Message From Your Chair:

YSS Members,

I don’t know about you but I am ready for spring! Living in Pella, it is the start of being on Tulip Watch. Soon the town will be buzzing about if the tulips will come too early or will there be any left for Tulip Time (just a little plug, Tulip Time is May 3, 4 & 5)! Of course this also means Summer Reading Program is just around the corner. This will be my 15th Summer Reading Program (not sure how this is possible!) and for the first time in 15 years, I do feel a little behind. I hope the rest of you are on schedule. I will get there and it will all come together (with a possible melt down or two!). If anyone has any suggestions for me, my email is on the contact page. I do have a few things figured out like a ukulele program and a vocal teacher will be presenting. I also plan to have a Karaoke and Lip Sync Battle. I need to start working on my rendition of “Livin’ on Prayer” or “Don’t Stop Believing”. Do any of you have a go to Karaoke song?

Youth Services Subdivision has been working on programs for the annual ILA Conference in Cedar Rapids. YSS members have submitted proposals and we have proposed session on Diversity in Books. Make plans to join us this year! Have a wonderful spring and summer. If you come tip toe through the tulips, let me know!

Katie Dreyer
Check out these websites for FREE webinars!

Info People: https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar/archived

Juice Academy: http://libraryjuiceacademy.com/certificate-ecl.php

Nebraska Library Commission: http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/CE/webinars.aspx

ALSC: http://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning/webinararchive

YALSA: http://www.ala.org/yalsa/webinars-on-demand

PLA: http://www.ala.org/pla/education/onlinelearning/webinars/archive/pathways

Web Junction: http://www.webjunction.org/events/archives.html

Idaho State Library: http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/info2go

Texas State Library: https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/workshops/webinars/index.html

Web Junction: https://www.webjunction.org/

Florida State Library: https://floridalibrarywebinars.org/ondemand/children-youth-services/
Hurricane Heroes in Texas. By Mary Pope Osborne. ISBN 9781524713133. 8-07-2018

The Magic Tree House takes Jack and Annie back in time to Galveston, Texas in 1900. They discover that a huge storm is coming, but no one believes that there is any danger. The storm floods the city and everyone needs help. Can Jack and Annie be able to use magic and hope to fix all the damage?

Not So Normal Norbert. By James Patterson. ISBN 9781478995630. 7-02-2018

Norbert Riddle used to be normal, until he gets caught doing a funny impression of the United State of Earth dictator. After being banished from earth and sent to planet Zorquat 3, Norbert learns that being different is a good thing.


It’s Nikki Maxwell’s birthday! Find out if it will be a blast or a bust in the thirteenth installment in the #1 New York Times blockbuster bestselling Dork Diaries series!

Al Capone Throws me a Curve. By Gennifer Choldenko. ISBN 9781101938133. 5-08-2018

Moose Flanagan lives on a famous island in California called Alcatraz-home to some of the most dangerous prisoners in the United States in the 1930s. He loves baseball, and must look after his special older sister Natalie. Moose must look after his family, and rescue his sister when danger strikes.

The Trials of Apollo Book Three the Burning Maze. By Rick Riordan. ISBN 9781484746431. 5-01-2018

The formerly glorious god Apollo, cast down to earth in punishment by Zeus, is now an awkward mortal teenager named Lester Papadopoulos. Lester must restore five Oracles that have gone dark to regain his place at Mount Olympus without having any godly powers and while catering to Demeter’s daughter Meg.

Sunny. By Jason Reynolds. ISBN 9781481450218. 4-10-2018

Sunny is always ready with a goofy smile and something nice to say, but his life hasn’t always been great. His mother died giving birth to him, and his father makes Sunny call him “Daryl” instead of Dad. The only thing that makes Sunny’s father proud of him is his talent of running—which Sunny hates and quits. Sunny doesn’t want to run, he wants to dance. He then finds a compromise where he can do both. The best of both worlds.
Elephant & Piggie Like Reading!- The Itchy Book! By Mo Willems. ISBN 9781368005647. 5-15-2018

Triceratops has an itch. . . so does Pterodactyl. . . and Brontosaurus. . . and T-Rex! But Dino-Mo reminds them all of the BIG rule: Dinosaurs do not scratch! So what does an itchy dinosaur do?


