

MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022-23

The Great Gingerbread House Challenge

Want to put your gingerbread house making skills to the test? Design your own gingerbread creation and bring it to the Library November 10-December 1.

Pick up a copy of the rules and entry form at any library service desk. Winners will be chosen at our Holiday Open House. Enter as a family team or individually!



Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 4 • 1:30-4:00 p.m.

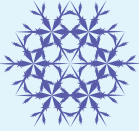
All are invited to a festive winter gathering for fun, crafts, snacks and socializing. Vote in the Great Gingerbread House Challenge (submit your entry by December 1). Enjoy performances from Victorian Carolers followed by Goodwin Elementary School's choir.

A holiday photo booth will be available for personal photos. Volunteers will be available to wrap your holiday gifts! Limited to three gifts per person.

READING CHALLENGES

Winter Challenge December 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023

Adults can participate in the Library and online to win prize packages and enter weekly trivia contests! Check our website, stop in the Library, or call the Help Desk for more information.



School Year Reading Challenges!

500 Books Before Middle School

100 Books Before Graduation

Monarch, Bluestem, Caudill & Lincoln Award Challenges

Kindergarten-grade 12. Track your reading during the school year and earn free books along the way!

Register online at messengerpl.beanstack.org or pick up a reading log at the Library.

READ • LEARN • GROW Early Learning Challenge

Join Read, Learn, Grow to encourage a love of reading and learning with your children! Earn prizes for reading books and completing monthly early learning activities.

Register online at messengerpl.beanstack.org or pick up a reading log at the Library.



Virtual Author Visit: Shannon Hale & LeUyen Pham

Saturday, February 11 • 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Aimed at grades 4-8. Writer Shannon Hale and illustrator LeUyen Pham will talk about their books, answer your questions, and share an engaging activity. Join our watch group at the Library or attend virtually.

Registration required.



▶ DECEMBER ▶ JANUARY ▶ FEBRUARY

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Call or check our online Events calendar for more details, up-to-date information, and registration for adult programs. All programs are in the Library, unless noted as virtual. Sign up for eNewsletters to discover more programs and updates. Teens over the age of 16 are welcome. Art Club requires a registered adult as well as teen. ASL interpreters may be available when requested two weeks in advance.



French Bûche De Noël: Yule Log

Saturday, December 3 • 10:00-11:00 a.m.

In this Saturday morning culinary program, Chef Susan Maddox discusses the history as well as the making of this wonderful holiday French dessert. Patrons learn how to make jellyroll, coffee buttercream, bittersweet chocolate ganache, and the Swiss meringue mushrooms. All of these components will make a wonderful holiday dessert.

Your 2023 Vision

Saturday, January 21 • 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Certified life coach Alison Jamison walks you through creating your 2023 vision board. Learn how vision boards can help you, and how to turn your vision board into an action plan.

Space is limited, so sign up for your spot today.

Can You Afford to Retire?

Tuesday, January 31 • 7:00-8:00 p.m.

This program helps attendees evaluate their readiness for retirement with several self-evaluation exercises. Attendees discuss the basic need for an estate and or financial plan. The instructor helps attendees conduct an estate analysis complete with a net worth statement.

Smartphone Photography 101

Monday, February 13 • 7:00-8:00 p.m.

They say your “best camera” is the one you have in our hand. If that’s true, how can you make the most of the incredible tool you carry around every day? Learn mobile photography tips and tricks, explore options for editing your creations, and begin to transition from taking pictures to making pictures.



In the Belly of the Beast: Martin Luther King in Chicago (Virtual)

Saturday, February 18 • 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King’s immortal footsteps trod throughout the world, as did his voice echo. His path and prose brought him to Chicago during his brief and meteoric career.

This program will be held on Zoom. Register for the link.

Pirate’s Revenge Escape Room

(Adult/Teen) Saturday OR Sunday, December 17 OR 18 • 1:30 p.m. OR 3:00 p.m.

