

YSS Newsletter



Don't forget,
Kids Fest is April
25th and 26th!

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From the YSS Chair...

As I write this today, we are one day short of turning the calendar over to a new month. I was sitting in the Library's Natural Thirst Café this afternoon when a patron wandered by and pointed out that the grass was green! And not just in little patches -- the whole lawn appeared to be green. That is the first green I have seen since sometime last fall (not counting Christmas trees). It is truly an exciting sight and maybe really does mean spring is on the way!

The only problem with spring being on the way is that it brings us one step closer to summer – and we all know what that means! Summer reading is coming up faster than we would like. I officially booked program #31 for the Des Moines Public Library branches last Friday. Those, plus three staff puppet shows, rounds out our big summer reading activities at our six locations. In addition to those that I plan for the system, four of the branches will continue their weekly story times which are a total of 14 per week, and several of the branches have other programs that they will continue throughout the summer such as “Passport to Adventure” at the Forest Avenue and North Side libraries. Every branch also does teen programs just

about every week. For the summer we develop new teen craft kits that each branch will use. In honor of the “around the world” theme, the teen craft kits will include African paper bead making, Mexican cooking, henna tattoos, Chinese New Year activities (yes, a bit late, but still fun) and tie-dying. The teen staff all got together a couple of weeks ago and tried out the activities as a group so that they could figure out what worked and didn't work before finalizing the programs. The crafts are definitely going to be a great draw.

In fact, if you want to see some of the fun teen crafts the teen specialists at DMPL do, you might want to check out the breakout session at Kids First on Monday, April 25. Brenda Hall from the Central Library and Sarah Scholten from the South Side Library will be doing a presentation on some of our more successful teen crafts. It will inspire you to try some teen crafts at your library. We find that our best teen programs are those that give the teens an opportunity to be creative and socialize while they work.

Audrey Jones
YSS Chair 2011
Youth Services Coordinator,
Des Moines Public Library

Kids First Conference, 2011

In just four weeks, we'll be gathering for Kids First, our biennial conference for Iowa's youth services librarians. Our conference hotel this year is the Embassy Suites Hotel in Des Moines. Because the conference begins the day after Easter, our sessions on our first day will start a little later than usual, giving attendees the option to travel to Des Moines early on Monday morning.

Registration opens at 8:30, and the conference's opening session will begin at 9:30. If you arrive on Sunday evening and want to join a group for dinner, we'll be gathering at the manager's reception at the hotel, and will go for dinner at one of the many nearby restaurants.

We have four excellent plenary session speakers who will be traveling to be with us from Vermont (Linda Urban), Illinois (Gail Bush), Texas (Jacqueline Kelly), and New Mexico (Carolyn Meyer). Additionally, we have break-out session presenters from all over Iowa. Both days have four break-out sessions per time slot, for a total of 24 over the course of the two days.

Each break-out time slot has two sessions for children's librarians, and two for teens' librarians. Additionally, we're scheduling optional tours of the main branch of the Des Moines Public Library and, weather permitting, of the Pappajohn Sculpture Garden, both within a few blocks of the conference hotel.

We're still finalizing session titles, but our break-out session presenters are all preparing their sessions, and all are great topics. We'll be posting the conference schedule and hand-outs, when available, in advance of the conference on the State Library's website. This will be an excellent opportunity for relevant, interesting, and immediately useful continuing education, as well as a time to talk with our colleagues around the state of Iowa. We've built in breaks and time for conversation throughout the conference.

I'm very much looking forward to Kids First. I'm looking forward to seeing you—and spending time with all of you.

Merri M. Monks
Youth Services Consultant
State Library of Iowa

New Program at Bondurant Public Library

The Bondurant Community Library is now offering a baby lapsit program for the first time. The program lasts about 15 minutes and includes an array of fingerplays, rattles, and board books. To improve outreach services, we offered the program at one of the local area daycares. There are no parents, but I do provide a take-home parental resource on the fingerplays used for that lapsit. We'll be switching every month between the lapsit program and story time for three to five year olds.

The library provides a crate of books to each of our outreach centers, which also allows for the expansion of library services. The crates are filled with a variety of books and help transport the books to each center. They can keep the books, at the outreach center, for a month. The outreach centers include a daycare, a Christian preschool, and three elementary classrooms. We just started this system and it seems to be a great success. The teachers appreciate having extra materials in their classrooms.

