

1000 Books Before Kindergarten



The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless.” Read one thousand books to your children

before they start kindergarten. Libraries across America host this program with the hope that involvement will foster a lifelong love of reading and encourage family bonding through reading. The Huntsville Public Library has participated in the program for roughly one year with over thirty children involved in it. “We had our first child complete the program last month and it was so exciting,” says Children’s Coordinator Rachel McPhail.

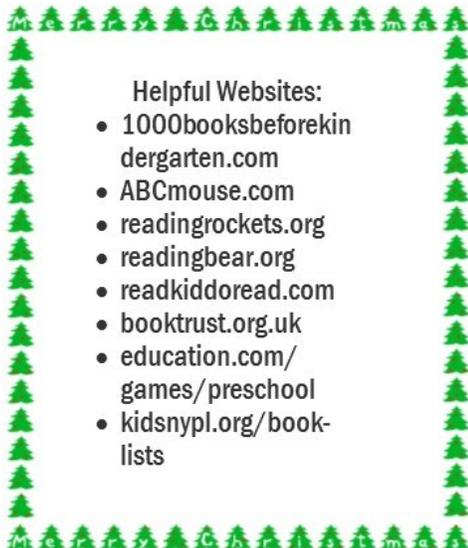
routine, Esha says to not focus on the large number. “We figured that if we read 20 books per week, we can finish in one year. We finished it in less than 6 months actually—so much sooner than we targeted,” she explains.

McPhail breaks down the thousand books further: reading three books a day for a year exceeds the goal. “Instead of thinking one thousand, focus on the fun you can have. Try to make it a game! Share books you enjoyed as a child or pick books on different topics. The good news is that the Huntsville Public Library doesn’t require that you read a thousand different books. It can be the same book as often as your child wants,” says McPhail.

Four year old Isaiah Solomon is the very excited pre-kindergartner to first complete the program. Rachel McPhail asked his mother Esha Christie to talk about their experience with the 1000 Books program. “We were really excited to start this program. It gave us a target, a goal to achieve. I explained to Isaiah that we are going to read 1000 books together and keep a log of them all... Once we started, we couldn’t stop. We had so [many] laughs reading books together. I will cherish these memories as Isaiah’s mom,” she says.

One thousand books may seem like a lot, so for parents wondering how to incorporate that volume of reading into a busy daily

Isaiah definitely discovered a few favorites during the program experience. “His favorite book of all time from the 1000 books was *Hooray Hooray for Bread*. It is written by an English author and the illustrations are so whimsical! It is definitely a must read. Also, bread is one of Isaiah’s favorite food (sic) so that surely played a role!” says Esha, “We kept a log of books that he loved (some because of its story (continued on pg. 3...)



Helpful Websites:

- 1000booksbeforekindergarten.com
- ABCmouse.com
- readingrockets.org
- readingbear.org
- readkiddoread.com
- booktrust.org.uk
- education.com/games/preschool
- kidsnypl.org/book-lists

HUNTSVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturdays Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday



Experience the World Virtually!

In an era where technology is in an exponential boom, many people claim that the future is now. With the popularization of trendy technologies like virtual reality (VR), statements as such seem more relatable. If you're not familiar with the term, virtual reality refers to the computer technology



that utilizes headsets projecting a realistic field of vision and other sensations to simulate a user's presence in a virtual environment. In other words, an individual with a VR headset can view artificial surroundings by physically looking around and can even interact with the virtual world using other compatible equipment. Various acclaimed companies, such as Google, Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, Sony, Samsung, and even Facebook, have recently been advertising VR-incorporated products to cater to the public's growing interest in this technology.

VR technology is receiving much attention because of its convenient and portable nature in providing an out-of-this-world experience to its users. Who wouldn't want to enjoy a view of the

Grand Canyon in your own living room without having to worry about travel expenses? With such a futuristic concept, VR has been incorporated in video games, cinema, entertainment, and education and is also being developed for use in social science, psychology, and health care. Besides the en-

tertainment element, one thing I do appreciate about this technology is the realistic training aspect it features. From simulated surgeries for med students to parachute training

for U.S. navy personnel, VR technology offers widescale use that can have a beneficial impact on the growth of our society. While VR technology does have its promising advantages, its use is not without concerns and challenges. Heavy usage of virtual reality has been reported to cause some unwanted symptoms likened to motion sickness symptoms. These include headaches, nausea, fatigue, disorientation, and vomiting. Furthermore, there are several risks that companies warn consumers of such as tripping and falling, repetitive stress injury, seizures, and developmental issues in children. Hence, it is always important to apply caution, as with any technology, when utilizing virtual reality technology.

