Also in this issue:

- All reading is good reading pg. 3
- A librarian’s hardest question pg. 6
- We’ve got space for your team pg. 9
All reading is good reading.

“No, you can’t check out that comic book, you need to get a real book.”

“That book’s too easy for you.”

These are words we’ve heard from many well-meaning caregivers who want their kids to become good readers. As librarians, we want to make the case for letting kids read whatever they desire. All reading is good reading. Your child will learn new vocabulary, improve fluency and build comprehension regardless of whether they read comic books, picture books, nonfiction or magazines. The best way to get better at reading is to practice the skill and kids who get to choose their own books are more motivated to practice!

Even the youngest readers benefit from choosing their own books. While you may grow tired of reading “The Snowy Day” or “Green Eggs and Ham” time after time, your child is developing important reading skills like phonological awareness (the idea that words are made up of sounds) and narrative skills. Older readers begin to develop personal interests. Feeding their curiosity is a fantastic way to keep kids reading.

“Just yesterday my daughter said she’d read about in a Ripley’s Believe it or Not book,” said librarian Natalie Monrad.

Here’s just a few of the ways to encourage reading:

- **Audiobooks** easily turn car time into reading time and give kids access to more challenging books than they might be able to read on their own. They’re also great for kids who need to be active. A pair of headphones and a download from Hoopla can turn any device into an opportunity to read while walking, drawing or playing.
- **Comic books** and graphic novels add visual context to new words, enabling vocabulary development. **Cookbooks** are complex technical texts that will expose kids to new vocabulary. Helping your child try out a new recipe also provides a wonderful opportunity for family bonding time.
- **Joke books** can be particularly motivating (who doesn’t want a good laugh?) and help kids learn about figurative language and words with more than one meaning.
- With their shorter articles and appealing layout, magazines often entice kids to try out new topics that might not hold their interest in a full-length book.

If you and your children need help picking out a book, stop by with your friendly librarians in the Kids Library or on a bookmobile. They have insider knowledge on what’s popular and good for developing kids who love to read.
Keeping writers’ wheels turning

Check out all the writer happenings

Great Writers Right Here
Venue: TSCPL
Date: Dec 9, 1-4pm

Meet area authors and buy their work. Authors and aspiring authors connect with publishers, literary magazines and writing groups.

A community novel
is collaboratively conceptualized, written, illustrated, edited and published by members of our community. The project helps writers gain skills and techniques.

This annual project runs from January to December.

Get the creativity, ideas and words for your next story rolling. The library is a hub for local writers. We’ll help you connect, sharpen your skills and promote your writing. Whether you’re writing fiction, non-fiction or poetry, an adult or a teen, we’ve got resources for you.

Friends of the Library sells books
Available at

tcpl.org/amazon

These books are generally collectibles, limited editions, autographed or have a high value.

785 580-4444

Songs of the Season

TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

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TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS
A librarian’s hardest question

Stay warm and happy inside with books, movies, and music when the weather is chilly. We’ve created lists to either distract you from the weather or help you embrace it. Here are menus of the full lists available in your library catalog.

1. Go to catalog.trscl.org.
2. Select “List” as your search category.
3. Type “TSLP Winter” in the search box.

Then all winter lists will emerge.

Winter of your discontent

It might sound obvious, but the Shakespearean line actually means an extra-distant winter. Everyone is in a mood. What I was going through in my life at the time, my heart leaps at the sight of the bright aqua cover of Living with Joan by Mary Cotter, which mashers together the sacred and the secular in short stories that shocked and delighted me. I discovered this one the month it came out, browsing the library’s New Books section, not realizing that somebody the author would occasionally click “like” on social media photos of my children. I give the book a wave of acknowledgment, so it doesn’t feel slighted. But I don’t point it out to you, because that’s one of my books, and right now we are looking for your books. You are waiting for us. You’re asked the hardest question, and you trust that I can help you find the books to answer it. But you must understand. My books will wait. Everything that matters to me at this moment is you.

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Adventures await

Multiply your reading experience with 2Book Topeka, our community reading initiative. This winter everyone in Shawnee County will have the opportunity to read and discuss two novels about adventure and games.

Let’s read!

Ready Player One
by Ernest Cline – In the not-so-distant future the world is a bleak place, but there is a vast online utopia, OASIS, people can plug into. Poverty-stricken Wade dreams of finding three keys that will lead to a fortune. This story includes action, puzzles, and 80s nostalgia.

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library
by Chris Gabenstein – Students get to spend the night in the town’s new library designed by famous game maker Luigi Lemoncello. The students soon discover they need to find allies and solve puzzles to escape the library by morning.

Events
We are arranging 2Book Topeka events around video games, adventures and the 1980s. Visit tscpl.org/2books for details on these events and book discussions.

The Make-It Lab is in the back of our new books, movies and music room. Walk into the library and when you get to the atrium (the room with the skylights), take a left. Follow the signs to the Make-It Lab.

3D printing technology is quickly evolving and therefore public printing is becoming more common. 3D printing is the process of creating physical objects from a three-dimensional digital model. With our 3D printer you can play with this new technology for a low cost of $2 per print.

Reserved a room online tscpl.org/teamrooms or in person on an iPad outside each room. You can reserve a room up to seven days in advance for up to three hours a day with your library card.

