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DATES & DEADLINES

- Apply for the 2021 My First Books by April 20.
- Apply for SLA Mini-Grants by March 26.
- Registration is open now for Libraries and Summer Meals Info2Go.
- Request materials from the [Outreach for Underserved Children Program](#): Now – June 30.
- Request Pinwheels for Pinwheels for Prevention by March 15.

WELCOME

By Jeannie Standal

It's Spring! Meteorological Spring, that is, but let's take it. Days are longer, temperatures are warmer, and there is a light at the end of our COVID tunnel.

March is also Women's History Month! Since its beginnings as National Women's History Week, established by President Jimmy Carter, each March has seen a celebration of the contributions and achievements of women. Not up for a big celebration this year? Check out School Zone for some low-key suggestions for marking Women's History Month and International Women's Day.

Speaking of celebrations, March is a busy month: we've already Read Across America, and today (March 4) is [National Grammar Day](#) (thank you to Donna and Allison, who keep The Scoop's grammar proper). On March 6 we can take a day of digital detox for [National Day of Unplugging](#) and, love it or hate it, we spring forward into daylight saving time on March 14. Let's not forget Pi Day (3/14, of course), St. Patrick's Day (March 17), and the first day of Astronomical Spring, aka the Vernal Equinox (March 20). And remember to get your cookies by March 12, National Girl Scout Day.

Whatever your favorite celebrations, we hope they are full of happiness (International Day of Happiness is March 20), relaxation (National Goof Off Day is March 22), and good will (National Common Courtesy Day is March 21). If none of these holidays will work for you, there is always Kick Butts Day on March 20.

We hope you will find a lot to celebrate in the March issue of The Scoop!



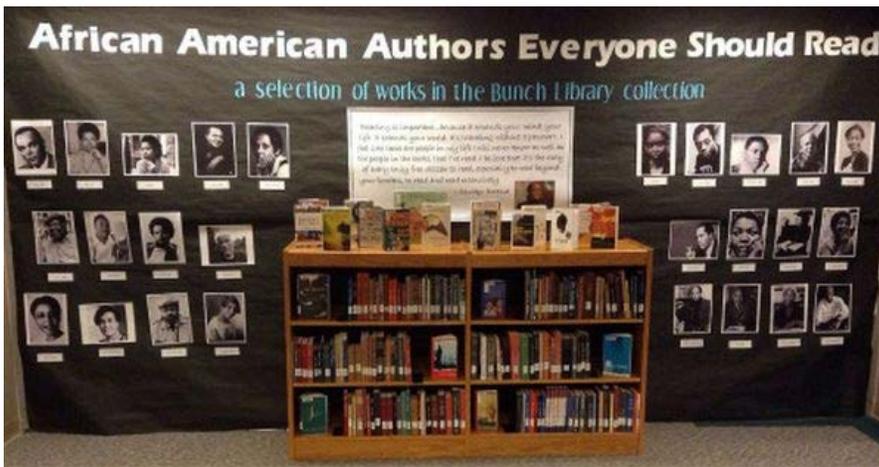
LIBRARY TO LIBRARY

Celebrating African-American Authors!

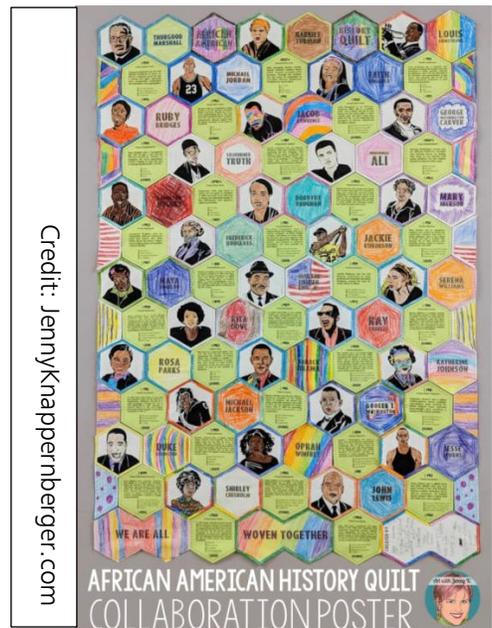
This eye-catcher brought attention to the Snake River School Community Library's Black History Month display. Patrons were drawn to a variety of materials featuring black characters and authors available to readers of all ages.

