



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

ROCK THE READING

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

"Libraries Rock!" is the theme for the 2018 Texas Summer Reading Program. You may not think a library to be an exceptionally exciting place, but the Huntsville Public Library is pleased to offer a wide variety of educational programs for all ages from animal presentations to technology courses. The 2018 Summer Reading program will commence on Saturday, June 9 with our annual Summer Reading Kick-Off Party. We have a variety of activities planned from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Participants can register for the all ages reading program (yes, adults can join in on the fun, too!), receive their reading log, enjoy meeting H-E-Buddy, play games, see a balloon artist, and start reading! Mad Science will be at the library at 1 p.m. for an exciting presentation on air pressure complete with a hoverboard. The Huntsville Kiwanis will also be at the library for their 2nd annual BBQ fundraiser with proceeds going to assist literacy programs at the library.



The library is utilizing a "Book Squares" reading log like the one used in last year's program. The reading logs have challenges, activities, or suggestions on what to read next, and many contain writing prompts. Participants who complete six challenges in a straight line in any direction will have successfully completed the program and are then invited to turn in their completed reading log to the library during the week of July 23 to July 28. Turning in a completed reading log earns children and teens a prize pack of coupons to "spend" at local businesses and a raffle ticket for more exclusive prizes. We think the "real" prize is another year of students learning, growing, and reading, ready for another year of school and whatever path they choose in life.

We haven't forgotten our adult readers! Adults can participate in Summer Reading as well. Turning in a completed reading log earns adults a bar of chocolate and a raffle ticket for exclusive prizes.

So, Summer Reading is a great way to encourage the community to read, but what's the real impact of these types of programs? Do they really make that much of a difference in helping students retain what they learned at school? The Library of Virginia located in Richmond wondered the same thing. With funding from the Library Services and Technology Act, a program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Library of Virginia conducted a study from 2013-2015 to track the impact that library summer reading programs have on supporting summer learning and preventing summer reading loss. Four reports published in 2015 report their findings.

Children ages 0 to 5 were read an average of 24 books. Children ages 6 to 12 read an average of 11 books whereas Teens ages 13 to 17 read an average of 7 books. It is interesting to note that 84% of children in grades 1-7 were reading at or above their grade level, but only 29% of students in 8th through 12 grades were reading at or above grade level. Children and teens who participated in summer reading programs "performed better academically and experience greater gains in their academic performance than their non-participating peers. Participants outperformed nonparticipants on tests across all measures and grades," especially in reading ability, word analysis, and reading comprehension for both fiction and non-fiction works. The effect of summer reading programs did not differ by gender, limited English proficiency status or economic status. **(cont. on page 3)**



1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-5472

Monday-Friday Saturday
10am-7pm 12pm-4pm



myhuntsvillelibrary.com



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TEXSHARE DATABASES

BY MARY KOKOT, ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES

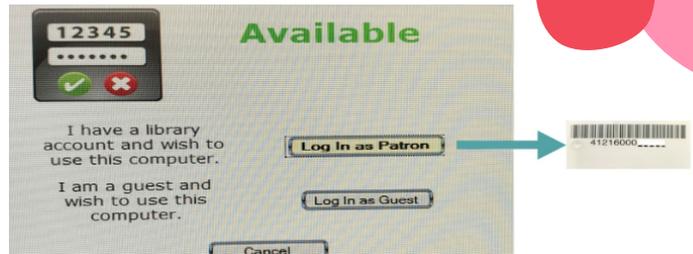
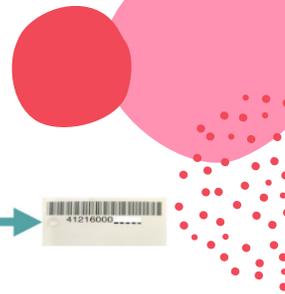
Sometimes it's impossible to find the right information or vocational resources in books. Or (gasp!) your library doesn't have the book you need. In that case, Learning Express Library can be a lifesaver. Access to this collection of online career resources comes with the library's TexShare subscription. The site can be beneficial to students, but also to adults who are exploring various career options. Some of the practice exams include EMT and other health certification examinations, including nursing (NCLEX). Perhaps careers in the civil service, military (ASVAB) or law enforcement sound appealing. Other challenging jobs in teaching, real estate, or cosmetology all require examinations and this database has all the testing information one needs, even to be an air traffic controller!

Every resource imaginable for the student can be found, too. Get homework help through extra review, study for the GED, or choose from among a handful of college preparatory examinations. E-books and tutorials round out this fantastic online resource. Users create their own private username and password. Only the user has access to the results of their progress and quiz/exam results. Log in information can be obtained from library staff.