Jim the chimpanzee is in a terrible mood for no good reason and his friends can’t seem to understand or to cheer him up. Could it be that Jim just needs a day to feel grumpy?


A young music lover spends most of her time daydreaming about the perfect act for the upcoming school talent show. Marching out on the talent show stage to the beat of her own drum, this sweet and sassy musician ultimately chooses to be herself and sing her own song loud and proud, “I’ve got a rock ‘n’ roll soul!”

All of Us. By Carlin Berger. ISBN 9780062694133. 5-08-2018

Ideal for family sharing with a universal message and stunning paper collage art. This book celebrates the power of community, family, and most of all, love. Berger’s beautiful collage art and lyrical text offer a message of hope in the face of adversity.

The Greedy Goat. By Petr Horacek. ISBN 9780763694975. 5-08-2018

After being tired of eating herbs and grass, Goat goes on a tasting spree eating the dog’s food and even the farmer’s underpants. The Goat becomes ill from taking from other people. When she feels better, maybe she’ll have learned her lesson?

Square. By Mac Barnett. ISBN 9780763696078. 5-08-2018

Square spends every day taking blocks from a pile below the ground to a pile above the ground. This book is also about Square’s friend Circle. Circle thinks Square is an artistic genius. But is he really? This thoughtful and funny book emphasizes the importance of keeping your eyes — and your mind — open to wonder where others see only rubble and rocks.

I Got it! By David Wiesner. ISBN 9780544309029. 4-03-2018

An eager outfielder imagines all of the potential scenarios that could prevent him from fielding the ball—but turns them into determination and courage and succeeds!
Llama Llama Loves to Read. By Anna Dewdney. ISBN 9780670013975. 5-01-2018

Llama Llama is growing up and learning to read! The teacher helps Llama Llama practice writing, reading and even shows him the library! Llama Llama is recognizing words and can’t wait to go home and show Mama Llama!

New Shoes. By Chris Raschka ISBN 9780062657527. 5-01-2018

When a young child’s shoe gets a rip, him and his mother go to the store for an exciting adventure. The young boy gets his feet measured, is treated with excitement and respect, and eventually gets to go show off his brand new shoes to all of his friends!

Pete the Kitty and the Groovy Playdate. By James Dean. ISBN 9780062675408. 5-01-2018

Pete the Kitty is super excited to visit his friend Grumpy Toad’s house for a playdate because Grumpy Toad has all of the coolest toys. The only problem is Grumpy Toad does not want to share his toys, and they aren’t having any fun. Will Grumpy Toad ever share?

Wake Up, Baby Bear! By Lynn Plourde. ISBN 9781608939718. 5-01-2018

Poor Baby Bear is so exhausted from staying up too late in the fall, that now he can’t wake up in the spring. Finally, Mother Robin is able to wake baby bear. This book provides themes of friendship, teamwork and parenting—as well as some fun facts about black bears!


A book featuring animals such as a giraffe, bear and even an elephant having a dance party!

This Story is for You. By Greg Pizzoli. ISBN 9781484750308. 4-03-2018

This story illustrates moments of kindness throughout, from the small to the grand in a heartwarming tale of human connection. This book is about finding value in friendships, despite all of the differences.

If I didn’t have you. By Alan Katz. ISBN 9781416978794. 4-10-2018

A father and son discuss all of the items they might have if not for the other in this funny and heartfelt look at the appreciation we have for our families.
Harbor Me. By Jaqueline Woodson. ISBN 9780399252525. 8-28-2018

When six kids have to meet for a weekly chat, they discover that opening up and being able to discuss personal issues is beneficial for the mind. They discover the safety of talking to others about topics that aren’t always so easy to open up about, and that together, they can grow to be more brave and prepared for what the world has to offer them.

Catwoman: Soulstealer. By Sarah J. Maas. ISBN 9780399549694. 8-07-2018

Selina Kyle returns as the mysterious and wealthy Holly Vanderhees two years after escaping Gotham’s slums. She meets handsome Luke Fox, who is Batwing at night and is destined for helping others. Selina is clever, but will her past will she be able to pull off a robbery that is closest to her heart?