We needn't limit ourselves to one month a year when it comes to featuring diverse authors and titles. Patrons want to know about these titles all the time! To learn more about all the wonderfully diverse options available for your collection, visit the [ALA Youth Media Awards site](#) for excellent examples of works from authors of many backgrounds. Also take a look at [We Need Diverse Books](#) and [American Indians in Children's Literature](#) for guidance on providing as many windows and mirrors as possible for your patrons.

Thank you to Lindsay Prigmore for submitting this photo. Contact [Jeannie](#) for information on how to create this display. The pictures below are just a little more inspiration.



Credit: Lila D. Bunch Library through Book Riot





TWEENS & TEENS

YOU Could Present at the 2021 YALSA Symposium – It's in Reno!

YALSA currently seeks **program proposals for its 2021 Young Adult Services Symposium**. The theme of the symposium is "Biggest Little Safe Spaces: Serving Teens During Times of Adversity." It will follow a hybrid virtual/in-person format and will be held from November 5-7, 2021 in Reno, Nevada.

The past year has presented teens and the libraries that serve them with numerous challenges that will continue to affect them in 2021 and beyond. What does the future hold for today's teens? Where do we as librarians go from here? What's next for our libraries? Join YALSA, librarians, and YA authors as we discuss strategies for serving teens during difficult times and continue to develop programs that ensure our biggest little safe spaces thrive for years to come.

YALSA is seeking program proposals that address the following questions:

- How do staff provide inclusive programming and diverse collections? How do we ensure representation and equity of access to materials and information (e.g., book and program challenges, the library as a "neutral" space)? How can literature assist us?
- How does staff provide outreach to teens in their community? How do you meet teens where they are?
- How do we create more inclusive and "safe(r)" spaces? How do we empower teens to find their voice and speak out about issues important to them (e.g., gun violence, global warming, #metoo, institutional racism, LGBTQ rights)?
- How are staff affected by adversity on the job? How do we address this and other experiences like compassion, fatigue, and burnout (e.g., self-care)?

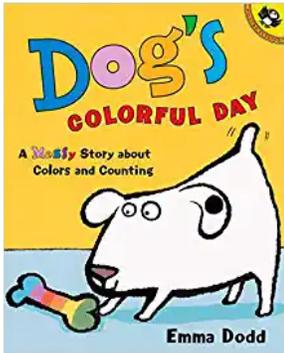
Interested parties are invited to propose 60-minute programs centering on the theme [via the online form on the symposium site](#) by April 1. Applicants will be notified of their proposals' status the week of May 1.

FREE Access to YALSA Members-Only Webinars

Did you know that the ICfL provides FREE access to all YALSA Members-Only webinars, including the entire [archive of past webinars](#)? We do! Receive a special link to access each month's live webinars and the archives when you subscribe to the [Idaho Library Teen Services Listserv](#).

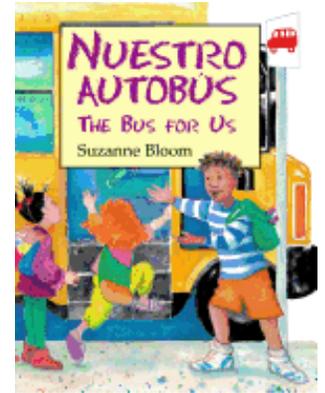
KINDERGARTEN READY CORNER

Loads of new Jump Start Kindergarten books and materials available!



While it was sad that most kindergarten registration events and Jump Start Kindergarten outreach efforts were canceled in 2020, that means we have a plethora of new materials to get excited about for your efforts this year!

We have the new English book we purchased last year (which didn't really get used): *Dog's Colorful Day: A Messy Story About Colors and Counting*, by Emma Dodd, complete with a custom imprint of the Five Early Literacy Practices on the inside front cover. This book touches on some of the skills 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children can practice with their caregivers in the year before they start kindergarten.



