

## “All Together Now” and Summer Reading Campaign Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

In like a lion and out like a... lion? Lamb? Polar Bear? Whatever animal March decides to go out as I would bet that North Dakotans are ready for winter to be over! With summer right around the corner, it is time to start preparing for your summer reading program.

The North Dakota State Library and many other libraries around the state participate in the Collaborative Summer Reading Program (CSLP) – a program designed to promote summer reading for people of all ages. This year’s theme is “All Together Now.”

And all together is what we are doing! Joining in on these efforts is the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI), who is partnering with the State Library, CollegeSave, and public libraries across the state to promote summer reading for ND students. DPI is reaching out to North Dakota children’s authors to join them for their kickoff event on June 21st at the state capitol. If you know of any ND children’s authors, please forward them the link (<https://forms.nd.gov/230864257272055>) below or contact Jennifer Odell at 701-328-3218 or [jodell@nd.gov](mailto:jodell@nd.gov).

A few other reminders about the summer reading program:

- Be on the lookout for an email in early April with summer reading specifics, including CollegeSave.
- NDSL is hosting a Connect and Share on April 4th for librarians to meet virtually and share their ideas for this year’s summer reading program.
- ND Library Quilt – if you are choosing to participate in the “All Together Library Quilt,” remember that it is a 9x9 block (of any material – preferably cotton) that represents your library. These need to be mailed to the State Library (604 E Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505) by May 15th.

## Public Libraries Survey Due Tomorrow Submitted by James Murphy

The Public Libraries Survey (PLS) is due tomorrow, March 31st. If you need any final help, please contact me today. The Counting Opinions website can get glitchy if too many people are on it at the same time, and several states use this platform and have the same due date as we do. I will be checking my email this evening, but I will only be able to help so many people on the final day, so please do not delay.

As there has been some confusion, State Aid is separate from the PLS this year and will be started at yet to be determined date. If your auditor is asking about a specific form to fill out, it is regarding State Aid and not the PLS. You can reach me at [ndsl-ld@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-ld@nd.gov) or [jwmurphy@nd.gov](mailto:jwmurphy@nd.gov). The PLS LibGuide is available at <https://library-nd.libguides.com/PLS>.

# Libraries in the News

## [Area Libraries Host “Summer Ruins” Author Deb Watley April 1 \(Fargo Underground\)](#)

“As part of this year’s Red River Valley Kids Read regional reading program for kids, area libraries will host an author visit from Deb Watley, writer of “Summer Ruins.” All ages are welcome to attend her presentation Saturday, April 1, at 2 p.m. at Bonanzaville, 1351 Main Ave. W., West Fargo. Watley will share what she has learned about the science of archeology and how she researches and writes her novels...”

## [Fargo Library & NDSU Providing Archeology Lab Tours For Kids This Weekend \(Valley News Live\)](#)

“The Fargo Library and NDSU are partnering up to offer kids in grades 4 to 6 the opportunity to learn more about archeology with tours of NDSU’s Archeology Lab...”

## [Minot Public Library Hosts Author Barb Solberg \(KX News\)](#)

“Barb Solberg, a North Dakota native, will be at Minot Public Library on March 29 for a book signing and presentation...”

## [ND Today: Seed Library \(KFYR\) \(Video\)](#)

Michaela Schaff from the Morton Mandan Public Library discusses the library’s new seed library, Thrivent Caretaker webinar series, and Dungeons and Dragons events on ND Today.

## [News From The Lake Region Public Library \(Devils Lake Journal\)](#)

“Thanks to a generous grant from the North Dakota State Library, the Lake Region Public Library has started a “Library of Things” collection! Things in this collection can be checked out just like a book, but the possibilities are really endless. Current Things at the Lake Region Public Library include DVD binge boxes following themes like Movie Musicals, 80’s Classics, Tim Burton, and more; backpacks with materials for ice fishing and hiking; a laptop; and a mobile hotspot. Soon to be added: a ladder, a microphone for Zoom calls, a soundbar, and tripod...”