Zach Stier
YSS Vice Chair
Youth Services Librarian, Bondurant Public Library




Teen Programming

This is the first year I've offered weekly programs at the library for teens. When I started my job, the Teen Programs were every couple of months, so this has been a huge change for most of our community. I still have problems getting teens to all the weekly programs, but I've had more success with special programs.

In August, we had a Mad Hatter Tea Party, where I showed the new *Alice in Wonderland* movie. We had finger foods and iced tea and made Mad Hatter hats out of paper plates and scrapbooking paper. You cut out the bottom of the plate, roll a piece of scrapbooking paper and tape everything together.



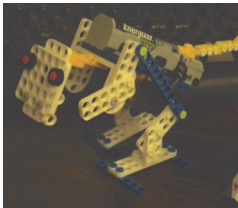
In November, we had a series of Harry Potter programs before the seventh movie came out. In a joint program with Children's, we did a Horcrux Scavenger Hunt in the library. This summer, we're hoping for a series of Quidditch games before the last movie.

 My craft night in December was dedicated to making keychains. I went to the local craft chain store, bought beads, jewelry wire, and keychain rings. I got pretty good at wrapping wire around jump rings with mini-pliers!

February hosted an Un-Valentine's Day party where the teens made Valentine voodoo pin cushion dolls. I cut the shapes out of felt and yes, I did make the teens sew! Some of them were better at it than others, but the pin cushions looked great.



For Teen Tech Week this month, the teens made robots. The robot kits I found online were inexpensive enough the teens could keep them when we were done.



Natalie Struecker
YSS Newsletter Editor
Young Adult Librarian,
Rock Island Public Library

Calling all Youth
Services Librarians

Do you have a
program, event, or
special service
you'd like to share
with the other
Youth Services
Subdivision
members?

We're looking for
stories to add to
the newsletter.

Please email
Natalie, YSS
Newsletter Editor,
with your story!

natalie.struecker@gmail.com



Information Literacy Skills in a School Library

It's March already. Snow, fog, ice...typical Iowa weather has interrupted school way too many times in far northeast Iowa. When weather shortens or cancels school days, unique challenges are created for a teacher librarian. Weeks of project scheduling ripple back toward the ever-shifting last day of school, and content area teachers, scrambling to cover the work their students are expected to know, plot how they'll wiggle out of the projects we'd been planning. These projects are precious to me because I use them to develop students' information literacy skills. Sigh. Classroom teachers are up against the same problem, too much to do, too little time.

My dad, an Iowa farmer who with my mom raised 11 kids on 160 acres of ground, was handy with pearls of wisdom. One of my favorite 'Gibisms' – my dad's name was Gilbert – is "Do the best you can. More than that nobody can ask of you." It's difficult sometimes to push and cajole teachers to



work with me so that the skills I know are important are taught to our students. Back in the day, teacher librarians taught students to use reference and nonfiction books to find and use information. Now information literacy involves developing effective questions, navigating efficiently and ethically between mountains of information, both print and electronic, and then evaluating that information to determine how effectively it answers the students' questions. Whenever appropriate, the new knowledge created by the students' research should be shared using web 2.0 applications, and after that, it's most effective if the students take time to evaluate their

research process and their work. Whew!

Thank heavens information literacy skills are identified as essential for our students' futures by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. This makes the urge to 'wiggle out' of inquiry projects less attractive, but it still places all teachers in a time crunch as we shift our schedules and scramble to adjust to Mother Nature's whims. I've come to the conclusion, as I've attended workshops for the last few years, that we'll need longer school days or school years to accomplish everything that's expected. That's fine. I just wish we'd do it soon.

Marsha Hauser, K-12 Teacher Librarian
7-12 TAG Teacher
VREP Facilitator
Edgewood-Colesburg CSD



2011 Sibert Award

Every January there's a buzz of anticipation in schools and libraries across the country. Not just because of possible winter storms or snow days. But because teachers and librarians can't wait to see which children's books have been chosen as the best of the year by ALSC (the Association for Library Service to Children) of the American Library Association.

Like the proverbial papal puff of smoke, ALSC announces books that are award-winning, honorable mention, or notable at a special news conference at the ALA Midwinter Conference. There are award categories based on different genres or types of publication. And committees of librarians who read and hotly debate all the books published in them. Some ALSC awards are well known, like the Newbery Award (for the best written children's book) or Caldecott Award (for the best illustrated children's book.) One that is less familiar is the Sibert Award. Created in 2001, it is named for Robert F. Sibert. And is awarded to the authors and/or illustrators of the most distinguished informational book published in English. They define books in this category as those written and illustrated to present, organize, and interpret factual material.