Any student or parent conducting research should consult the Gale and EBSCO databases. Access is available to hundreds of full-text journals, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias and reference books. Also included in our TexShare subscription are historical and genealogical information, health and medical resources, and do-it-yourself reference centers. EBSCO offers Explora, a colorful and informative homework assistance database for elementary and high school age children. If you are interested in accessing these materials, you can request the TexShare login information from one of our staff members next time you visit the library.



Ask one of our staff members how you can connect to over 40 different research databases all for FREE!



ACCESS OUR COMPUTERS

BY JALPA SHAH, IT COORDINATOR

Do you need to use the library computers but are not sure how to get access? Take the first step and get a library card, a PC card, or a guest pass. Your first library card is free!

To get a Library card:

+Library cards are issued to patrons 18 and older with a photo ID and current proof of permanent address. Current in this instance means a piece of mail dated within the last 30 days addressed to the applicant, a current car insurance card, or a current voter registration card.

+Library cards are issued to children between the ages of 3 and 17 with their parent's or guardian's signature. The parent must show a photo ID and proof of permanent address.

To get a PC card:

+PC cards are issued to patrons 18 and older with just a photo ID. These cards allow customers to use a computer for 2 hours a day.

To get a guest pass:

+For those who do not reside in Walker County, the library can issue a guest pass which will allow visitors to use a computer for 1 hour a day.

Logging in:

+Once you get any of these three, you now have access to the Adult Computer Lab (18 and up), the Teen Computers (13-17), or the Children's Computers (12 and under). You can choose any available computer, and log in using the 13-digit library card barcode number followed by your 4-digit pin number. Guest passes have a temporary code under the barcode.

Time extension:

If you need more time to use the computer, you may request an extension by asking one of our staff members. Time may be extended for users applying for work or completing tests/homework.

Printing:

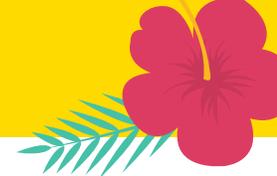
Printing is \$0.15 per page, and the printers print in black and white only.

Availability:

M-F: 10 AM - 6:45 PM, S: 12 PM - 3:45 PM



June Summer Events



First Friday Book Club

June 1, 1:00 PM
3rd-7th Graders



Family Movie Night showing The Greatest Showman

June 1, 5:30 PM
For all ages



Mad Science

June 9, 1:00 PM
Ages 5+



Nature Discovery Center Story Time with live bunnies

June 13, 11:00 AM
Ages 5 and under



Nature Discovery Center Back to the Bone with animals

June 13, 2:00 PM
For all ages



Huntsville Audubon Find the Birds in Your Own Backyard

June 20, 2:00 PM



Southwest Dairy Farmers Mobile Dairy Classroom at Kate Barr Ross

June 21, 11:00 AM



Munchkin Card Game

June 10 and 26, 3:30 PM
Ages 13+



Junior Genealogists

June 21 and 28, 3:00 PM
Ages 9-12 (Registration Required)



Walker County Beekeepers

June 25, 3:00 PM
No live bees

Summer Reading Dates for All Ages



- Kick-Off Party - June 9, 12:30 - 3:30 PM
- First day to turn in reading logs - July 23
- Last day to turn in reading logs - July 28

CHILDREN'S Programming



Summer of Shakespeare Theater Boot Camp

June 12, 14, 26, 28, and
select dates in July, 4:00 PM
Ages 12-17 (Registration Required)



Makey-Makey Workshop

Tuesdays in June, 1:00 PM
Ages 8-12 (Registration Required)



Hour of Code

Tuesdays in June, 3:00 PM
K-12th Graders (Registration Required)



Story Time

Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:45 AM
Ages 5 and under



Mother Goose Lapsit

Mondays, 10:30 AM
Ages 2 and under



ADULT Programming

Midday Matinee

Gigi

June 1, 3:00 PM



FamilySearch.Org Workshop

June 1 and 15, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



27th Annual Lineage Society Workshop

June 14, 10:30 AM

Registration Required



Book Club at the Huntsville Public Library

Better by Atul Gawande

June 14, 10:30 AM



Exploring Ancestry.com

June 14, 5:30 PM

Registration Required



Play Texas 42
Mondays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Registration Required
Multiples of 4 needed to play!



Stephen King Online Book Club

Cujo

Join the discussion online!



Sittercise

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 AM



CODING FOR GIRLS CLUB RECAP!