—*Bella Abril, IT Specialist*

Microsoft Word 2010 Class



Registration begins **November 1, 2017**

Classes are **December 5th** through **January 4th**

Morning Classes are on Tuesdays from **10 AM to 11 AM**

Afternoon classes are on Thursdays from **5:30 PM to 6:30 PM**

Ages: 17 and older

Register online at www.huntsvilletx.gov or call the IT Reference Desk at 936-291-5485

1,000 BOOKS before kindergarten

and some because of the colorful illustrations), and we ended up with about 60 books in his “fav books” list.

As for Isaiah, he is very proud of his accomplishment. “And now that we are so used to reading many books, we have continued [with it]. So reading [has] become part of our daily routine. Huntsville Public Library has some great children’s books and we were happy to find some amazing reads along the path to 1000 Books Before Kindergarten!” says Esha.

Here are some of Isaiah’s other favorites read during the program and a short reason why he liked them.



The House in the Middle of the Town (great message)

20 Trucks in the Middle of the Street (amazing artwork)

The Curious Garden (breathtaking illustrations)

Parable Treasury by Liz Higgs: “Miss Fanny’s Hat,” “The Empty Pot,” “Weslandia” (great life lessons)

As an Oak Tree Grows (history)

Grandpa’s Soup (heartwarming)

Grandpa’s Tractor (about family and heritage)

The Twelve Days of Christmas

(awesome pictures)

Late for School, Farmer Cap, Amelia Bedelia Bakes off, Press Here

(funny!)

Somebody’s New Pajamas (economic

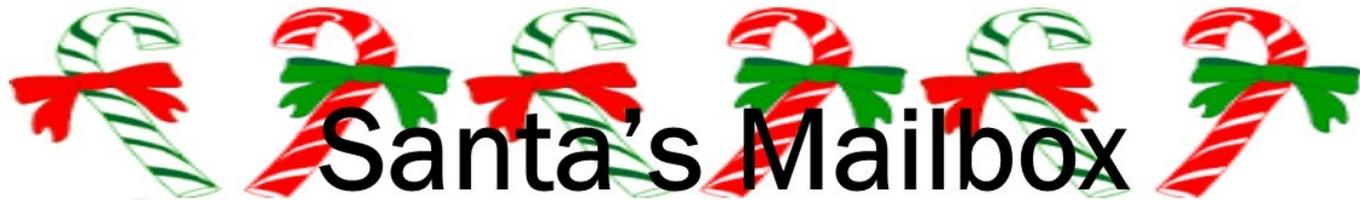
issues)

A Balloon for Isabel, Nurse Clementine, Fish in His Pocket, Worm Gets a Job, When Marcus Moore Moved in, Mystery Wine, To the Beach (good reads)

Books by Tim Egan (all of them are great reads, pick any and you won’t go wrong!)

Interested parents can register their child for the program at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. Parents can log ten books at a time on the website. Once the child reaches 100 books, his or her first name is placed on the 1000 Books display in the Children’s Room. Children who complete the program receive prizes that are dually sponsored by the Huntsville Kiwanis and Amerigroup.

—Rachel McPhail,
Children’s Librarian



Santa’s Mailbox



Santa Claus wants all the children of the Huntsville area to start sending him their Christmas letters.! Not only did Santa give the Huntsville Public Library a special Santa mailbox linked directly to the North Pole, but he even promised to write back with an email! Starting December 4, 2017, children of all ages can visit the mailbox in the Huntsville Public Library. Santa says, “Please write as neatly as you can. My eyes are old and the elves are always losing my glasses.” Santa will accept letters until Thursday, December 21, 2017 when he needs to double-check the naughty list. Santa also said that the best person to contact for more information is Rachel McPhail, Children’s Coordinator, at 936-291-5910.

Photos & Events

You are cordially invited

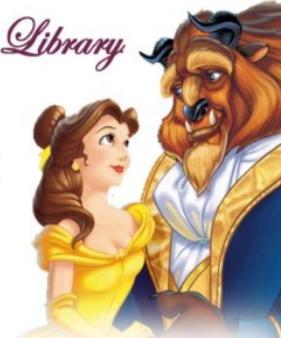
Beauty & the Beast Royal Ball

4-6 p.m. Friday, December 1st

@ Huntsville Public Library

Be our Guest!