Arr, Matey! Escape the room or walk the plank! The captain has trapped you in the brig and you must escape before he returns to take care of you. Bring your friends and family and enjoy an afternoon of puzzle solving, deduction, and ciphering. Escape with your life and steal the treasure! *Space is extremely limited, so please register in advance.*

BOOK SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR KIDS & TEENS

Teen & Elementary Book Box Subscriptions

For teens in grades 6-12 and kids in kindergarten-grade 5. Register for the Winter Book Subscriptions! Pick up a box on the tenth of each month with books chosen just for you, plus some treats for you to keep. Turn in your box each month to be eligible for next month’s books. *Registration and a Messenger Library card required. Limited space.*

Theme Bag Book Subscription

December: Things That Go & Construction January: Space February: Silly Stories!

Ages 0-8. Enjoy a new selection of books for early learners every month! Pick up a bag on the tenth of each month with books based on a certain theme. Turn in your box/bag each month to be eligible for next month’s books.

Registration and a Messenger Library card required. Limited space.

DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR ADULTS

Discussion title eBooks and eAudiobooks may be available on Hoopla, Libby, or Axis360.
Print copies and audiobooks may be available for checkout at the User Services Desk.

Narrative Nonfiction Book Group

Meets second Monday of the month • 7:00-8:00 p.m.
(Hybrid option available, contact us for the Zoom link)

December 12: *A Molecule Away from Madness*
by Sarah Manning Peskin

January 9: *Deaf Utopia* by Nyle DiMarco

February 13: *Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts

New! Morning Book Discussion Group

Meets first Wednesday of the month • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

December 7: *The Address* by Fiona Davis

January 4: *All the Stars in the Heavens* by Adriana Trigiani

February 1: *Circe* by Madeline Miller

Evening Book Discussion Group

Meets first Thursday of the month • 7:00-8:00 p.m.

December 1: *The Second Mrs. Astor* by Shana Abe

January 5: *Meet Me in Monaco*
by Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb

February 2: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V. E. Schwab

TED Ideas worth spreading **Discussion Group**

Meets first Saturday of the month • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

December 1: NO MEETING

January 7: **Pop Psychology**

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Lee Duckworth and *The Power of Vulnerability* by Brene Brown

February 4: **The Nature of Reality**

Do We See Reality As It Really Is? by Donald Hoffman and *Your Brain Hallucinates Your Conscious Reality* by Anil Seth

ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

Second Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and Third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
Beginners welcome! Register in advance. For adults and teens over 16 (with registered adult).

Prairie Point Holiday Trees

Saturday, December 10 • 10:00 a.m. **OR**
Tuesday, December 20 • 6:30 p.m.

It's time for a fun holiday project! Learn to make prairie points while making a charming homespun tree. No sewing necessary.
Registration starts November 1.

Winter Watercolor Scene

Saturday, January 14 • 10:00 a.m. **OR**
Tuesday, January 17 • 6:30 p.m.

Paint a snowy winter scene using easy watercolor techniques.
Registration starts December 1.

Finger Knitting

Saturday, February 11 • 10:00 a.m.

Jez Layman will be here at Messenger teaching us how to knit an infinity scarf--without any needles!

Registration starts January 1.

Q-Tip Dandelion Painting

Tuesday, February 21 • 6:30 p.m.

Learn a new acrylic painting technique! This fun method allows artists of any level to paint lovely dandelions blowing in the wind.

Registration starts January 1.



Yum Club

Tuesdays • 7:00-8:00 p.m.

December 27 (Registration starts November 1)

January 24 (Registration starts December 1)

February 28 (Registration starts January 1)

Do you have an adventurous palate? Do you want to travel the world without leaving the Library? Join us for the Yum Club, where foodies join together to taste snacks and treats from a different country each month.

Spots are very limited, so please register to attend. Those with food allergies are advised that we don't know the ingredients of every snack, so proceed with caution.

TEENS (Middle & High School)

Registration for kids' and teen programs begins Monday, November 28 online, by phone, or in person.

The Lunar Chronicles Book Club

Thursdays • 7:00 p.m.