Dance of Thieves. By Mary E. Pearson. ISBN 9781250159014. 8-07-2018

After the patriarch of the Ballenger empire dies, his son, Jase, becomes its new leader. A legendary former street thief named Kazi is sent by the queen to investigate transgressions against the new settlements. Kazi grows close to Jase as they continue to fulfil their secret missions.

The Emerald Sea. By Richelle Mead. ISBN 9781595148452. 6-26-2018

Tamsin Wright must become the Glittering Court's diamond, and will do anything to get there. She wants to find a husband so that she can afford a better life for her family, and will cut anyone out who gets in the way. She experiences new cultures and is beginning to be pulled in different directions. She must protect her secret, or everything she has worked for will have been for nothing.

The Reaper and the Gates. By Sabaa Tahir. ISBN 9780448494500. 6-12-2018

The threat of war looms at the empire. The Blood Shrike, Helene Aquilla, is assailed on all sides. Emperor Marcus grows increasingly unstable, while the Commandant capitalizes on his madness to bolster her own power. As Helene searches for a way to hold back the approaching darkness, her sister's life and the lives of all those in the Empire hang in the balance.

Legendary: A Caraval Novel. By Stephanie Garber. ISBN 9781250095312. 5-29-2018

Donatella Dragna has finally escaped her father and saved her sister Scarlett from a disastrous arranged marriage. Now, she must repay a debt to a mysterious criminal and now must find something that no one has ever been capable of: Caraval Master Legend’s true name. If Tella can’t fulfill her bargain and deliver Legend’s name, she’ll lose everything she cares about. Let the games begin.
War Storm. By Victoria Aveyard. ISBN 9780062422996. 5-15-2018

Mare Barrow determined to protect her heart and secure freedom for Reds and new-bloods, resolves to overthrow the kingdom of Norta once and for all. She must create some difficult allies, and her fate and power will be tested. War is coming and allies will be lost, and all Mare has fought for hangs in the balance.

Puddin’. By Julie Murphy. ISBN 9780062418388. 5-08-2018

Millie Michalchuk has gone to fat camp every year since she was a little girl, but this year she has plans to become a newscaster and to kiss her crush. She finds herself developing a surprising friendship with the most popular girl in school, Callie Reyes. This story portrays romance, unexpected friendship and girl power.

A Court of Frost and Starlight. By Sarah J. Maas. ISBN 9781681196312. 5-01-2018

Feyre, Rhys, and their close-knit circle of friends are still busy rebuilding the Night Court and the vastly-changed world beyond. She discovers that those whom she is closest to have scars that will effect the reaching impact on the future of their Court.

Love & War: An Alex and Eliza Story. By Melissa de la Cruz. ISBN 9781524739652. 4-17-2018

As the war for American independence rages on, Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler begin their new life as a married couple. Alex joins the lines of battle, and Eliza fights for her future and marriage. After the Revolution, Alex and Eliza struggle to find time for one another and are torn by trials and temptations.

The Fates Divide. By Veronica Roth. ISBN 9780062426956. 4-10-2018

The lives of Cyra Noavek and Akos Kereseth are ruled by their fates, spoken by the oracles at their births. The fates, once determined, are inescapable. Akos and Cyra will discover how fate defines their lives in ways most unexpected.

On the Come Up. By Angie Thomas. ISBN 9780062498564. 6-5-2018

On the Come Up is Angie Thomas’s homage to hip hop, the art that sparked her passion for storytelling and continues to inspire her to this day. It is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; of the struggle to become who you are, and not who everyone expects you to be; and of the desperate realities of poor and working class black families.
World Read Aloud Day at Waukon

Submitted by Ellie Krousie
Robey Memorial Public Library

Robey Memorial Library in Waukon observed World Read Aloud Day on Thursday, February 1st with community volunteers and library staff reading out loud throughout the entire day. Readers signed up for 15 minute increments. Included among the 59 readers that participated were students from the local schools, 4th graders, 6th graders and Kid’s Club after school program. An additional activity available for participants was a Story Walk for the book Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf by Judy Sierra. An interactive booklet was available for each participant to complete as they moved through the library reading at each of the 8 location.

