at [the very first edition](#), published in February 2005. We have definitely come a long way since then – our team has expanded and we offer more services and programs to Idaho libraries than ever. It was cool to see some familiar faces highlighted – check it out if you get the chance.

Our team works all year to bring timely and relevant professional development, programs, and services to help you serve your communities. Here's a quick overview of what you can expect from us over the next year:

January – Summer STEM grant opens; SLA Mini-Grant opens

February – New Teen Connection Kits launch

March – Read to Me Rendezvous

April/May – Support for outreach and JumpStart; Apply for My First Books

June – Summer Reading & Summer STEM support

July – Summer Summit

August – Apply for Kindergarten Readiness grant; Apply for Bucks for Books award

September – Idaho Teen Reading Challenge begins

October – Idaho Library Association conference

November – Family Reading Week; Apply for Welcoming Libraries grant

December – Prepare for 2023

We will continue to keep you updated each month in *The Scoop*. Check out the [Read to Me, Teens](#), and [School Libraries](#) websites for additional information, including a link to order [FREE Early Literacy support materials](#). You can also connect to each other during regular LITT virtual discussions. [Learn more and sign up for topic-specific listservs here.](#)

Our whole team is looking forward to working with you this year!

LIBRARY TO LIBRARY

Family Reading Week 2021 – Some Amazing Achievements!

Our public and school library staff, alongside their partners, offered some amazing literacy events this year utilizing the Family Reading Week theme of “Believe and Achieve”.

For starters, our reporting libraries served over 10,000 participants (children and family members combined) and over 8,000 children specifically. What an amazing achievement during the month of November!

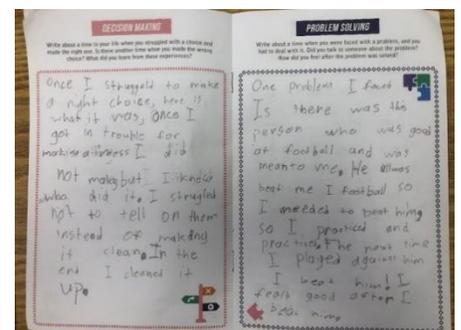
While reading the program reports, it was evident that, despite the continuing COVID/Delta challenges, libraries poured their creativity and thoughtfulness into program planning this year. Here are a just a few of the insightful comments and inspiring photos shared with ICfL via these reports:



“Each week, we honored a different person in our Family Reading Week display. For example, the first week we honored Mary Walker. We centered the display on the book provided and added pictures and facts about Mary Walker. We posted a new video to our Facebook page every Monday to talk about Family Reading Week, who we were honoring, and a ‘couple of things you might not know are available at the library’... [We] had an average of 451 views! We had people mention to us that they didn't know about certain services (for example, we have

Playaway Launchpads to borrow) until they saw the video. It was fun to relate the ‘Believe and Achieve’ [theme] to the children's own lives while telling them about inspiring people they may not otherwise have known about. We got multiple comments about our Mary Walker display from adults who wanted to know more about her.” - Middleton Public Library

“I actually loved the journals! At first, I thought, ‘There's no way I'm going to get very many of these returned.’ But kids kept turning them in and they were so fun to read! There were a lot of eye-opening moments as I read some of the entries and it made me smile and gave me hope for these kiddos as they go through another random year of school.” - Shadow Hills Elementary





Hansen District Library

"We built our FRW kickoff party around the book, *How to Solve a Problem* by Ashima Shiraishi. After reading the book and discussing how she believed she could figure out how to climb a particular rock and that allowed her to achieve success, we divided into groups and had participants attack various STEM kits. We had groups looking under a microscope at their hair strands while other groups constructed towers with Magnatiles and still others created Gravitrax raceways. One young patron, who has been attending library programs since birth, said 'THIS WAS THE BEST DAY EVER' at the library. He had so much fun, he brought all his siblings back the following week to show them all the cool STEM kits. ...Readers were encouraged to bring their completed journals back to the library and to share one page with a staff member. Most kids were so excited about their journals that they shared all the completed pages." - Hansen District Library



McCall Public Library

McCall Public Library hosts special outdoor Family Reading Week storytime around the firepit.