We also have the new bilingual book that we purchased this year: *Nuestro Autobus (The Bus for Us)*, by Suzanne Bloom, complete with a custom imprint of the Five Early Literacy Practices on the inside front cover. "From fire engine to front loader, Suzanne Bloom introduces young readers to a variety of vehicles through a simple text and spirited illustrations."

These books, and additional ICfL materials, can be requested for outreach events that target children ages 3-5 and their caregivers for kindergarten registration or any outreach event focused on this target audience AND where the adults or caregivers in their lives will be present at the event.

Really, really new this year...

1) Libraries participating in the Jump Start Kindergarten program may also request up to 50 school supply kits (see pic below) to be distributed alongside the Jump Start materials as they see fit. This request can be made on the regular Jump Start request form. Each kit includes the following:

- An ICfL-branded pencil pouch.
- Plastic safety scissors.
- Bottle of glue.
- 6-inch wooden ruler.
- Washi tape.
- Crayons.
- **Vroom™** early literacy tip cards.



2) The ICfL has purchased some age-appropriate books, with early literacy tips inside for parents, for the younger siblings of the kindergartners you plan to serve. The book, titled *DJ's Busy Day*, was written

by the good people at [Too Small to Fail](#) and is an English/Spanish flip book aimed at infants, toddlers, and their caregivers. Libraries participating in the Jump Start Kindergarten program may request some of these books on their JS request form – up to 25% of the number of kindergartners you anticipate serving (i.e., if you request 100 Jump Start books for the upcoming kindergartners you anticipate attending your event, then you may request up to 25 of the “*DJ’s Busy Day*” title as well.)



To find out more about the program requirements and how to request materials, visit the Jump Start Kindergarten page of the ICfL website:

[Info / Register](#)

My First Books 2021-2022 Program Application Open - Due April 20



My First Books (MFB) is a Read to Me outreach program designed to give underserved children the opportunity to take home age-appropriate books and build a home library. For many participating children, these are the first quality books they can call their own.

My First Books targets children from birth to age 6 who are unlikely to have many books in their homes, have a library card, or utilize library services. The program provides an age-appropriate paperback book each month during the school year for each participating child. My First Books parents receive a monthly newsletter, "The Bookworm," which suggests tips and strategies to support early literacy skills at home (also available in Spanish).

Libraries partner with daycares, preschools, Head Start centers, and/or kindergarten classrooms to deliver monthly storytimes, at which books and "Bookworms" are distributed.

Applications are due April 20.

[More Info](#)

LITT: Early Learning in Idaho Libraries

There is so much happening this spring and so many opportunities for your library to get involved or strengthen early learning programs and services. Join the ICfL and the Idaho Library Association (ILA) for a discussion about how your library can meet/ is meeting the needs of young children and families in your community.

Tuesday, March 30, 4 p.m. MDT / 3 p.m. PDT (1 hour)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Call in: +1 253 215 8782

Be in the Know!

Meanwhile, please sign up for our [Early Learning listserv](#) for Idaho libraries.



SCHOOL ZONE

Last Chance for the 2021-2022 SLA Mini-Grant Application!

Been thinking about applying for the Elementary School Library Access Mini-Grant? Eligible elementary schools:

- Are publicly funded (this includes charter schools!).
- Have a library with a paid staff member seeing to the day-to-day operations of the library.
- Serve K-Grade 1, with weight given to those that serve pre-K students (Round 1) or serve any grades from pre-K-Grade 6 and have received a Round 1 Mini-Grant (Round 2).
- Have no eligibility requirements around income or need of students, although weight is given to schools that serve low-income communities.

The application deadline is **March 26, 2021**, so don't wait any longer! Find all the details and the [application here](#).

School Libraries Grant from AASL

Through a special offering of its Inspire Collection Development Grant, made possible through the generous support of Marina "Marney" Welmers, AASL will offer a second round of grants to specifically address collection loss and remote access requirements due to COVID-19 school closures. The grants are intended to help meet the needs of school libraries making the return to in-person learning. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on March 26, 2021. Criteria, eligibility, and application requirements can be found at www.ala.org/aasl/awards/special.