Because there are special considerations when writing to inform or help children learn, the Sibert Award requires that books being considered meet certain criteria. These include use of excellent, engaging, and distinctive language and visual presentation. Also having appropriate organization and documentation plus a clear, accurate, and stimulating presentation of facts, concepts, and ideas. Titles should have an appropriate style of presentation for both the subject and intended audience. They should include supportive features such as an index, table of contents, maps, timelines, etc... And, most of all, their presentation style should be respectful and of interest to children.

And, for 2011, the Sibert Award goes to?

[Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot](#), written by Sy Montgomery with photos by Nic Bishop. Part of the "Scientists in the Field" series, this fascinating book describes a remote island off the coast of New Zealand where the last 91 kakapo parrots on earth live. Originally they numbered in the millions before humans brought predators to the islands. Now, as an isolated refuge, scientists are using this island to try to restore the kakapo population before they disappear forever.

There are also two 2011 Sibert Honor Books, including:

[Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring](#) by Jan Greenburg and Sandra Jordan with illustrations by Brian Floca. A beautifully illustrated retelling of the events behind the creation of "Appalachian Spring," Aaron Copland's signature musical work. This ground-breaking piece debuted in 1944 with Martha Graham's amazing choreography and Isamu Noguchi's set designs, setting the stage for new styles of American music and modern ballet.

[Lafayette and the American Revolution](#) by Russell Freedman. In this biography Freedman leads readers through the events that influenced Lafayette as a young man during a time of change. And those that would shape the rest of his life when daunting challenges required his leadership during the American Revolution.

Debb Green
Youth Services Coordinator
Iowa City Public Library



*Kids First
Silent Auction*

Get ready for the 3rd
annual
YSS Silent Auction at
Kid's First Conference,
April 25 and 26 in
Des Moines!
We will have 5 to 10
items for you to bid on.

Proceeds from the
silent auction are used
to bring speakers to
future ILA conferences.

If you have any
questions please
contact
Katie Dreyer at Pella
or
Zach Stier
at Bondurant.

See you in April!

Teen Job Fair

The Council Bluffs Public Library hosted a Teen Job Fair and Community Resource Day in March for 15-to- 19-year-olds. To pull off the event, the library's Teen Central partnered with two community organizations—the Vocational Development Center and the AIM Institute.



We saw more than 300 people over the course of the three hour program, which took place on a Thursday afternoon during regular library hours. Teens were invited to visit with over 20 local employers and more than 10 community agencies offering various services throughout community. We also offered break-out sessions on the basics of job hunting and on library resources for the job search, as well as having and Careerlink.com staff available for resume review. We were able to provide bus transportation from one of our four city high schools through an AIM Institute grant, but hope to expand this service to all four of our high schools next year.

It took months to make this event happen, but it was worth every minute. We got great feedback from the teens and their parents, from the employers, and even from folks just hanging around to use the library. It was awesome to see so many teens dressed up, focused, and ready to make a good impression, and they did—to the employers, library staff, and the public.

Anna Hartmann
YSS Secretary
Teen Services Librarian, Council Bluffs Public Library

NEW KIDS FIRST CONFERENCE AWARD

We are very excited to announce a new award!! This award is officially called the "First Time Attendee to the State Library's Kids First Conference Award". Since we are a bit late announcing it, we will be taking nominations until **April 18**. The award will cover up to \$250 for conference registration, travel, hotel, and meal expenses. Conference award winners will be reimbursed after the conference. If your library has already paid your fees for this event, we will reimburse your library this year. Here are the guidelines for nominations:

- * Random drawing by awards chair from nominations submitted
- * Nominee must currently work in Youth Services at an Iowa library
- * Nominee must be a member of ILA and YSS
- * Nominee must be a first time attendee to Kids First

You may nominate yourself or have someone at your library nominate you. Please send your nominations to Danielle Day at dday@dubuque.lib.ia.us. We will need: your name, library, address, best phone number, email and one sentence describing why you want to attend the conference.

Please email Audrey Jones at aciones@dmpl.org or Danielle Day at dday@dubuque.lib.ia.us if you have any questions.