American Falls District Library

"We had a great turnout [115 cars drive through; a total of 440 participants], with more families than ever before participating in the curbside event. We also had a record number of volunteers from our partner, Hillcrest Elementary School. It was so fun to watch the teachers take orders at each car and then hand-pick books for the students who are in their class. We always rent a book character costume for a promotional visit at the elementary school...just to get kids excited about coming. Then the character is on hand to meet and greet at the event, and take pics with the kids, or just wave at them when it's a curbside event. This year's character was Penelope the Dinosaur. We loved it when two adorable kids waved their Penelope books out the window of their car as they drove by." American Falls District Library



Nampa Public Library

“My friend Annie Castiel, Director of Dreamweaver Theater Productions, volunteered to write a script for the puppet show. We had a great time putting together "Humpty Dumpty's Great Climb". I thought it represented the theme very well.... It was fun to create a puppet show and share it on our YouTube channel. In three weeks, it's generated 354 views!” – Nampa Public Library

On the program report, we asked each participating library to weigh in on the theme for next year's FRW. A few more libraries need to submit their reports and then the tallying can begin. Look to the February

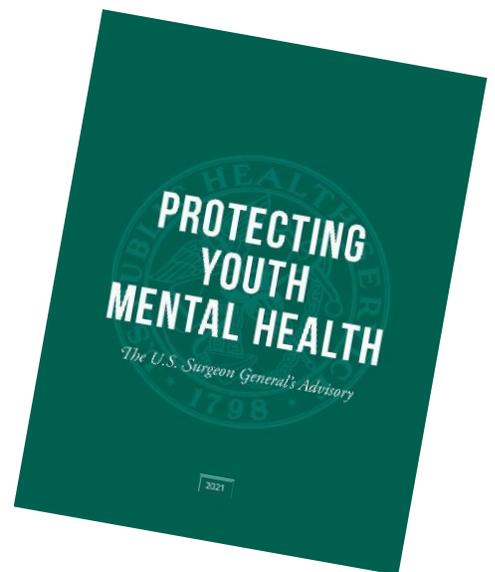
issue of *The Scoop* for a theme announcement so you can begin making plans for FRW Fall 2022!

TWEENS & TEENS

U.S. Surgeon General Issues Advisory on Youth Mental Health Crisis Further Exposed by COVID-19 Pandemic

From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

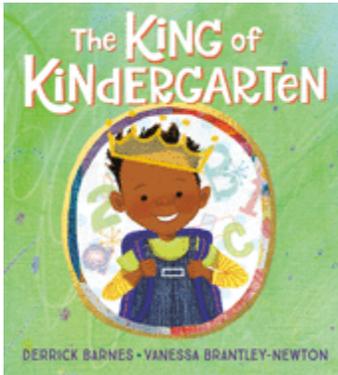
Before the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health challenges were the leading cause of disability and poor life outcomes in young people, with **up to one in five children** ages 3 to 17 in the U.S. having a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral disorder. Additionally, from 2009 to 2019, the share of high school students who reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness increased by 40%, to more than one in three students. Suicidal behaviors among high school students also **increased during the decade** preceding COVID, with 19% seriously considering attempting suicide, a 36% increase from 2009 to 2019, and about 16% having made a suicide plan in the prior year, a **44% increase from 2009 to 2019**. Between 2007 and 2018, suicide rates among youth ages 10-24 in the U.S. **increased by 57%**, - PDF and early estimates show more than **6,600 suicide deaths** - PDF among this age group in 2020.