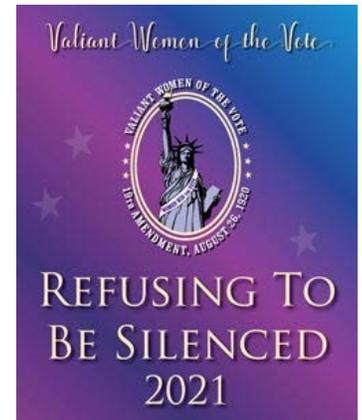
Note: The school and/or the certified school librarian do not have to be a member of ALA, AASL, or any other ALA division to apply.

Women's History Month

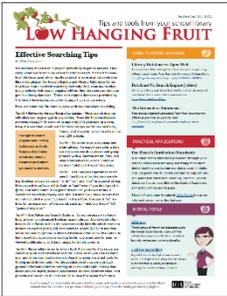
2020 marked the 100th year since the ratification of the 19th Amendment and women from every state had the right to vote. Since many celebrations were curtailed or postponed, The National Women's History Alliance has extended the annual theme from 2020 to 2021: "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced."

2021 may not be the best year for a big celebration, either, but perhaps these resources will help bring attention to Women's History Month and celebrate all the smart, bold, and courageous women who paved the way!

- The colors of the American suffragettes were purple (for loyalty), gold (for the sunflowers of Kansas in honor of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton), and white (for purity and virtue). In addition, purple is the color of International Women's Day. Host a spirit-week-style wearing of those colors one day or one week during March. Students can participate either in-person or online.
- Challenge students to learn more about remarkable American women with a daily trivia contest. Accept answers both in person and virtually! Here are a few websites to find awesome facts to use:
 - Get [digital classroom resources](#) from the National Women's History Museum, including lesson plans.
 - Learn the meaning behind what the suffragettes wore and why at [CR Fashion Book](#).
 - Free [Library of Congress Student Discovery Sets](#) are available at iTunes, including one on Women's Suffrage.
 - Learn more about suffrage in the West at [National Women's History Museum](#). Idaho was the fourth state to grant women the right to vote in 1896.
- And the tried and true display. Set up a physical and a virtual display, like this one from [Emily at Literaryhoots.com!](#)

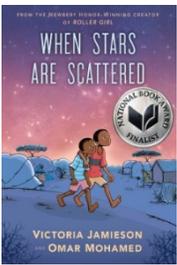


Low Hanging Fruit



March's [Low Hanging Fruit](#) offers more Women's History Resources for classroom teachers!

Nonfiction Book of the Month



When Stars Are Scattered, by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, is a beautiful example of the power of nonfiction graphic novels.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Order Pinwheels for Prevention by March 15

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and is a time when libraries can highlight resources for their communities that help prevent child abuse and raise awareness about prevention. The Idaho Commission for Libraries has several resources to help Idaho libraries strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect:

- Check out [this handout](#) on concrete ways libraries can strengthen families.
- Use [these storytime plans](#) (or create your own!) that focus on the five protective factors that help mitigate the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs; no apostrophe here, in case that's not clear).
- Adapt a [Ribbons of Hope program](#), a project created by the Strengthening Families North Idaho coalition, and implemented at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library and Community Network libraries. Check out the attached files for more information about implementing a Ribbons of Hope program at your library.
- **Display pinwheels** in front of your library during the month of April to represent what we want for every child: a healthy, happy, and carefree childhood. The ICfL can mail a limited number of

pinwheels and a yard sign to your library. [Order your free pinwheels and yard sign](#) while supplies last. Orders must be placed by **March 15, 2021**.

Free ICfL Training: Reimagining School Readiness

Your library plays a unique role in helping families prepare children for school. This **half-day virtual workshop** will help you improve your current school-readiness programs and develop new programs and services based on the most recent research in child development and school readiness. We will offer the same workshop on two different days. Workshop space is limited. If you register, please plan on attending. Registration will close on April 9.