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# Library Coordinating Council Vacancies

## At-Large Seat Public Library Seat

More information can be found at  
<http://library.nd.gov/coordinatingcouncil.html>

The graphic features a white background with a black border. On the right side, there are four vertical, wavy lines in yellow, orange, green, and blue. The North Dakota State Library logo is in the top right corner, consisting of a stylized sunburst above the text 'North Dakota State Library'.

## Upcoming WebJunction Webinars

### [Proactive Planning for Library Staff Transitions](#)

Wednesday, April 19 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Libraries, like all organizations, need to plan for both anticipated and unexpected staff transitions. This webinar will introduce practical approaches to preserve organizational knowledge, clarify processes for current staff and trustees, and ease the learning curve for new employees. With higher turnover rates and the ever-changing nature of our work in libraries, procedures and policies should be updated and adapted proactively, instead of reactively, to ensure that work is accomplished by well-prepared staff, ready to meet changing community and organizational needs. From payroll to password management, and from job evaluations to janitorial, the various facets and functions of the library can be clarified to better support all staff transitions. Learn how both short- and long-term transitions can be navigated effectively and purposefully with a “transition readiness checklist,” moving both library staff and trustees toward a shared understanding of roles and expectations across the organization.

### [Library Safety and Security: A Holistic Approach](#)

Thursday, May 18 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Creating a safe environment for the public, staff, and collections is a top concern for libraries. As a public space, this sometimes means that library staff are faced with behavior or events that may feel unsafe, uncomfortable, or illegal. Although we can't predict or control every situation, we can be prepared to effectively respond to a range of scenarios. This session will present a holistic approach for creating safe environments, through strong community relationships, inclusive policies, and empowered staff. Using a trauma-informed, human-centered lens we will explore strategies to create a library where staff possess the skills, and feel prepared, to manage what comes through the doors.

## Two New Challenges to Beanstack!

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

You may or may not have heard of our ongoing challenge of 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, but did you know there are more challenges for school-aged children as well?

Recently added to the ongoing challenges are the 500 Books Before Middle School and the 100 Books Before Graduation. As ongoing challenges, there is no start or end date. The middle school challenge is open for students in grades K-6th, and the high school one is open for students 6th-12th. Because of the diversity in grade levels across our state, students can choose to have 6th grade be in either challenge.

Along with the new challenges, there is an updated LibGuide available at <https://library-nd.libguides.com/SummerReading2023/beanstack>. This page will house the current and ongoing challenges as well as any how-tos or updates.

As a reminder, any North Dakota public library can join Beanstack for free as a branch of the North Dakota State Library. If you have any questions or would like to see how Beanstack works, please contact me at [awhitehorn@nd.gov](mailto:awhitehorn@nd.gov) or 701-328-4663. I would love to set you up with an account!

# Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

## Ramadan

We are about a week into Ramadan (approximately March 23 to April 21, 2023). The exact dates vary depending upon the cycle of the moon; Ramadan begins on one new crescent moon and ends on the next, as well as occurs during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It marks when the holy book, the Quran, was revealed to Prophet Muhammad. This Islamic observation is spent fasting, praying, reflecting, and focusing on community, kindness, and patience. At the end of Ramadan, Eid ul-Fitr, or “breaking of the fast,” occurs. This is not to say that Muslims do not eat or drink anything over the course of this month. Instead, they attempt to only consume before the sun rises and after it sets. Certain people, including pre-pubescent children, pregnant women, and those who are physically ill, are excluded from this fasting expectation [What, n.d.]. While Ramadan might seem like a more somber time—no workplace donuts, for example—it comes with much celebration! For example, it is not uncommon for families and communities to have potlucks for iftar (evening) meals. Ramadan is also a time in which participants decorate their homes, take part in volunteer and charitable activities, and increase their time spent with friends and family.

[Read More](#)



## Keep Up with State Agencies

I know you are all familiar with the North Dakota State Library's newsletter, *The Flickertale*, but did you know you can sign up for other agencies' newsletters as well?