[Learn More](#)

KINDERGARTEN READY CORNER

Jump Start Kindergarten – Updated Materials & New Book

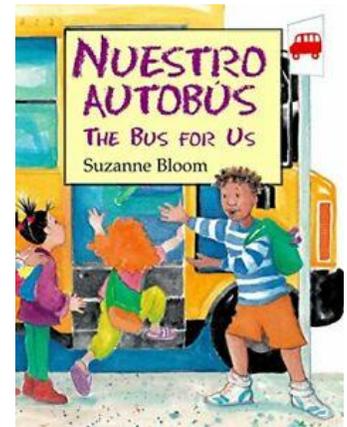


A new year and a new book for the Jump Start Kindergarten program – *The King of Kindergarten*, by Derrick Barnes - is here! Ten thousand custom copies of this book journeyed across the ocean and, somehow, made it here on time (despite the line of cargo ships waiting to unload).

As always, we have a bilingual title also available, *Nuestro Autobus*, by Suzanne Bloom (which was the new title last year), for your Jump Start Kindergarten requests. A new Spanish-English bilingual version of both the *Ready to Read*

Bingo Card and the *Ready to Read Parent Handout* will also be available this year, along with the younger sibling book, *DJ's Busy Day*, published by Too Small to Fail.

Check out all of our great resources and the request form at the [Jump Start webpage](#). If you have any questions this winter as you prepare for spring, please contact [Kristina Taylor](#).



LITT: Early Learning – Social-Emotional Learning

The next Libraries in Idaho Talking Trends (LITT) Early Learning discussion will focus on “Social-Emotional” learning, which has become a catchphrase we’re hearing about a lot in the media lately. Join us Feb. 4 to discuss what social-emotional learning is, why it is important to the development of healthy children, and how libraries can support (and already are supporting) social-emotional learning through storytimes, collection development, and within the physical library environment. As a result of this discussion, we hope library staff will feel knowledgeable and comfortable talking to parents and caregivers about this topic.

Date: Friday, Feb. 4

Time: 2 – 3:30 p.m. MT / 1 – 2:30 p.m. PT

[Learn More](#)

Why Child's Play Is Serious Business

Fun and games bring more than just joy. A growing [body of research](#) is making the case for play as a way to boost the well-being of young children as the pandemic drags on and concerns over learning loss and mental health issues escalate. This article from *EdSource*, Dec. 8, 2021, focuses on how play not only supports the development of cognitive skills such as literacy, math, science, and social studies, but how play can help children cope with the trauma of growing up during a pandemic.



[Read article...](#)

SCHOOL ZONE

Audiobooks for Students

Listening to audiobooks is real reading. While decoding skills may not be used while listening to an audiobook, students are practicing other literacy skills, perhaps even to a greater degree than when they are working hard to decode text, such as:

- ✓ Vocabulary development
- ✓ Comprehension
- ✓ Analysis of character development and story arc
- ✓ Identification of literary devices and techniques
- ✓ Access to important texts for English language learners and struggling readers
- ✓ Cultivation of a love of reading and stories

For all their virtues, there is a giant barrier between K-12 students and audiobooks: audio titles are expensive. If school districts have not already become a member of the ICfL's Idaho Digital Ebook Alliance (IDEA), free access to audiobooks for students is another excellent reason to sign up! In addition to thousands of e-books, at this writing there are **3,978** juvenile and young adult audio titles available to students through the IDEA collection, and more are added every week. There is no cost to your school or school district to join; all that's required is an agreement between the ICfL and the school district.

Visit the [IDEA webpage](#) for more information on the collection and how to connect.

For more information on the benefits of audiobooks for K-12 students, [read this quick article](#) from edsurge.com.

The New SLA Mini-Grant for K-12 School Libraries Opens January 18, 2022!

The 2022-2023 School Library Access Mini-Grant is open to any publicly funded K-12 school in Idaho. That's right! If your public school has a library, a librarian, and has not received an SLA Mini-Grant in the last three school years, it is eligible to apply.

Not sure if your school has received an SLA Mini-Grant? [Check this document](#). Eligible schools have received an SLA Mini-Grant in the 2017-2018 school year or before or have never received this grant.