These new spaces have so many uses for groups in Shawnee County. Here are some suggestions:

• Tutoring
• Small book discussion group
• Small business meeting
• Class project or study sessions
• Small committee/club meeting
• Playing cards or a board game (Dungeons & Dragons perhaps)
• Writers feedback group
• Teaching a friend something on the computer
• Homeschoolers doing lessons
• Taking or presenting an online course
• Filming a professional presentation

Go online tscpl.org/news to read more about these team rooms and the changes in the new books, movies and music section including the new entrance to the Millennium Café.

Make-it Lab & 3D printer

Fun

If you like to create, the Make-It Lab is a space for you. You can create almost anything in this makerspace - music, videos, audio recordings, digital art and 3D contraptions.

Here are some examples of projects you can work on in the Make-It Lab:

• Edit and manipulate photos
• Create digital art
• Create and edit videos
• Record music, podcasts and oral histories
• Transfer videos from old formats to newer digital ones
• Transfer audio cassette tapes to MP3 format
• Scan photos and documents
• Make cool stuff with our 3D printer
• Check out a Media Bag and record videos and music outside the library!
If you're curious about these facts or more Kansas history, visit the Topeka Room inside the library on the second floor.
Retirement & Medicare
If you are looking for resources about Medicare, be sure to check out the Medicare program. The library offers displays, events and additional information.

Helping you to Medicare.

Adult Coloring
Enjoy a coloring frame, coloring and creative coloring pages.

BABY & TODDLER EVENTS
Care for Grandparents
If you're a little unsure about raising the baby in your family, get a head start on parenting by attending these fun, lively workshops sponsored by the Shawnee Library.

Opening Reception: African-American Builders of Topeka
Celebrate the opening of our community driven exhibit, “African-American Builders of Topeka” and share stories with your neighbors.

American African Builders of Topeka
This new community exhibit challenges the stereotypical stories of African-American Builders in Topeka and Shawnee Counties. Local stories and objects highlight past and present individuals and groups who impact our community.

Mon Nov 20

Mon Dec 11

Mon Dec 18

Mon Dec 25

Mon Jan 1

Mon Jan 8

Mon Jan 15

Mon Jan 22

Mon Jan 29

Mon Feb 5

Mon Feb 12

Mon Feb 19

Mon Feb 26

Mon Mar 5

Mon Mar 12

Mon Mar 19

Mon Mar 26

Mon April 2

Mon April 9

Mon April 16

Mon April 23

Mon April 30

Mon May 7

Mon May 14

Mon May 21

Mon May 28

Mon June 4

Mon June 11

Mon June 18

Mon June 25

Mon July 2

Mon July 9

Mon July 16

Mon July 23

Mon July 30

Mon Aug 6

Mon Aug 13

Mon Aug 20

Mon Aug 27

Mon Sept 3

Mon Sept 10

Mon Sept 17

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**TEEN**

Books into Movies: The Outsiders
- The main event here is the classic novel. The Outsiders, follows three brothers and their commitment to stay together during adverse times while also finding their identities. Let’s get a free book now!
- Mon Dec 11 1-1:30
- Marvin Auditorium 101C

**REAL TALK**

Three hours about relationships, the divorce rate, parent/teen problems and a chance to spark up and speak out. Teens talk about dating, dating violence and healthy relationships with an advocate from the YWCA for Safety & Empowerment.
- Wed Dec 6 3:30-4:30
- Freedom Auditorium 101C

Teens Writer Groups
Find inspiration to create. Join others who share your literary passion as we express emotions and explore the world through our ways of poetry and prose.
- Thu Dec 7 7-8
- Freedom Auditorium 101C

**ADULT**

Clothing Care
- Find out what your clothes really need, what to get them, how to wash, clean and store them. This all-day workshop will help you in the arts of laundry, replacing fingernails and ironing.
- Fri Dec 8 9:30-3
- Freedom Auditorium 101C

**MOVIES**

*The Egg Hunt*
- Written and directed by Robert D. Markowitz. Cary Gary Pictures © [L] [L] [L] 5 minutes
- Fri Dec 8 7:30-8
- Freedom Auditorium 101C

**MUSIC**

**SONGS OF THE SEASON**
Get swept away by the sounds of the holiday season with a variety of genres to delight the entire family. Check www.tscpl.org for schedule updates.
- Sun Dec 10 1:30-2:30
- Poster Park Library 101C

**AMERICAN-INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**
- Celebrate the rich history and culture of American-Indian Nations. Find out more at our website.
- Thu Dec 7 4:30-5
- Poster Park Library 101C

**LIBRARY NEWS**

- “Top 10 Books to Read in December”
- “New and Noteworthy Books”
- “Top 10 Books to Read in January”

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

**DECEMBER 2017**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 8**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 9**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 10**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 11**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**MONDAY DECEMBER 18**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 19**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 21**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 22**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 23**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 24**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**MONDAY DECEMBER 25**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 26**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 28**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 29**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 30**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 31**
- **10 am**
  - Jardine Elementary Singers
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **11:30 am**
  - Preschool Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
- **1 pm**
  - Musical Storytime
  - Freedom Auditorium 101C
10 EVENTS you don't want to miss

- How to Start a Business
  Dec 6 | 5:30-7:30 PM

- Dino O'Dell
  Dec 9 | 10-10:30 AM, 11-11:30 AM

- KC Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders
  Dec 10 | Noon-3:30 PM

- European Gardens
  Jan 18 | 7-8 PM

- Baby Care for Grandparents
  Jan 22 | 12:30-2 PM

- Meet Deborah Samson
  Revolutionary War Soldier
  Jan 25 | 7-8:30 PM

- Create the Community Novel
  Jan 27 | Noon-2 PM

- Happy Birthday Kansas
  Jan 27 | 10-11 AM