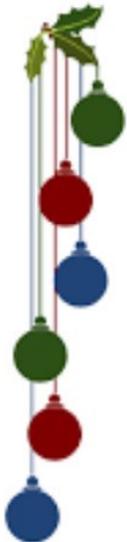
Be our Guest!



Come to Mother Goose Lapsit, an early literacy program for 0-24 months.

Enjoy songs, stories, rhymes, and toys!

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.



Halloween At the Library



Books with Blue

Officer Kaaa-Bauer from the Huntsville Police Department will be a special guest reader at StoryTime!

Mark your calendars!

10:45 a.m. Wednesday, December 13
in the Community Room



Ages 5 and under. Sign-up is not required. For more information please visit myhuntsville...

YOU ARE INVITED TO
A FREE PERFORMANCE AT
HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
FEATURING:
Diana Tarin
Thursday, December 7
11 a.m. ~ 12 p.m.
Visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call 936-291-5471 for more information.

Make your own fossil!

Try your hand at
dinosaur grid art!

3:30 p.m. Monday, December 11

For elementary ages. Sign-up not required

JURASSIC CRAFTS

Genealogy and Ethics

Recently, as is our longstanding Friday night custom, a number of friends gathered at a local eatery to renew conversations and unwind. The conversations follow a well-established routine. We chew over world affairs and local events, ever delving into wide-ranging explorations of Texas history, politics and local culture. Oft repeated yarns and stories are rehashed with new insights and adaptations offered.

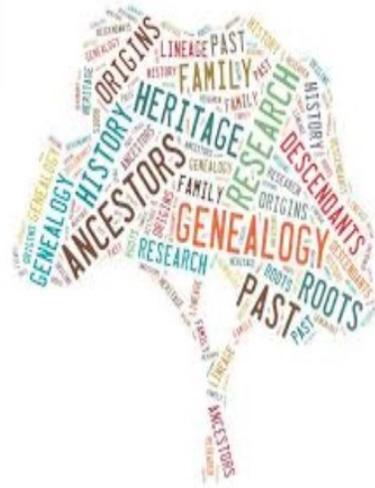
Toward the end of the evening, as the waiters gathered up the dishes and glasses, one of the regulars, a self-admitted family historian, described an ethical dilemma with which she had been struggling. It seems that she had submitted a DNA sample for genealogical analysis. Soon after receiving the results, she was contacted by a person identified as a likely cousin. Her newfound cousin told how she had been separated from her birth mother and was adopted into a new family as an infant. The cousin had been told of her adoption, and as often is the case, she longed to know about her birth mother, her possible siblings and her extended family. My friend quickly recognized that her newfound cousin was indeed the child of a family member. The question posed by my

friend was, in classical ethical terms, “What ought I do?”

We all have an expectation of privacy. The U.S. Constitution provides protection of privacy against government intrusions, but what are the responsibilities, in an age of DNA analysis and easy access to genealogical information, of the individual to protect the privacy of others? Statutory law and case law are emerging to clarify the issues. The civil and criminal questions associated with DNA, genealogical information and privacy are beyond this writer’s ability to address. However, there is one guiding principle addressed by proscriptive ethics (ethics concerned with how one ought to act) which simply says, “First, do no harm.”

Questions about DNA, genealogy and privacy are complex and may upon occasion pose ethical concerns. Professional genealogists and family historians would be well served to give ethics guidelines due consideration before releasing information of a private nature.

Ethics for professional genealogists has been addressed by the Association of Professional Genealogists and can be found at fami-



lysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical_Ethics_(National_Institute). The International Society of Genetic Genealogy has addressed ethics as well. The Society has posted their position at isogg.org/wiki/Ethics_guidelines_and_standards. A more general, and perhaps friendlier source, can be found at www.cyndislist.com/etiquette/general/.

- *Richard Lane, Reference & Genealogy*

SITTERCISE

Use it or lose it! Everyone has heard that old axiom. Unfortunately, it’s true. As America’s baby boomers have become senior citizens, many of them realize that due to certain medical or physical conditions, their former fitness methods are no longer possible. What to do? To maintain one’s physical mobility and independence, a seated form of exercise has become more and more popular. It’s called Sittercise! Start 2018 off with a Sittercise class from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning January 2nd at the Huntsville Public Library. It’s a safe way to get a great cardiovascular workout and at the same time is adaptable to different levels of motor skills and flexibility.