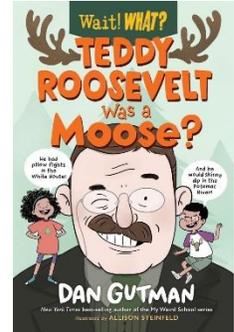
Interested? Visit the [School Library Access Mini-Grant](#) page on Jan. 18 for the details and the application. The application window will close on April 1, 2022.

Low Hanging Fruit

There are myriad of ways to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – check out a few of them in January's [Low Hanging Fruit](#).

Nonfiction Book of the Month

Teddy Roosevelt is the newest subject of Dan Gutman's Wait! What? biography series and [January's Nonfiction Book of the Month](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Info2Go: Serving Homeschooling Families

Have you wondered how you can better attract and serve the homeschool community? What resources are best? Do you have the right tools for their needs? The answers might not be what you think. Join Linda Hincks, homeschool veteran and teacher, for a one-hour webinar to learn more about educational differentiation and what opportunities there are for libraries to contribute to homeschoolers' successes.

After participating in this webinar, participants should be able to:

- Understand philosophies of homeschooling along the spectrum of choice
- Identify educational biases and outline challenges of working with homeschoolers when their educational style is unlike your own
- Explore how curation in the library helps in the planning and execution of learning for homeschoolers in order to better serve and deliver resources to the homeschool community

Date: Thursday, Jan. 13

Time: 11 a.m. MT/10 a.m. PT

Where: Zoom – register below for link

[Register](#)

Save the Date: Read to Me Rendezvous



March 16 – 17, 2022

At this time, we plan to host the event in person; however, we will continue to monitor positivity rates and/or community gathering restrictions. Registration information will be available later in January 2022. Stay tuned!

CHECK IT OUT

Children in Trauma Bibliography

The [Children in Trauma bibliography](#) was created by Dr. Megan McCaffrey, assistant professor in the Division of Education at Governors State University. Categorized by theme, the bibliography includes books that address traumas such as domestic abuse and bullying; general grief and loss; illness, anxiety, and depression; pandemics; poverty; and more.

How to Navigate the Bibliography: Books in the bibliography have been listed in six thematic groups on the left menu. Clicking on a group opens a box where books are listed under individual themes.

2022 Youth Media Awards

Each year the American Library Association (ALA) honors books, videos, and other outstanding materials for children and teens. Recognized worldwide for the high quality they represent, the ALA Youth Media Awards (YMA), including the prestigious Newbery, Caldecott, Printz, and Coretta Scott King Book Awards, guide parents, educators, librarians, and others in selecting the best materials for youth. Selected by committees composed of librarians and other literature and media experts, the awards encourage original and creative work in the field of children's and young adult literature and media.



The 2022 Youth Media Award announcements will take place virtually on **Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, at 8 a.m. CT** during [LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience](#), a completely new conference experience based on years of research, exploration, and feedback from industry partners, event planning experts, and most importantly, ALA members. A live video stream will be available at <https://ala.unikron.com/>.

The 2022 announcements will include ALA Affiliate Awards including the [Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature](#), [Sydney Taylor Book Award](#), and the biennial [American Indian Youth Literature Award](#).

A Fresh Look at Idaho Public Television

Our friends at Idaho Public Television have launched updated education pages on its website. Check it out and don't forget to **sign up for their education newsletter**: <https://www.idahoptv.org/education/>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Third Year of Welcoming Libraries Grants Awarded

Congratulations to the following libraries for applying and receiving \$1,000 awards from the FY22 Welcoming Libraries Grant:

- Ada Community Library
- Burton Elementary School, Madison School District
- Cascade Public Library
- Challis Public Library
- Franklin County District Library (Larsen-Sant)
- Lewiston City Library
- Midway Elementary School, Jefferson School District
- Meridian Library District



Congratulations to you all and a special thank you to the ICfL's supporter, the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, for their financial support of this grant.