This is an interactive workshop and it is important that all participants have access to a working camera and microphone for the Zoom. If you do NOT have access to one or both of these, we will send them to you with your training materials. Everyone will be sent a packet of training materials that will be used during the workshop. Click on the links below to register for one of the workshops. Questions? Contact Jennifer, Kristina, or Staci.



- [Tuesday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. MDT/8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. PST](#)
- [Thursday, May 6, Noon – 4 p.m. MDT/11 a.m. – 3 p.m. PST](#)

This training is made possible through a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and a partnership between the ICfL, the Bay Area Discovery Museum, the California State Library, and the Pacific Library Partnership.

Info2Go: Libraries and Summer Meals

The Summer Food Service Program provides millions of nutritious meals and snacks to children during the summer when school is not in session. Summer snack sites play an important role in helping children learn, grow, and stay healthy. Have you considered offering this type of program at your library? Join us as Mary Ann Liby, Coordinator for Idaho State Department of Education's Child Nutrition Programs, talks about what the Idaho's Summer Food Service Program is and describes how public libraries can participate in the program in their own communities.

March 24, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., MST

[Info / Register](#)

April is Citizen Science Month



Thinking of organizing or promoting a Citizen Science event or program at your library? April is Citizen Science Month and SciStarter has [free, customizable resources](#) you can use to plan and promote your event!

CHECK IT OUT

Interactive Financial Skills Games for Kids from FINRA

The American Library Association (ALA), in partnership with the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, has released a collection of free online games to teach children basic financial skills related to earning, saving and spending money. The four interactive games, part of a series called “Thinking Money for Kids,” are designed for children ages 7 to 11, but are appropriate for other ages as well. They include:

- [Earning It](#): Follow the paths of characters Grace, Emma, and Kenji to see how their childhood interests translate into successful careers and opportunities to “give back” by volunteering.
- [Balance My Budget](#): Make choices about how to meet basic needs and treat yourself with a splurge here and there, while sticking to a monthly budget.
- [Money Trail](#): Starting with \$500 in your bank account, make decisions about how to earn and spend.
- [Let’s Deal](#): Hear from buyers and vendors at a farmers’ market as they swap goods and learn about money.

Library workers are invited to use the games for in-person or virtual programming or to share them on library websites or social media. Additional financial literacy resources for library workers, including model programs and professional development, are available at Smartinvesting@yourlibrary.

[Learn More](#)

PBS KIDS Writers Contest

For the 27th year, Idaho Public Television is hosting the **PBS KIDS Writers Contest**. IdahoPTV's three regional stations — KUID/Moscow, KISU/Pocatello and KAID/Boise — encourage young authors and artists in kindergarten through third grade to write and illustrate their own imaginative story and **submit it by Saturday, March 20**, for a chance to win prizes and have their work published online.

Entry forms, rules, FAQs and teacher tips are available at idahoptv.org/writers. The contest is open to children in grades K-3 residing within IdahoPTV's over-the-air service area, which includes all of Idaho and parts of Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Oregon and Nevada.



Regional volunteer panels will judge the entries on creativity, originality, language skills and illustrations. Winners in each grade level from each of the three Idaho regions will be selected and will receive prizes including toys, books, and a \$100 contribution to an [IDeal – Idaho College Savings Program](#) account. Winners will be announced on or around April 1, 2021.

In May, a virtual awards ceremony will be held in each region of Idaho to celebrate the winners and their stories. The winning stories will then be uploaded in full color onto the IdahoPTV website: idahoptv.org/writers.

IdahoPTV thanks the sponsors of this year's contest: [The F.M., Anne G. & Beverly B. Bistline Foundation in the Idaho Community Foundation](#) and [IDeal – Idaho College Savings Program](#).

Access the Boise Phil's Digital Stage – for Free!



When the pandemic forced the closure of concert halls and halted public events last March, Boise Phil made the decision to keep its doors open, keep its musicians employed, and keep playing music for the community. The current season is one full of joy, hope, and innovation that's available online through a subscription to a digital streaming service. Boise Phil's Digital Stage features a library of 27 filmed concerts available through Vimeo OTT. We are offering subscriptions *free of charge* to nonprofits and libraries across Idaho* through our *Phil The Hall* community engagement program, made possible by a grant from the League of American Orchestras.