December 15: *Cinder*

January 19: *Scarlet*

February 23: *Cress*

Ages 11-18. Come explore the fairy tale world of *The Lunar Chronicles* series by Marissa Meyer. See your favorite fairy tale characters in a new light with this engrossing science fiction series.

Registration required. The first five to register will receive free copies of the books.



All About Scholarships

Thursday, December 1 • 7:00 p.m.

Grades 11-12 and adults. An introduction to applying for scholarships, including the basics of an application, with tips from successful applicants and reputable sources of information.

Presented by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Registration required.

Teen Taste Test: Fast Food Chicken!

Thursday, January 12 • 7:00 p.m.

Ages 11-18. Ever wondered which fast food location has the best chicken sandwich? Or the best ice cream? Let's figure it out! We are going to taste test local fast food to determine the best of the best. Come hungry! Registration required.

Learn to Draw Manga

Thursday, February 2 • 7:00 p.m.

Ages 11-18. Learn the basics of drawing like a manga artist with Dan Gogh! Bring your friends to this workshop and leave with the knowledge to create your own characters.

Registration required.

Teen Volunteers

Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to volunteer at the Library! Visit messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers for requirements and applications.

Teen Take Out

December: De-Stress Kits

January: Crochet & Knit Kits

February: Paper & Wearable Circuits

Stop by the Teen Space each month to pick up a fun take home craft or activity. New kits debut on the first of the month, so grab one before they disappear! *While supplies last.*

KIDS & FAMILIES



Graphic Novel Club: Just Roll With It

Monday, January 9 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Aimed at grades 3-6. Love graphic novels?

Join us to talk about what you liked – or didn't – about *Just Roll With It* by Veronica Agarwal and Lee Durfey-Lavoie.

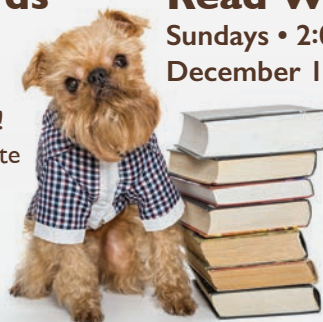
The first five to register will receive a free copy of the book. Registration required.

Nature Storytime: Winter Birds

Monday, February 20 • 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Ages 2-10 with caregivers. A Knock Knolls Nature Center Naturalist will visit to bring a little nature inside! Discover local birds by sight and sound, and try to imitate their calls. Participants can touch feathers, view bird feeders and foods.

Registration required.



No School Hang Out

All ages. Stop by Youth Services to have some fun!

DCM @ MPL

Wednesday, December 28 • 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Play with giant Tinker Toys and Kerplunk game from the DuPage Children's Museum.

Winter Wonderland Crafternoon

Tuesday, January 17 • 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Register online for a reminder email or text.

Read With Rover

Sundays • 2:00-3:00 p.m.

December 18, January 22, February 19

Aimed at kindergarten-grade 5. Bring a book to share with a dog from Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club. Attendees will have at least 10 minutes to read aloud with a dog, building confidence with reading and animals.

Register for a 15-minute time slot.

KIDS & FAMILIES

Registration for kids' programs begins Monday, November 28 online, by phone, or in person.



Stop by Youth Services every month for a new, themed, take-home activity kit, categorized by age group with different abilities and skills in mind. *Available while supplies last.*

Creativity Lab

Mondays • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

December 26: Circuit Fun

January 23: DIY Pop-Up Cards

February 27: Board Game Design

Aimed at grades 3-6. Art, science, and technology, oh my! Join us for a new hands-on activity every month.

Registration required.

Game Night

Wednesdays • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

December 21, January 25, February 22

Kindergarten-grade 2 with families. Do you love playing board games? Join us for an hour of fun! Variety of games available.

Light refreshments provided. Registration requested.



Thursdays: December 8, January 12, February 9
6:00-7:00 p.m.

All ages. Drop by for LEGO® building fun at Messenger! *Register for a reminder email or text.*

Early Readers Book Club

Saturdays • 10:00-10:45 a.m.