Another benefit to senior fitness exercise is that it

elevates mood and boosts the immune system. The mind-body connection has been undisputedly linked to better health, happiness, and mobility. So whether it’s a simple foot shuffle movement to test body and mind coordination or a more vigorous leg stretch and kick part of the routine, expect good things to result: a kick-start to the metabolism, increased strength, and improved joint flexibility throughout the day. Please consult your doctor before starting any new exercise program. Liability waivers are required to participate and are available from the instructor. The class is free and open to adults ages 18 and older. Register online and visit www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com for a complete list of class dates.

—*Mary Kokot, Adult Coordinator*





Online Book Clubs

Meet your next favorite book! That is the slogan for the website Goodreads. Goodreads helps you discover your next adventure through reading. Created by CEO and Founders, Elizabeth and Otis Chandler in 2007, it is one of the largest sites for readers and book recommendations. With over 65 million members, 2 million books recommendations added and 68 million reviews, their mission is to help people find and share books they love.

Goodreads allows members to see what their friends are reading through an online bookshelf. You can track all of your books in categories like the ones you read, currently reading and want to read. Personalization of book recommendations are done through a search engine of 20 billion data points to give suggestions tailored to your literary interest. Reviews are great; it helps you find out if a book is a good fit for your literary journey. Goodreads is not just about read-

ing. It has trivia, quizzes and even creative writing blogs. The blogs are made by anyone who is a member of the Goodreads community. Openly write about anything about book related topics, Goodreads allows oneself to express themselves crea-

tively online.

Many libraries have started to branch out and explore new heights with reading and books in general. Technology has made it so that books can be read anywhere on the go. Now they have also made joining book clubs easier without leaving the house. The Huntsville Public Library has started their very own book club for adults that meets on the second Thursday of each month at the library. Since this club is full to capacity, we have decided to start following in the footsteps of other libraries and start our own variations of an online book club. Using the Goodreads website, the library has started the EVERYBODY READS YA @ HPL book club. The purpose of the club is to encourage the enjoyment of reading through young adult literature. Anyone can join this book club. HPL staff chose two books for the month to discuss on the discussion board. Participation in discussions are required to make for

a great debate!

Starting December 1st, we will be reading "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas and "City of Bones" by Cassandra Clare. Each of these books comes from a different genre in YA fiction. The "Hate U Give" deals with real time controversy that affect teens in our society. "City of Bones" is a sci-fi/fantasy novel, it is part of the Mortal Instrument Series and it takes you to an alternate world where shadow hunters, vampires and werewolves walk amongst humans to keep them safe from evil spirits who deem to harm them all. Discussions for each book will be posting soon, so you may start discussing the books at any time. There is also a section for someone to pick their own books for the month and this allows the club to be more openminded to different genres of books.

Therefore, why should you join an online book club? They open your mind to new adventures and books. It allows you to meet interesting people in your community. It is just simply fun to chat about books. Learning from other readers will provide you with new techniques and approaches to reading. After reading this article, I hope this gives you some insight and interest in joining our book club and the discussions we have ahead.

—Ashley Newsome,
IT Coordinator

JOIN THE *girls who* **MOVEMENT**

CODE

Want to learn how to build an app, design a videogame, and change the world through code?

JOIN HPL'S GIRLS WHO CODE CLUB FOR FREE!

- + WHO:** Girls in 6th-8th Grade
- + WHEN:** Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm starting January 4, 2017
- + WHERE:** Huntsville Public Library Community Room

SPACES ARE LIMITED AND REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

You can register online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or contact Bella Abril at (936) 291-5485.

Listing of Events Find this information online at myhuntsvillelibrary.com

DECEMBER EVENTS:

December Events:

The Huntsville Public Library will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas holiday and will reopen at 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 27th.

Get in on the fun! Play Texas 42 – a dominoes game similar in style to bridge and spades at the Huntsville Public Library from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in December. Please register in advance at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for more information. Games will be played weekly if 8 or more players register. This program is for adults 18 years and older. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary Kokot at 936-291-5971.

