



MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER



Adult Winter Reading Challenge December 1–January 31

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



Holiday Open House Sunday, December 7 2-4 pm

Join us at the library for a festive winter gathering full of fun, crafts, snacks, and socializing! Vote in the Gingerbread House Contest (creations due December 5). Looking for Santa? The Village hosts Making Spirits Bright on December 6 from 5:30-7 pm.

TALK Text And Learn for Kindergarten

Make any time learning time! Sign up to get 8-10 text messages per month with fun activities you can do at home to help prepare little ones, ages 5 and under, for school success. Visit textandlearn.org or text TALK to 75547 to get started.



Classical Music: Check Out an IPO Pass *Select performances only*

Experience the beauty of a live classical music concert for free by presenting your MPL library card at the Help Desk to receive a pass to an Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra performance. Each pass is good for two tickets. Passes are limited to one pass per family per concert, and one pass per family per season.



Kindness Hats

November 1–December 30

Help keep our community warm this winter! Pick up a knitting or crochet kit at the Help Desk starting Nov 1, or use your own materials. Donate hats of any size or color by Dec 30—every hat counts!

YOUTH SERVICES

Registration **R** is required for all programs beginning on **November 20**, via the online events calendar at messengerpl.org, by phone (630) 801-4340, or in person. For drop-in program reminders, use the **Remind Me** or **Add to My Calendar** buttons on the calendar.

BABIES-PRESCHOOL



Baby Storytime **R**
Tuesdays • 9:30-10 am
OR 10:15-10:45 am
January 13-February 17
Ages 0-24 months with caregiver. Enjoy stories, songs, and movement to help foster early literacy skills.

Family Storytime **R**
Thursdays • 10-10:30 am
January 15-February 19
Ages 2-5 with caregiver. Enjoy stories and songs with your family while building pre-literacy skills and learning about the world around us.

Preschool Storytime **R**
Thursdays • 10:45-11:15 am
January 15-February 19
Ages 3-5. Enjoy stories and songs while building pre-literacy skills and learning about the world around us. Preschool Storytime is a first “on our own” experience; caregivers must remain in the youth department during the program.

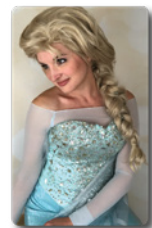
Museum PopUp: Running Behind
Monday, Dec 15 • 10-11:30 am
Ages 0-5. Drop by the library to explore DuPage Children’s Museum exhibits and activities. Running Behind is an exciting combination of storytelling and engineering. Play with speed, trial and error, and the scientific process while, most importantly, having fun!

Pre-K Art Play **R**
Thursday, Jan 8 • 10-10:45 am
Ages 2-5 with caregiver. Explore art and shapes to make textured tangrams with Ms. Laura. Use fabric, paper, cardboard, burlap, and sandpaper shapes to create an original 2D picture with googly eyes.



Snow Queen Storytime **R**

Friday, January 16
10-10:30 am: Storytime
10:30-11:30 am: Meet & Greet
Ages 0-7 with caregiver. The Snow Queen is coming! Join us for a special winter storytime with the Snow Queen, where she will read stories and sing songs with all the people of the kingdom!



Mini Musicians **R**

Friday, February 27
Ages 0-2: 10-10:45 am
Ages 3-5: 11-11:45 am
With caregiver. Enjoy music class with the Brookfield Academy for Mini Musicians! Children will play along to songs and rhymes with instruments and learn different concepts of music.



ALL AGES

Winter Book Subscriptions **R**

Ages 0-18. Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on **December 10, January 10, and February 10.** Messenger Library card required.



Lego Club

Thursdays • 6-7 pm
December 11, January 8, & February 12
All ages. Visit Youth Services to build a Lego creation to display for all to enjoy.

Kidinary Cooking Academy: NYE Countdown Cookies

Tuesday, December 30

Ages 4-7 • 2-3 pm | Ages 8-11 • 3:15-4:15 pm

Ages 12-16 • 4:30-5:30 pm

Let your budding chef explore the culinary arts and gain confidence in the kitchen! Make & Decorate your own NYE Countdown Clock with homemade sugar cookies and royal icing. Allergens: 100% nut-free; dairy and gluten accommodations provided.



Reading Challenges for All Ages

YEAR-ROUND: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, 500 Books Before Middle School, 100 Books Before Graduation
SCHOOL YEAR: Monarch K-3, Bluestem Gr. 3-5, Caudill Gr. 4-8, Lincoln Gr. 9-12

Ages 0-18. Read or listen to books and graphic novels, keep track of titles on Beanstack or a paper log, and earn goodies, Culvers, and free prize books! Special thanks to Culvers of North Aurora for donating free scoops of custard for readers (available while supplies last). Visit messengerpl.org/reading-challenges for more info.

Animal Tracks & Trails @ Creek Bend Nature Center

Saturday, January 24 • 10-11 am

Ages 5-10 with caregiver. Wild animals can be secretive and difficult to see especially in winter, but they often leave behind signs like scat, fur, tracks, and chew marks. Meet the Naturalist and Messenger librarian just outside the entrance to the Creek Bend Nature Center, LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve (37W700 Dean St., St. Charles). Dress for the weather!