SUMMER READING NEWS

Scottish Rite Masons of Idaho Pledge Donation for 2022

We are pleased to announce that the Scottish Rite Foundation has once again chosen the Idaho Commission for Libraries as a recipient of their annual giving campaign. The donation of \$15,500 will be used to purchase books for summer readers, which will be distributed to Idaho public libraries in the spring of 2022 to use for prizes and outreach events.

The donation in 2021 purchased 6,000 paperback books that were distributed to every public library that planned to host a summer reading program. The number of books each library received was based on the number of children and teens who participated in the library's summer reading programs in 2019 (pre-pandemic data). A formula was created to distribute the donation equitably among all Idaho's libraries and branches.



Summer readers in the Prairie River Library District-Lapwai Branch's summer library program, 2021

The donation for 2022 will allow the ICfL to provide a few additional books per library. Because the funds are intended to support the Scottish Rite Foundation's goal of third grade reading proficiency, most of the books will be focused on pre-K through about fourth grade. The Scottish Rite donation will help libraries **extend** their summer program budgets; however, most libraries will not receive as many books as needed for prizes and outreach, so please plan your budgets accordingly. More information will be available in the coming months. Questions can be directed to [Staci Shaw](#).

News from CSLP

Read the current [Collaborative Summer Library Programs \(CSLP\) newsletter](#).

The recordings of sessions from the **Collaborative Summer Library Program's Summer Symposium** [have been posted](#), along with slide decks and other resources. These recordings are available to everyone, whether or not you registered for the Summer Symposium. Recordings include:

- Welcome – CSLP Executive Director – Luke Kralik
- Keynote: Summer Matters: Making All Learning Count – Liz McChesney
- "You're Gonna Need a Bigger Flyer": Library Summer Program Marketing Crash Course – Cari Hillman
- What's Great About Your Community: Extending your connections to youth and families – Sara White, Beth Yates, Christy Franzman, Carrie Sanders, Kelsey Hughes, and Leah Larson
- Catch the Programming Wave (with Oceans of Possibilities)! – Cathy Lancaster, Deborah Dutcher, and Adrienne Butler
- Feeding Your Community: Summer Meals at Libraries – Maged Hanafi, Penny Weaver, Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Devon Andrews, Linda Bartley, Kay Kay DeRossette, and Kate McCartney



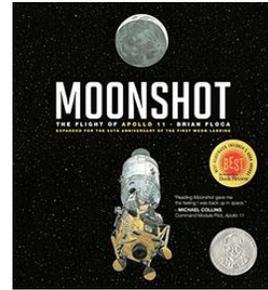
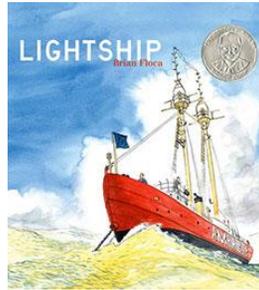
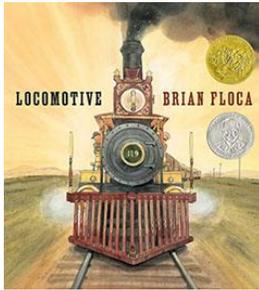
New product:

In response to feedback from our librarians, CSLP is offering a recycled [paper alternative](#) to the plastic bags. Order this and all your summer program products now, before items sell out.



Artist for 2025 Announced

Caldecott Medal winner **Brian Floca** has agreed to be the artist for the 2025 CSLP program on the theme of Art. The slogan will be determined in the fall of 2022.



FEATURED:

Idaho Libraries & Laundromats: Learning in Everyday Spaces

In 2020, the ICfL began a pilot project to bring literacy centers to Idaho through local public libraries. Based on the findings of two studies by the Laundry Literacy Coalition, the intent was to establish “literacy-rich spaces” in local laundromats and take advantage of laundry wait times by bringing books and other early literacy materials to children and families utilizing laundromats in rural settings, as well as low-income suburban and urban communities. The ICfL piloted this project with three Idaho libraries (in four sites) in the fall of 2020 through spring of 2021. By the fall of 2021, the Commission expanded the project to ten additional libraries, and it now serves 13 sites in the state.