The video performances feature members of the Boise Philharmonic orchestra playing in small ensemble groups with a repertoire of classic and contemporary chamber pieces. Also available are behind-the-scenes interviews with musicians, composers, and our Music Director, Eric Garcia. The season schedule can be found [here](#).

Your library can apply for a free subscription to the Digital Stage! Here are some suggestions for how you could use your free subscription:

- Host a watch party via Zoom, Google Meeting, or some other digital meeting platform. Pick a concert and date and then invite up to 25 guests to watch along with you. Just “share” your screen so you can all watch together.
- Let your library patrons watch a concert when they want to by giving them a code to a specific concert they can access on their personal device (laptop, tablet, phone or smart TV) at their leisure.
- If your library is open to the public, you could put a link to the Digital Stage on your public computers for your patrons to peruse and watch concerts when they visit you.

If you're interested in this offer, please fill out a short online form to start the process, which can be accessed [here](#). Once processed, you will receive a welcome email with further instructions.

Please contact Gillian Donahey, gillian@boisephil.org with any questions.

* NOTE: The scope of the Boise Phil's geographic reach is defined by the Phil's musician's union agreement. Therefore, this offer is only open to libraries in the following counties: Ada, Adams, Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Blaine, Boise, Bonneville, Butte, Camas, Canyon, Caribou, Cassia, Clarke, Custer, Elmore, Fremont, Gem, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lemhi, Lincoln, Madison, Minidoka, Oneida, Owyhee, Payette, Power, Teton, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington.

Outreach for Underserved Children Program – Request Form Open



Are you planning a library outreach event to reach the children in your area who face challenges in accessing and using library services and who do not have many reading materials in their home?

The Outreach for Underserved Children Program may be able to help.

Check out the [program guidelines](#) and if you feel your outreach effort is a good match, request books this spring for spring and summer outreach events.

Requests are being accepted through June 15, 2021 (with a lead time before your planned outreach event).

[Learn More](#)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Native American Library Services Grants from IMLS – Open Now

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is now accepting applications for [Native American Library Services Basic Grants](#) through April 16, 2021.

Native American Library Services Basic grants are noncompetitive one-year grants of \$6,000 to \$10,000, which can include up to \$3,000 in eligible education and assessment activities or travel. The grants are available to federally recognized Native American tribes and Native Alaskan villages, corporations, and regional corporations and are designed to support existing operations and maintain core services of tribal and Native village libraries.

Grants may be used to buy library materials, fund salaries and training, provide internet connectivity and computers, or develop public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations, for example.

Libraries may request up to \$3,000 for staff to attend library courses or training workshops; attend or present at conferences related to library services; or hire consultants for onsite professional library assessments.

Application materials can be found on the [grant program page](#). For more information, please visit the [IMLS website](#).



SUMMER READING NEWS

Books for Summer Readers: Donation from Scottish Rite

Thanks to the generosity of the [Idaho chapter of the Scottish Rite](#), this spring all Idaho public libraries will receive an allotment of paperback books to use for summer reading prizes, outreach, or programming. (See [original article](#) in the February 4 issue of *The Scoop*.)

The Idaho Scottish Rite Foundation donated \$15,000 to the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) to support Idaho public library summer reading programs. The funds will be used to purchase approximately 7,000 books that will be distributed to all public libraries. The donation from the Idaho Scottish Rite Foundation will greatly benefit children throughout Idaho by increasing access to books in their homes, especially children learning to become proficient readers.

Additional details:

- Along with the books, we'll ask library staff to post a sign in the library thanking the Scottish Rite and include a bookmark with each book distributed.
- We hope to ship books to libraries in late April/early May.
- **You do not need to opt in** in order to receive books; the ICfL will automatically send these to you.
- The number of books your library will receive is based on summer reading participation numbers from your 2019 summer reading report.
- The prioritized age groups are kindergarten through about 4th-5th grade.
- This allotment is meant to *supplement* your summer reading prizes and help stretch your budget.
- There will be a question on your 2021 summer reading report about how you distributed the books.