December 17: *Unlimited Squirrels* series by Mo Willems

January 28: *Narwhal Unicorn of the Sea* by Ben Clanton

February 18: *The Worm* by Elise Gravel

Aimed at kindergarten-grade 2 with caregiver. Just starting to read or exploring early chapter books? Join us to read together, talk about books, and do a craft.

Books will be provided. Coffee and hot chocolate available too! Registration required.

BABIES & PRESCHOOL

Sensory Playtime

Mondays • 10:00-11:00 a.m.

December 12, January 9, February 13

Babies-preschool with caregivers. Enjoy sensory play experiences with your little ones! Stations are designed to stimulate your child's mind through sensory, discovery and gross motor activities.

Register for a reminder email or text.

Read & Play Baby

Mondays • 10:00-10:45 a.m.

December 19: Tunnel Time

January 16: Ramps & Rollers

February 27: Bubble Mania

Ages 0-2 with caregiver. Enjoy a short storytime plus playtime with your babies and toddlers.

Register each child attending.

Baby Storytime

Tuesdays, January 10-February 14 • 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Ages 0-24 months with caregiver. Enjoy stories, songs, and movement to help foster early literary skills.

Register each child attending.

Stories & Songs

Wednesdays OR Thursdays • 10:00-10:30 a.m.

January 11-February 16

Ages 2-5 with caregivers. Enjoy stories and songs while building pre-literacy skills and learning about the world around us.

Register each child attending for Wednesday OR Thursday.

Family Storytime & Craft

Tuesdays, January 24 & February 21 • 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Join us for stories and a craft aimed at ages 3-6.

Register each child attending.

SPECIAL STORYTIMES

Stuffed Animal Storytime: Friday, January 20

Making Music: Friday, February 24

Tots (6-23 months) • 9:30-10:00 a.m. Toddler (ages 2-3) • 10:15-10:45 a.m. Preschool (ages 3-5) • 11:00-11:30 a.m.

Enjoy stories, songs and a special activity with your little ones! *Register each child attending.*

MESSENGER

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA

113 Oak Street • North Aurora, IL 60542

(630) 896-0240

www.messengerpl.org

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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday

1:00-5:00 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Saperston, President

Mary Steed, Vice-President

Corinn A. Sparks, Secretary

Tanya Berley, Treasurer

Peggy Carlson

Elizabeth Cranford

James R. Hicks

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, November 23

Hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 24

Christmas Holiday

Saturday, December 24

Sunday, December 25

New Year's Holiday

Saturday, December 31

Sunday, January 1, 2023

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Shannon Halikias

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Shannon Halikias, Library Director



I'm very happy to see our Library returning to normal after the difficult upheaval of the past years due to COVID-19. Our programs are thriving again, circulation is increasing, and meetings, events, book discussions and writing groups are well-populated. We will be hosting a Holiday Open House again, and hooray for the festivities that make our season seem bright. I look forward to tasty treats, decorating, gingerbread houses and carols to ring in a year. I hope to see you at this event, which brings our community together, and I will likely eat more than my fair share of cookies with you.

Let me wish you a Happy New Year. I'm hoping that the next 365 days may "turn your page" to seasons of peace, joy and personal growth.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community groups meet regularly in the Library's civic spaces. You may contact individual groups for more information.

North Aurora Garden Club

First Monday of each month • 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Gail Wilke, 630-618-6467

North Aurora Lions Club

Second Tuesday of each month • 7:00 p.m.

Contact: northauroralions@gmail.com

North Aurora Mothers Club

First Tuesday of each month • 7:30 p.m.

Contact: membership@namothersclub.org

TOASTMASTERS: Advanced Expressives

Fourth Saturday of each month • 10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Contact: John Jerrard, 630-688-8438

TOASTMASTERS: Timely Talkers

Meets first, third and fourth Wednesdays of each month
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Fourth Wednesday meeting by Zoom. Contact: John Jerrard, 630-688-8438

Fox Valley Writers Group

Alternating Tuesdays • 6:45 p.m.

Contact: foxvalleywriters@gmail.com