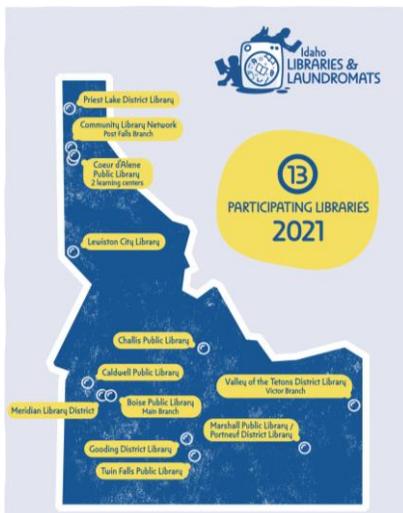
Read the complete research studies, related articles, and learn more about the Commission’s project on [our webpage](#). If your library would like to get on our list for

future project expansion, complete the Libraries & Laundromats Interest Form at the bottom of our webpage:

[Learn More](#)



Learning in everyday spaces



Colleen Olive, Youth Services Librarian at Lewiston City Library, with the staff members of the Southway 76 Dyna Mart laundromat in front of the new “Family Read, Play, and Learn Center,” donated to the Idaho Libraries & Laundromats project by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.



CE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Sign Up for the CE Digest

Have you heard of the CE Digest newsletter? You can get weekly updates on upcoming free CE opportunities for Idaho library workers by subscribing to the CE Digest newsletter [here](#). For a preview of what the newsletter looks like or more information, visit [this page](#).

Let the ICfL Pay for Your Online Learning

Did you know the ICfL will cover the cost of online continuing education courses or webinars through [Infopeople](#), [Library Juice](#), and [Amigos](#)? It's true! If there's an online course or webinar from these providers you'd like to take, you can apply for access by completing the corresponding Course Access Request Form accessible from [this page](#). To qualify for future CE funds for online learning students must complete the follow-up survey and apply to access the course at least 15 days in advance.

Below are a few upcoming online courses you might be able to squeeze into your very busy schedule!

Supercharging Your Storytimes (Library Juice Academy), Feb. 7 – Mar. 20, 2022

Using your knowledge of early literacy skills and practices based on Every Child Ready to Read®, supercharge your storytimes! Interactivity with children and their parents/caregivers, and intentionality, being purposeful in connecting storytime books and experiences, support early literacy behaviors. Assessment through self-reflection and peer sharing, along with hands-on practice developing and delivering early literacy tips to adults in storytimes, will provide you with the opportunity to energize your storytimes while becoming an advocate for early literacy in your library and community.

- [Details & course overview](#)
- [Course access request form \(Library Juice Academy\)](#)

Allyship, Anti-Oppression Practices, and Building Inclusive Libraries (Library Juice Academy), Feb. 7 – Mar. 6, 2022

Witnessing acts of oppression can be a jarring experience. Bystanders are often horrified by the behavior, but become paralyzed with shock or aren't sure how to intervene without causing more harm. The inability to respond in these incidents can be combated by equipping yourself with the tools and skills to be an effective ally. Allies can have a significant impact on making libraries the equitable and inclusive spaces we aspire for them to be. This Allyship course will educate you on how to support members of marginalized groups with everyday actions in a range of scenarios and offer guidance on working to dismantle systemic oppression. We know that the library profession is overwhelmingly white. Recruiting and retaining diverse voices is a step in the right direction, but it is important that libraries do not place the brunt of the diversity and inclusion work on the shoulders of these underrepresented voices. Even members of marginalized communities may not have the skills needed to react in the moment or don't feel empowered to fightback against oppression.

- [Details & course overview](#)

- [Course access request form \(Library Juice Academy\)](#)

Foundations of Library Services (Infopeople), Feb. 8 – Mar. 21, 2022

Do you want to gain a deeper understanding of the mission, ethics, and core values of libraries? Are you interested in better understanding the staffing and governing structures of libraries (with a focus on public libraries)? Would you like a broad introduction to various aspects of library service, including reference, circulation, cataloging, and collection development? Most importantly, do you want to understand how each of these elements translates into better service for library users?