Youth Explorer Passes for Summer Reading

We are happy to announce that the ICfL is once again partnering with the **Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)** to offer free state park passes to Idaho libraries hosting summer reading programs for children and teens.

The Youth Explorer Passes from Idaho State Parks will waive the entry fee for one vehicle for one day to any Idaho state park. The passes may be used for summer reading in a variety of ways: Distribute when children sign up for summer reading; give out as prizes for summer reading; take to outreach events.

For more information or to order passes:

[More Info](#)



News from the Collaborative Summer Library Programs (CSLP)

[Read current newsletter](#)

(see new community-building “Stick Togethers” and more)

Input Needed: How can CSLP best support your library?

As your state representative, [Staci](#) will be attending a feedback session facilitated by the CSLP board of directors on March 8. If you have any input about how the organization can best serve your library, please send that ASAP.

The following clause was added to the “Permitted Uses by CSLP Members” section:

“Members may manipulate, or transform, the slogan and artwork to accommodate patrons or communities with special needs. This includes developing tactile images, braille overlays, or manipulating files to fit the technical requirements of screen readers. Fonts may be adjusted or replaced to enhance usability. The need for this language was shared by members of the Inclusion Committee.”

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 Continuing Education (CE) opportunities for Idaho library workers by subscribing to the CE Digest newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/gOHMzz>. For a preview of what the newsletter looks like or more information, visit this page: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/ce-digest/>.

Help is available for your CE goals

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: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/continuing-education/partner-training-opportunities/>. 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.

Upcoming CE Opportunities

Developmentally-Appropriate and Diverse Books for Storytime (Library Juice Academy), April 5 – May 2
There's more to choosing books for storytime than just knowing the collection. It's also important to understand how to choose books that foster school readiness and literacy skills, as well as books that cultivate an understanding of diverse cultures and traditions. In this class, you will get hands-on practice connecting current and classic children's books to the developmental ages and stages of infants, toddlers, two-year-olds, and preschoolers.

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

Foundations of Early Literacy (Library Juice Academy), May 3-30

Both using and expanding on the early literacy information in the Every Child Ready to Read® initiative (from ALA's Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children), you will become familiar with the early literacy skills (phonological awareness, print awareness, letter knowledge, vocabulary, and background knowledge) and practices (talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing). Building on this knowledge, we will explore ways to apply them to your work, including ways to make library environments supportive of staff sharing early literacy information and activities with parents and caregivers.

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

Understanding and Assisting Library Patrons on the Autism Spectrum (Amigos Library Services), April 27, 2021, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. MDT / 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. PDT

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is estimated to affect one in 59 children in the U.S. and to be present across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups across the lifespan. Librarians will therefore be likely to encounter patrons who are "on the spectrum" and require at least some modifications in their library use due to communication, sensory integration, and other challenges. This workshop will provide librarians in school, public, and academic settings with a greater understanding of ASD as well as strategies for communicating more effectively with such patrons. Librarians will also learn strategies to manage challenging behaviors common in individuals with ASD, make library spaces more accessible, design programming, and build relationships with community partners to better serve this patron group.

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



DIVERSITY IN ACTION

Social Stories Benefit Patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder & Others

“A social story uses photos and simple text to show children on the autism spectrum what to expect and how to behave in unfamiliar social settings. Knowing what to expect can help children with autism cope but the stories can be helpful for others too.” The purpose of these guides are to “help pre-teach what the structure and routine of a library experience will be like....individuals will gain a visual familiarity of their own library so that they can prepare and feel comfortable during their visits.”(Multnomah County Library, <https://multcolib.org/blog/20190507/my-library-social-stories>)

At Multnomah County Library, each of their 19 neighborhood branches has its own social story, showing the specifics about the facility and the program room layout for visiting patrons. Multnomah also has a “Sensory Accommodation Kit,” to help with noise, distractions, and to support calming efforts at each branch and their social stories feature pictures and descriptions of what is in each kit.