BY BELLA ABRIL, IT COORDINATOR



School's out for the summer, and so is Coding for Girls Club! If you have not heard, Coding for Girls Club is a free after-school activity for 6-12th grade girls at the Huntsville Public Library. Members learn about computer science in a fun and user-friendly way! The program was

launched only five months ago on January 4, 2018, but has proved to be popular among the tweens. In total, 11 girls joined the club during this past spring semester with 8 to 9 members regularly attending meetings.

In the club, the girls used the CS First Curriculum offered by Google to learn coding concepts while using Scratch, a website for visual programming, to apply what they learned. At the end of



the spring semester, the girls completed both the Game Design and Animation curriculum as well as a corporate project that they coordinated, designed, and executed themselves. In Game Design, the girls were introduced to terms such as binary, events, conditional statements, loops, and more. They also made different types of games such as racing game, maze game, cave surfing game (which is similar to flappy bird), and my personal favorite, the quest game. Some of the games that the girls created are linked on our website on the Coding for Girls Page. In Animation, the girls learned about vectors, bitmaps, string manipulation, functions and variables through their animated projects. They were also acquainted with Animation terms like story boarding, parallax, contingencies, and stop motion. Overall, the girls enjoyed coding and making friends while in the club and are hoping for the same fun experiences during the Fall!



Q&A with the Girls

What is your impression of the club?

"It's really fun being able to meet people around my age and being able to learn something new together. I'm really happy that this club introduced me to computer science because it's something that I really enjoy." -Kylie, 14

What did you learn?

"I learned about the difference of vectors and bitmaps. Bitmap images are made of pixels, which are tiny squares of color. Vectors are created using points and curves, which is much easier to edit. Also when you zoom in, vectors will always look smooth compared to bitmap images." -Raven, 11

What is your favorite thing about the club?

"How you can create cool projects like the quest game." -Lauren, 13

"My favorite thing is being able to learn how to make Scratch projects on your own." -Marti, 11

"My favorite thing about the club is that we learned so much, but in a very fun way. I mean, who doesn't enjoy having fun with the best teacher on the globe, and making awesome, yet simple, fun computer games?" -Addy, 13

Would you consider doing a computer science as a career in the future?

"Yes, definitely." -Ana, 13

Is there anything that we can improve about the club?

"More snacks!" -Everyone

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANOTHER YOUNG READER!

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

The Huntsville Public Library is pleased to congratulate four-year-old patron Lucienne on completing the One Thousand Books Before Kindergarten program at the library. Lucienne is a regular at the library and we enjoy her enthusiasm for reading.

Libraries across America have been incorporating this program to encourage a love of reading in young children. One Thousand Books Before Kindergarten is an early literacy initiative that encourages parents and caregivers to incorporate reading into children's daily routines. The goal of the program is simple: read one thousand books before the child starts kindergarten.

Lucienne completed this program during the month of May. Her favorite book that she read with her family during the program was *Eloise*, but she has also enjoyed reading all the *Pinkalicious* and Disney Princess stories she could find. At the start of the program, Lucienne was excited to track her reading progress at home since it's something her older brothers do for their schoolwork.

When she completed the program, Lucienne felt proud. Her mother made sure to show Lucienne her progress on the bulletin board in the Children's room of the library which has stars with each participant's name written on them. As each

child reaches a milestone (100, 200, 300, etc.), his or her name progresses across the board. Lucienne's mother explained that the stars were a simple way for Lucienne to see her progress as the numbers were a bit too abstract for her age. Lucienne and her mother enjoyed reading the email with the news that she had completed the program. She was also excited to come to the library to pick up her prizes for completing the program.

Lucienne's mother explained that she knew that the goal of one thousand books would take some time to accomplish but reading is something that her family enjoys doing and they were confident they would finish before Lucienne starts kindergarten. "Reading has always been an important part of my life and it was important for us to pass on the love of books to our kids. We read at home with our kids all the time. It has been a pleasure to watch Lucienne feel passionate about reading too and we look forward to the day when she is able to pick up books on her own. However, even as she gets older, I hope we always make time to sit down and read together," she explained.

If you are interested in signing up for this program, please visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or contact Children's Coordinator Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.