Do you have children ages 2 or under? Then Mother Goose Lapsit is a story time designed for you! Held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., enjoy a half hour of developmentally appropriate play featuring stories, songs, and rhymes. Sign-up is not required. December dates are as follows: December 4th, 11th, and 18th. This program will not be held on December 25th. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

Come to Story Time – a fun early literacy program for kids 5 and under. Join us for interactive stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts. The early literacy practices featured each week help build the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and learning. Wednesday and Friday sessions share a theme with something new each week. Sign-up is not required. Story Time is held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m. December dates are as follows: December 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 22nd, 27th, and 29th. This program will not be held on December 1st. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

Computer classes are in the morning at 10:00 am on Tuesdays or afternoon on Thursdays at 5:30 pm starting December 5th – January 4th in the Adult Computer Lab. These classes will feature class activities on typing and correction, formatting text and pictures, tables and charts and bullets and outlines. This program is for adults 17 years or older and a library card is needed to attend class. Class size is limited and registration is required. Please sign up online at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. For more information, call 936-291-5971.

"Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" In the children's novel *The Mysterious Benedict Society* the children of the city of Stonetown read these mysterious words from a newspaper advertisement. Only four children pass the test and embark on an adventure...but we won't spoil the ending. December's session of the First Friday Book Club will be discussing Trenton Lee Stewart's exciting mystery which is full of puzzles and riddles for the reader to solve. The First Friday Book Club is designed for 3rd-5th graders and will next meet from 1-2 p.m. Friday, December 8th due to scheduling conflicts. Participants can pick up printouts of the first few chapters at the library to read before the club meeting. Registration is required and can be found at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. For more information, call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

Do you dream of dancing like a ballerina? Did you miss out on a fun family movie? The Huntsville Public Library has you covered. Join us for Family Movie Night at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 8th as we watch *Leap!*, an uplifting movie about an orphaned girl who moves to Paris to achieve her dreams of dancing ballet at the Grand Opera House. Dance through our complimentary popcorn line during this all ages program. Sign-up is not required. Please bring your own child friendly drink. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

Is your student interested in design and technology? Come to the Huntsville Public Library for 3D Printing Classes! At the end of the course, each participant will be able to take home his or her printed object. This program will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. over two evenings. This course is best suited for ages 7-17. Parental attendance is required for children under 13. Participants must bring their own USB drives to the class. Sign-up is required and can be found at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. December dates are as follows: December 4th and 6th as well as December 13th and 15th. For more information, visit call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

At the tender age of six years, Diana Tarin picked up the violin and it's scarcely been out of her hands since! She displayed her musical talent at the Huntsville Public Library's 50th anniversary celebration and the Library is delighted to welcome her back for a repeat performance 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 7th. No registration required for this free performance. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary Kokot at 936-291-5971.

What type of tool does a prehistoric reptile carpenter use? A dino-saw! The Huntsville Public Library will be hosting "Jurassic Crafts" from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 11th. Enjoy making your own "take home fossil" as well as dinosaur grid art. This program is best suited for elementary ages. Registration is not required. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

"O Come All Ye Faithful!" to hear the Huntsville Community Choir sing festive holiday music from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at the Huntsville Public Library. Be sure to request your favorite Christmas carol! Under the direction of Cynthia Cross, this mixed adult choir formed in 1994. The choir performs several times each year at assisted living residences in Huntsville, the Senior Center and out-of-town choir festivals. This is a free event and is open to all ages. No registration required. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471.

"I passed through the seven levels of the Candy Cane forest, through the sea of swirly-twirly gum drops, and then I walked through the Lincoln Tunnel." Join us in the Children's Room for a special showing of "Elf" (PG). Enjoy a comical holiday classic about a human raised as an elf who comes to New York City. This program will be held at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 19th at the Huntsville Public Library. No sign-up required. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

What happens when you introduce heat to wax? ART. Join us for Melted Art at 3 p.m. Thursday, December 21st at the Huntsville Public Library. This program is best suited for ages 5 and up. No registration is required. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

How do snowmen travel? By icicle! Drive, walk, or bike to the Huntsville Public Library's "Crafty Afternoon" to make your own snowman mosaic at 12 p.m. Friday, December 22nd. This program is best suited for ages 5 and up. Sign-up is not required. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

StoryTime at night? You bet'cha! Join us for a special "Evening StoryTime--Cocoa with the PoPo" at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, January 4th. Enjoy hot chocolate and a reading by Officer Ryann Kaaa-Bauer from the Huntsville Police Department. Sign up is not required. This program is best suited for ages 5 and under. For more information, visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.