From the YSS Chair….

Happy Winter to all of you! I hope this finds you well and helps to warm you from the Iowa cold! What a busy fall we have had with conferences and workshops! I am hopeful that you were able to attend either one or all! With ILA, the Summer Reading Workshops and the Performer’s Showcase now behind us, emails are starting to come in (and go out!) with requests to partner on performers, which is a great way to bring down the prices per program! And as always, if you have a great idea for an event, program, storytime or craft - send it in to Erin for the newsletter or take a picture at put it on our Facebook Group IaYaYa Hush!

Merri Monks and I attended the ILA Planning Day to look ahead to next year’s conference, which will take place October 14-16, 2015 at the Holiday Inn in Des Moines. While it’s too early to know which of the proposed sessions the Conference Planning Committee will select, we will let you know about those of interest to youth services librarians as soon as possible. We all work very hard at what we do, we love sharing programming ideas, and feel strongly that we want the conference and workshops to reflect our interests. I thank all of you for your support, not only at the conferences, but in my two years as vice-chair and chair of this subdivision. It has been such a growth experience and the best way to learn about all our Iowa libraries, meet people and travel around some of the 99 counties that make up this beautiful state!

I encourage each of you to think about where you fit into the subdivision. Is there a session you would enjoy, is there a way you can help out, and idea you can share or teach? Think about it, continue to support YSS, encourage your YS cohorts to become members of the subdivision. Your time and dues benefit all of us.

Until next time- have a safe, healthy, and stress free holiday season!

Angie Pilkington
YSS Chair

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Programming Ideas

Sometimes, it’s easy to get stuck when it comes to programming ideas. Here are a few to remember next time you find yourself in that situation.

From Vicki Christensen at the Anita Public Library:

“Rick Brammer once told me to just put out the balloons and the pumps and watch the children have fun. Since our Early Out Fun Days are EVERY Wednesday now, I decided to try it. I put the balloons in an ice cream bucket, laid out our three pumps, displayed our balloon twisting books, and when the children arrived I popped in the DVD of balloon twisting demos. We had 18 children and they had a ball! At first I had to limit…5 balloons per child…..then the ones that needed more for their CREATION could use more because there were still some left! It worked! Some kids were watching the DVD and twisting and most of them were trying to use the books or just their own imaginations!”

From Phyllis Peter in Newton:

“All Newton Community school district 1st graders visit the library and our Friends of the Library pays for the busses. Each child receives a copy of "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" by Mo Willems, (books are paid for by our FOL group) and each 1st grader receives information about how to get a library card. I read stories and talk about how to take good care of library books by showing them some books that have been chewed up by a puppy or had a drink spilled in them as examples.”
Programming ideas, continued

Thanksgiving Story Time Success from Claire Matthews in Winfield

Books: (We read them in this order, with breaks for actions/songs.)

*Turkey Trouble* by Wendi Silvano
*Turkey on the Loose* by Sylvie Wickstrom
*10 Fat Turkeys* by Tony Johnston, il. by Rich Deas
*Baby Bear Counts One* by Ashley Wolff (a Bridge-to-Reading nominee)

I’m a big fat turkey
Because I’m well fed.
Watch me stretch my feathers,
Watch me bob my head.

When I strut around,
I waddle, waddle, waddle.
And when I talk,
I gobble, gobble, gobble.

(We gobbled a couple of extra times!)

I’m a big fat turkey
And I’d love to stay,
But Thanksgiving is coming!
And I have to run away!
(make a circle with arms in front of waist)
(pat belly)
(Stretch fingers/arms out over head)
(bob head)
(walk in place)
(hands on hips, sway back and forth)
(hand talking in front of mouth)
(no action, just GOBBLE!)

Game:
Pin the feathers on the Turkey
Materials:
Construction paper turkey (paper plate turkey template, cut out of brown construction paper)
Feathers
Double-stick tape
Blindfold

Put a piece of double-stick tape on feathers. Blindfold kids and hand them a feather. Spin kids 1-2 times and help them walk up to the turkey. No peeking! Stick the feather to the turkey when they can feel the cut-out.

Free-time Activity:
“Pretend” Thanksgiving food stations to play in:

Moon-sand Mashed Potatoes: (Recipe: 1 cup Baby Oil + 8 cups Flour; mix until combined)
Cranberry bog: fresh whole cranberries floating in 1” water
Green Bean Casserole: green split peas, dried beans of different sizes/shapes
Fall noodles: tri-colored penne noodles (I had some fall leaf shaped noodles I added from home.)
I didn’t try for pumpkin pie, but I am sure someone could!
New Resource - Iowa Reading Research Center

The purpose of the IRRC is to apply current research to the development and dissemination of best practices in literacy instruction so that every child in Iowa will achieve reading proficiency. Included in this mission is a strong focus on facilitating effective school, parent, and community partnerships to improve student literacy.

Launched in October, 2014, the new IRRC website offers a collection of online resources for families to support literacy development with children at home. These high quality videos, articles, and activities are suitable for use with children from birth to 6th grade. All have been carefully reviewed and evaluated by both parents and educators to ensure quality and accessibility, and they can be sorted by key word, skill, age group, and resource type. Our website also includes links and information to help families connect to other literacy resources and services throughout the state.

- The Iowa Reading Research Center offers an online collection of literacy resources to support reading, writing and language development with children at home.
- All resources have been carefully reviewed for quality, content, credibility, and accessibility.
- Resources are appropriate for use with children from birth through sixth grade.
- A variety of other resources and links are also available on our website. Visit us now!
- Resources include:
  - Videos
  - Activities
  - Articles
  - Apps (Coming Soon!)
- Search by:
  - Key Words
  - Literacy Skills
  - Age Group
  - Resource Type
  - Language (Coming Soon!)
  - Iowa Core and Early Learning Standards (Coming Soon!)
- Visit our website @ www.iowareadingresearch.org
Other News:
The new officers for YSS for 2015 are as follows:
Chair: Angela Pilkington
Vice-Chair: Erin Silva
Awards Chair: Merri Monks
Secretary: Anna Hartmann
Newsletter Editor: Kimshiro Benton-Hermsen

Kids First 2015 will be held May 4-5, 2015, at the Holiday Inn by the airport in Des Moines. May 6th there will be a post conference with Suroj Godi. Registration will be available in the early part of January. Other speakers: David LaRochelle, Margi Preus, and Elizabeth Fama.

This is an awesome conference devoted to kids and teens in the library, so please plan to attend.

Don’t forget to have kids aged 5 and under vote for their favorite picture books as part of the Bridge to Reading Award. Voting ends April 30th, 2015.