- [Details & course overview](#)
- [Course access request form \(Infopeople\)](#)

Foundations of Intellectual Freedom (Amigos Library Services), Feb. 16 – Mar. 2, 2022

If you have ever found yourself explaining why we collect certain types of books, protecting a user's privacy by asking the police for a subpoena, or finding creative ways to remove barriers to access, this is the session for you. The workshop is divided into three sections that provide a short information component followed by a small group breakout, where attendees will be led through scenarios. These "Practical & Everyday's" are the focus of the workshop. Attendees will have the time to listen and work through real situations from libraries and come away with ideas and tools they can practically apply in their own libraries.

- [Details & course overview](#)
- [Course access request form \(Amigos\)](#)

Need a Camera or Mic for Your Training?

The ICfL is making virtual conferencing equipment available for library staff in Idaho. Through a simple application, eligible Idaho libraries can receive a webcam and/or headset at no cost. Publicly funded public, school, academic, and special libraries are eligible. The virtual conference kits are for library staff to participate remotely in IcfL-sponsored continuing education activities, trainings, or other virtual learning and collaboration opportunities.

The virtual conference kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants who can show a need for them. The brief application may be accessed [here](#). If approved, the virtual conference kit will be mailed to the applicant library.



DIVERSITY IN ACTION

Expansion of Bilingual Titles for IcfL's Outreach for Underserved Children

Based on feedback from outreach library staff across the state, we heard that in addition to bilingual books in Spanish-English, there is a growing need for other bilingual language books as library staff conduct outreach events in their communities.

Good news! At the end of 2021, the ICfL was able to purchase some paperback books in the following languages to expand the choices available for library literacy outreach efforts for underserved children in 2022:

- Arabic/English
- Dari/English
- French/English
- Mandarin/English
- Pashto/English
- Russian/English
- Swahili/English

[Learn More](#)

STEAM

Summer STEM 2022

The Summer STEM grant application for 2022 will open on Jan. 17, 2022. The Idaho STEM Action Center provides funds to the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) to award up to 70 public, school, or academic libraries \$500 each to help pay for materials or presenters to support STEM outreach efforts during the summer. The ICfL also provides a toolkit for learning activities, a branded yard sign and other resources. The Summer STEM from Your Library program has three primary goals:

- Increase access to fun, engaging, hands-on STEM activities for underserved youth beyond the normal library programming efforts
- Increase children's access to books over the summer months
- Increase the number of children who minimize learning loss during the summer

We are working on creating a new toolkit of activities to support your programming. We also hope to launch a self-paced tutorial on providing high-quality STEM activities on Niche Academy in the next few months. Stay tuned to LibIdaho for the announcement that the grant is open, or [check the Summer STEM webpage](#) on Jan. 17.



Coding as a Playground Virtual Book Club – Cohort 2

Coding as a Playground, by Marina Umaschi Bers, is a book that introduces computational thinking concepts in early childhood settings. The second edition of the book recently came out and focuses on engaging children with early computational thinking concepts in ways that promote the development of early literacy skills.

The Idaho Commission for Libraries and Idaho STEM Action Center are collaborating to form a virtual book club for the second edition of *Coding as a Playground*. This project will have two main goals:

- Introduce librarians and early childhood professionals in Idaho to the research and practices of computational thinking for young children, as outlined in *Coding as a Playground*.
- Develop communities of practice who can work together to improve early literacy, including digital literacy, for Idaho's youngest learners.

Registration is now open for Cohort 2 of this virtual book club series.

Here is how it will work:

Who: All Idaho library staff and early childhood professionals may apply to be part of the book club. Virtual book club meetings will be facilitated by Jennifer Redford from the Idaho Commission for Libraries and Heather Lee from the Idaho STEM Action Center. There will be around 15 participants in the club.

When: We will meet for six weeks on **Tuesday afternoons at 4 p.m. MT/3 p.m. PT** on the following dates: Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 22, and Mar. 1. Each meeting will be one hour long.