You can sign up for state agencies' newsletters on the [One Stop Shop for State Media](#) website on the official State Government of North Dakota website. This convenient webpage provides a list of links right to their newsletters. Access information from state agencies such as Parks and Recreation and Tourism that you can share with patrons and staff. If you are looking for events near your community that you would like to share with your patrons, sign up for a newsletter or two. Check out what's going on with your state government agencies. You might just find something new!



## Don't Let Financial Literacy be a Bummer!

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

Gamification – a term used to describe the approach of using games to promote learning and training – has exploded over the last few years, especially with the addition of online learning. But does it really improve learning outcomes?

Actually, according to a study review done in 2022 titled "Learning through Play: Gamification of Learning, A Systematic Review of Studies on Gamified Learning," it does. While more studies are needed to understand the full capacity of gamification, the review says the level of engagement increased significantly, thus resulting in student motivation and participation. Anyone who has been in a classroom recently will tell you that student motivation and participation are huge wins.

[Read More](#)

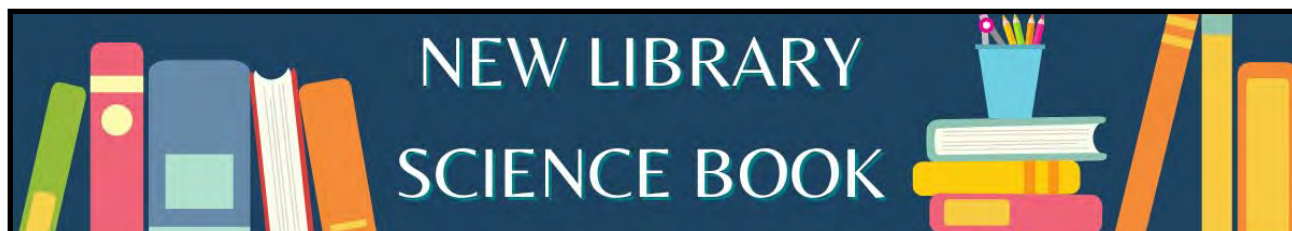


## Interdisciplinary Instruction: School Librarians and Math Education

Initially, the waters can be unclear as to how school librarians and math educators can work together. However, especially with the importance placed on STEM, libraries and math education can go hand-in-hand quite well. Both areas focus on skills of critical thinking (including inductive reasoning and seeing patterns in information), decoding strategies, and helping learners navigate day-to-day life outside of formal schooling. For example, we use both algebra and reading when determining how to adjust a recipe so that the amount of food made is appropriate for the number of people eating. Of course, with such an example, I am assuming that you don't just wing it and hope for the best!

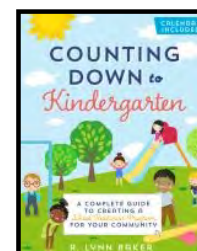
Working with mathematics teachers at the elementary level is typically the easiest. There is a vast assortment of picture books and online resources that intertwine library and math skills for elementary-aged children. Snippets of such resources are listed below the Lesson Plan Ideas, Educational Game Options, and Book Options headings. This is not to say that partnerships between math teachers and school librarians cannot exist at the middle and high school levels; both professions simply need to get a bit more creative...

### [Read More](#)



### **“Counting Down To Kindergarten: A Complete Guide To Creating A School Readiness Program For Your Community” by R. Lynn Baker**

“The early years of a child’s development are critical to later success in school. The public library is in the perfect position to help bridge the gap between preschool and kindergarten. Baker shows you how to successfully create a program that is intentionally focused on preparing children for school.”



Reserve it today at <https://polaris.odinlibrary.org/>.

# Kit of the Week

## Fairy Tale Kit: Johnny Appleseed

This Lakeshore Learning STEAM Kit boosts critical thinking skills by bringing hands-on learning to young children. This kit is geared for 2nd and 3rd graders, but with adult interaction, it can be used with younger children.

This kit includes one pack containing 10 short logs, 10 long logs, 30 apple trees, one ruler, and two landscaping boards; one book; and a folder containing one welcome and how-to-use guide, three student cards with teaching notes, one story card with reproducible sheet, and one teacher's card.



For more information, visit <https://library-nd.libguides.com/STEMkits/appleseed>.

Reserve it today at <https://polaris.odinlibrary.org>.

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