View some examples from the Multnomah County Library system:

- [Belmont Library](#)
- [Capitol Hill Library](#)

Many libraries make their social stories available in different formats to accommodate the most patrons: PowerPoint slideshows that play on the website with closed captioning, PDFs that can be printed out at home and read like a book, or printed pages kept in a binder at the reference desk for in-house use. Creating a social story for your library can be as simple or as complex as you would like to make it.

[Libraries and Autism](#), a nonprofit organization, also has a few social story examples (“A Visit to the Library” and “Storytime Rules and Procedures”) as well as a [customizable social story template](#) posted on their website. They also have a [nonverbal communication guide](#) (This links to a Spanish-language document.) that can be used by library staff to label parts of the library and its resources. Each square in the guide includes English text, Spanish text, Sign Language graphics, and images, offering several additional forms of communication to help library patrons navigate your library successfully.

Additional reading on social stories:

- [Carol Gray Social Stories](#) website
- “Social Stories” by Renee Grassi, September 29, 2011

Are you an Idaho library with your own social story you would like to share with our newsletter readers? If so, please [email Kristina](#) with a link to your social story and we’ll be sure to share it soon.

WNDB 2021 Symposium on Diversity in Children’s Literature

We Need Diverse Books announces the sixth annual Symposium on Diversity in Children’s Literature, co-hosted by the Library of Congress. The Symposium, titled “Listening, Learning, Creating Communities,”

will be moderated by Deborah D. Taylor, Coretta Scott King/Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement award-winning librarian and educator, and will include panelists Traci Chee, Robin Ha, Daniel Nayeri, and Kacen Callender.

The Symposium will be held on Friday, March 12, 2021, followed by the Walter Dean Myers Awards for Outstanding Children's Literature Ceremony. The Symposium and Ceremony will be held virtually. Award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson will serve as Ceremony's Emcee. The event will begin at 1 p.m. EST and will appear on the Library's [Facebook](#) page and its [YouTube](#) site.

[More Info](#)



STEAM

Code at Home Activities from Girls Who Code

Our partners at Girls Who Code release activities bi-weekly— some online, some offline, of varying levels of difficulty. Each activity features a woman in tech who pioneered innovative technology. They are free for parents, students, educators – anyone! A great virtual resource to share with families in your community.

[Learn More](#)

47 STEM Books for K-12 Readers

The website Master's in Data Science compiled a list of 47 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) books for readers of all ages. Children in kindergarten can solve math mysteries or read about how the color purple was invented. Older readers can explore physics in everyday life and the lives of women who changed the study of DNA. From picture books to memoirs, STEM books have something for every creatively minded reader.

[More Info](#)



BOOK LOOK

CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards Announced

The Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) Bell Picture Book Awards are an annual recognition of five high-quality picture books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children, highlighting the Every Child Ready to Read activities (read, sing, talk, play, write) that prepare young children to be ready to learn to read when they reach kindergarten. The Selection Committee selects five

winners annually from titles suggested by CLEL members and other early literacy advocates, including librarians, teachers, parents, and publishers.

The CLEL Bell Award Committee is pleased to announce the winners for 2021:



Read Winner:

Help Wanted Must Love Books, by Janet Sumner Johnson, Illustrated by Courtney Dawson



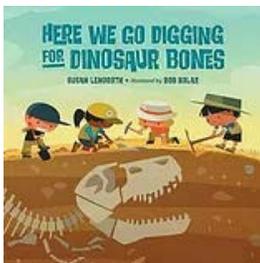
Talk Winner:

The Paper Kingdom, by Helena Ku Rhee, Illustrated by Pascal Campion



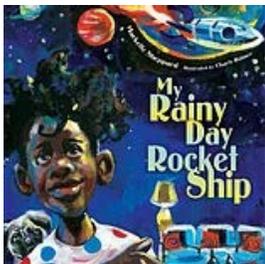
Write Winner:

It's Okay, by Shioh-Miin Tsai



Sing Winner:

Here We Go Digging for Dinosaur Bones, by Susan Lendroth, Illustrated by Bob Kolar



Play Winner:

My Rainy Day Rocket Ship, by Markette Sheppard, Illustrated by Charly Palmer

[Learn More](#)

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

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