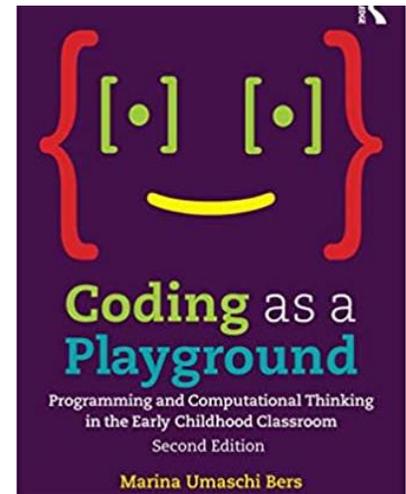
How it works: Prior to the first meeting, participants will be mailed a physical copy of the book to keep. All meetings will be one hour and will take place via Zoom. Everyone who attends at least five sessions and completes an evaluation form will receive a [KIBO robot kit](#) for their library or classroom after the final book club meeting. Six months after the end of the book club, we will ask you to evaluate how you have implemented concepts from *Coding as a Playground* into your library or childcare center.

A few final notes:

- If you are not able to attend all six sessions, you should not register for this program.
- Up to two people from each library branch or childcare center may register for the book club. We will send a book to each of you, and both of you are expected to attend each session. Only one KIBO robot kit will be sent to your organization.

If you would like to be part of the book club, [click here to register](#). We have room for 16 participants. If registration is full, you can still register to get on the waiting list in case someone drops out.

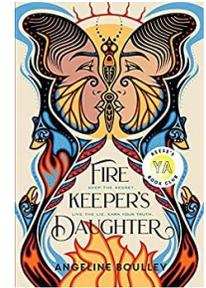
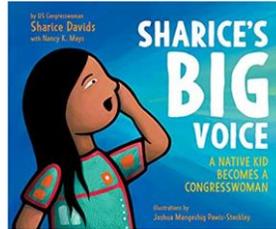
Finally, thank you to the Idaho STEM Action Center for generously funding this project and both the Idaho STEM Action Center and the Idaho Commission for Libraries for their support.



BOOK LOOK

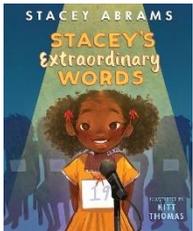
AICL Best Books of 2021

The American Indian in Children's Literature (AICL) website, established and edited by Dr. Debbie Reese and Dr. Jean Mendoza, identified the best books written/illustrated by both native and non-native authors in 2021. You can find some of these books in the ICfL's Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance (IDEA) collection. If you've never explored this site, we encourage you to spend a little time exploring all the great resources and book reviews featured!

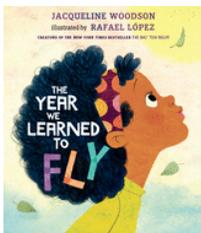


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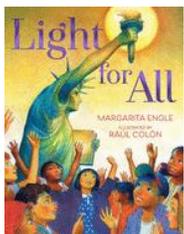
Some Noteworthy New Releases



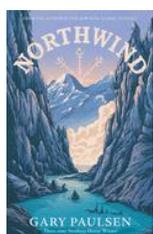
The debut picture book from voting rights advocate and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Stacey Abrams is an inspiring tale of determination, based on her own childhood. (starred review) [See trailer...](#)



Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael Lopez's dazzling art celebrates the extraordinary ability to lift ourselves up and imagine a better world. (starred review)



A lyrical and unifying picture book that will inspire young readers, and magnificently showcases the immigrant experience in America from Newbery Honoree Margarita Engle and award-winning illustrator Raúl Colón. (starred review)



This stunning novel from the survival story master and late, great author Gary Paulsen, set along a rugged coastline centuries ago, does for the ocean what *Hatchet* does for the woods. It relates the story of a young person's battle to stay alive against the odds, where the high seas meet a coastal wilderness. (starred reviews)

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