Teen Murder Mystery

Submitted by MaDonna Thoma-Kremeer
Monticello Public Library

In January, we hosted a Teen Murder Mystery Program. We had 29 teens RSVP and we had 24 teens actually come to the Murder Mystery. Each teen selected their over-the-top character in advance (so they could come in costume) and an explanation of the murder mystery. We started the evening with a Murder Mystery Background and by feeding the teens. While the teens were eating they conversed and shared their information. We then allowed some time for them to get up and socialize. We called the teens back together to share their ideas on who was the murderer. We then had them read their character information aloud to the group. They were given some additional time to find and question other characters. Finally, we called the group together again to see if anyone could correctly guess who the murderer was.

We found out at the end of the night that one of the teens had set out to trick everyone into believing she was murderer and had formed an alliance with two other teens. In the final round of accusations, almost all the teens had a guess as to who the murderer was. We let each teen share who they thought the murderer was and why. Only one of the teens had guessed correctly.
Waukee Public Library recently began checking out STEAM Kits. We have them in a locked case, and patrons can check out one at a time for three weeks each. We now have approximately 30 kits. The most popular kits are Little Bits and Makey Makeys, a telescope, several robots with free coding apps, and a floor piano keyboard. A complete list is visible on our website: waukeepubliclibrary.org.

To help make our public aware of this new service, we scheduled a STEAM Expo. We set up several stations with many of the kits, and assigned a teen volunteer to each station to help demonstrate the items. This was an hour-long, drop-in event. The kits were then available for check out the following day. That gave us a day to look the kits over and make sure all parts were still present and in working order before check out. These kits are a time intensive project to add to the collection and to own, but people are so excited for them that we think it is worth it!

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A new program at Hawarden Public Library is “Teen Tech” which meets weekly from 3:30-4:30 every Tuesday afternoon. Projects range from Sphero Obstacle courses and races, creating video games with Bloxels, Stop-Motion Animation, and lately Green Screen work. The youth are even creating our Summer Reading Promotional Video! This program started small and now attracts between 10-15 kids each week. The teens love being able to create things using our tech toys, and spend time with friends.
We had a Make & Take Slime event, and kids ages 10 & under had to bring a grown up with them. I limited it to 15. We covered the tables with brown paper (this took a lot of prep time, way more than I had estimated!) We made fluffy slime, borax based slimes, and one with liquid starch. Fluffy slime was everyone's favorite, although one family misread "3/4 cups of shaving cream" as "3 to 4 cups of shaving cream" and had to start over! I let kids add a couple drops of food coloring to each recipe, but if you want to keep things less messy, you could skip the food coloring. Emphasize to everyone that one or two drops of food coloring is plenty!

There is a lot of info out there that says borax is not safe for kids and that contact lens solution is safer, (apparently there was a viral FB post about a girl who had "chemical burns" on her hands from Borax based slime) but I pointed out that Steve Spangler has a great video explaining that borax is actually IN contact lens solution, and that there is no reason to avoid the slime recipes that call for borax, if you follow the recipe directions.

Some of the kids needed a lot of instruction about measuring, I had kids who said "the recipe didn't work!" but when I helped them the second time, I realized they were doing the recipe steps out of order, or they weren't filling the measuring cup or teaspoon to the top. When I do the program again I will emphasize how important it is to follow the recipe EXACTLY and to measure PRECISELY. I also found that mixing with a spoon would get you so far with each recipe, after all the ingredients are in there, the best thing to do is to pick up that slimey ball and knead it!
Libraries in Today’s Changing Environment

Please find a list of resources intended to help librarians support children and families through uncertain times. Download a printable PDF here:

www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/professional-tools/Serving%20Diverse%20Communities%20Resources.pdf

Additional resources are available in this public Google document:


Did You Know?

ALA’s YALSA has completed an excellent update of their teen services Competencies: http://www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/yacompetencies

In addition, they have four powerful and helpful reports that help us navigate more effectively our teen services:

The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action

National Research Agenda on Libraries, Learning and Teens

Core Professional Values for the Teen Services Profession

Teen Programming Guidelines
For more information about Youth Services Subdivision please visit:
http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/youth-services-subdivision

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