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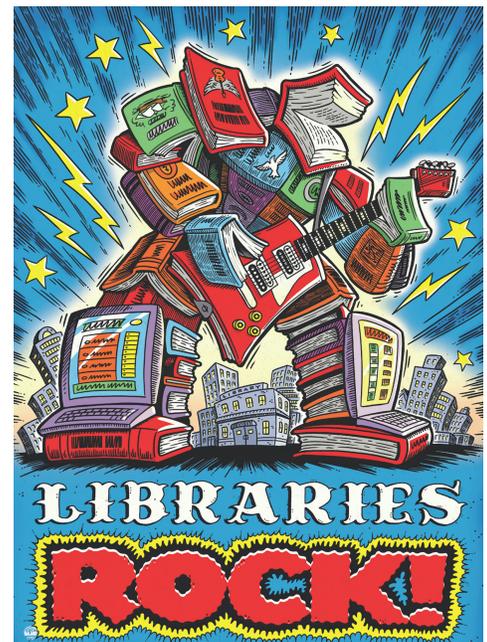
The reports conclude by stating that participation in summer reading programs may have a positive effect on student achievement by preventing or lessening loss of learning even two years after participating in the program. The effects of participating in a summer reading program increase for those who continue the program year after year. This study used data from almost fifty library systems in Virginia.

So, summer reading programs are beneficial to students, but just how significant is the loss of learning during the summer months? According to the findings of the above-mentioned study, the amount of information lost over the average summer break roughly correlates to one month of school.

Summer reading loss during the elementary grade years totals to 18 months by the end of 6th grade. The "summer slide," a term used by educators to describe loss of learning over the summer months, is greater for children from economically disadvantaged communities, but all young people experience this phenomenon when they don't engage in academically based activities when school is out.

To learn more information about the Summer Reading Program at the Huntsville Public Library, please visit the library's website at myhuntsvillelibrary.com; find us on social media like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter; or call us at 936-291-5472. We would like to

thank all the sponsors who make the Summer Reading Program possible.



FAMILY HISTORY AND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF NOSTALGIA

BY RICHARD LANE, REFERENCE



Family historians, both the seasoned and the beginner, express a fascination and enthusiasm as they recount their findings to anyone who will listen. This writer includes himself in that group. The connections that we have to our ancestral past seem to satisfy an inner longing to find meaning within our life experiences. Questions arise as we examine our family history and their emotional effect on our sense of self. The questions include, "Why do we find our family stories meaningful?" and "How does the understanding of our family stories affect our psychological well-being?"

Social psychologists and sociologists study social interactions including their origins and their effects on the individual. Their studies include examinations of the role of family history (genealogy) and well-being. The studies focus largely on the role of nostalgia. A cursory examination of the literature finds some remarkable conclusions.

An article in the Huffington Post quotes an interesting conclusion by Clay Routledge of North Dakota State University. Routledge is quoted as saying, "Nostalgia can ward off loneliness and anxiety. Though often triggered by isolation and challenging life changes, it offers relief by bringing to mind cherished experiences that assure us we are valued people who have meaningful lives. Such reminiscences are remarkably similar across cultures, centering on being with friends at weddings, holidays and other special moments. The ability to call up a fond memory to maintain physiological comfort may even be an evolutionary adaptation."

An article in the journal *Self & Identity* appearing in March 2014 offers this insight, "Nostalgia promotes psychological growth – that is, the potential to cultivate inner potentialities, seek out optimal challenges, and integrate new experiences into the self-concept."

Julia Bennett addressed the issue in *Current Sociology* in May 2018. Her findings demonstrate that "Nostalgia and authenticity are evoked in telling family histories in order to negotiate change and create a continuous story of belonging. Family histories demonstrate how material objects, places and claims of family resemblances are used to create both authentic identities and authentic selves belonging to the wide community."

The articles suggest that the longing for self-identity is an evolutionary mechanism that can be satisfied by a nostalgic examination of our family histories. Genealogy and the telling of family histories are widely accepted as healthy endeavors. The findings of social psychologist and sociologist give evidence to the role family history may play in the well-being of family history enthusiast.

Is your student interested in becoming a family history sleuth? Are you interested in developing their researching skills over the summer? The Huntsville Public Library is pleased to host five weeks of "Junior Genealogists," a family tree researching program for children ages 9-12. Under the tutelage of Johnnie Jo Dickenson, students will learn how to successfully research their family history, develop a binder of records, and receive a certificate of completion. Sessions will be held from

3 to 4:45 p.m. with a fifteen-minute snack break in the middle. The library will provide snacks. Join us for "Junior Genealogists" on Thursday, June 21, June 28, July 12, and July 19. Sign-up is required, and space is limited to twenty children. For more information, please contact Children's Coordinator Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910 or visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com to register.

WHAT WERE YOUR ANCESTORS LIKE?
JUNIOR GENEALOGISTS
3 p.m. Thursdays: June 21, June 28,
July 5, July 12, and July 19
Ages 9-12. Register at myhuntsvillelibrary.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The Johnnie Jo Sowell Dickenson Genealogy Room is home to more than five thousand books, archive files, maps, and microfilm records. The print materials housed in the genealogy collection are searchable using the library's online catalog.