Pop Art That Pops: K-5 Family Art Workshop



Tuesday, Jan 27 • 6:30-7:30 pm
Grades K-5 with caregivers.

Explore and create your own art that POPS! while learning about the style of pop artist Roy Lichtenstein.

Coding with mTiny

Monday, Feb 2 • 5-6:30 pm

Grades K-2. Join Operation Panda and learn about block coding with mTiny robots through fun, story-based missions and interactive play. Presented by Ready Set Code.

Digital Game Design

Monday, February 2

6:45-8:15 pm
Grades 3-5. This hands-on workshop gives students the opportunity to unleash their creativity by designing and coding their own digital games. Presented by Ready Set Code.

KIDS (AGES 5-12)

Programs with a  require advance registration.

NEW REGISTRATION

Kid Librarian

December 2025 - May 2026

Ages 7-10. Be a Kid Librarian! Choose a topic and create a book display for a whole month. Same program with a new sign-up process. View more details and register on the online calendar. Messenger Library card required.

Early Reader Book Club

Saturdays • 10-10:45 am 

Ages 5-7 with caregiver. Just starting to read or exploring early chapter books? Join us to read together, talk about books, and do crafts. Books provided for the first 6 registrants.



DEC 13
Fox Versus Winter



JAN 10
Tunneler Tunnels in the Tunnel



FEB 14
King & Kayla and the Case of the Escape Artist

Books & Bites

Saturdays • 10:30-11:15 am

Dec 20, Jan 17, & Feb 21

Ages 8-12. Let's learn how to make a tasty snack and chow down, listen to a short story or chapter book teaser, and talk books.

Read With Rover

Sundays


2-3 pm

**Dec 21, Jan 18,
& Feb 15**

For readers. Love reading? Or dogs? Practice reading aloud with a licensed therapy dog from the Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club. Each attendee will get at least 10-15 minutes to read with a dog. Order will be determined by arrival at 2 pm.

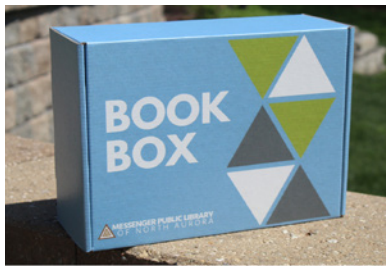


TEENS

Registration  is required for all programs beginning on November 20, via the online events calendar at messengerpl.org, by phone (630) 801-4340, or in person. For drop-in program reminders, use the **Remind Me** or **Add to My Calendar** buttons on the calendar.

Teen Take Out

Stop by the Teen Space each month for a fun craft or activity to take home and make on your own time. New kits debut on the first of the month, so grab one before they disappear! While supplies last.



Teen Book Box Subscription

Grades 6-12. Enjoy a new selection of books and goodies every month! Pick up your books on **December 10**, **January 10**, and **February 10**. *Messenger Library card required.*

Digital Game Design Thursday, February 5 6:30-8 pm

Ages 11-18. This hands-on workshop gives students the opportunity to unleash their creativity by designing and coding their own digital games. It covers coding logic, game mechanics, and user interface design, empowering students to create and showcase their own projects. Presented by Ready Set Code.



All About Scholarships Thursday, Dec 11 • 7-8 pm

Grades 11-12 + adults. An intro to applying for scholarships, including application basics and tips from successful applicants and reputable sources. Presented by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Kidinary Cooking Academy: NYE Countdown Cookies Tuesday, December 30 4:30-5:30 pm

Ages 12-16. Let your budding chef explore the culinary arts and gain confidence in the kitchen! Make & decorate your own NYE Countdown Clock with homemade sugar cookies and royal icing. Allergens: nut-free; dairy and gluten accommodations provided.



Teen & Caregiver Artsy Evening Thursday, January 29 6:30-8 pm

Ages 11-18 with parent/caregiver. Come explore a new art medium with a favorite adult. Learn about the art of collagraph printmaking and create your own masterpiece.

TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Students ages 11-18/grades 6-12 are welcome to volunteer at the library year-round! Visit messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers to apply.

Teen Creativity Kits



January 15: Japanese Side Sewn Sketchbook



February 19: Marbled Tote

Ages 11-18. Learn a new skill while completing a fun craft kit. Creativebug is a craft database that you can access online for free through the library! Registration required to reserve a kit. Pick up your kit from Youth Services starting on January 15 and February 19. *Messenger Library card required.*

ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration ^R is required for all programs, unless noted, beginning on Wednesday, November 20, via the online events calendar at messengerpl.org, by phone (630) 896-0240 ext. 3, or in person. For drop-in program reminders, use the **Remind Me** or **Add to My Calendar** buttons on the calendar.



MPL Tech Tuesdays: Drop-In Technology Help

Tuesdays • 3-5 pm
December 2 and 9
January 6 and 13
February 3 and 10

Need help with your smartphone, tablet, computer, or software? Come to MPL's Tech Tuesdays- a free, drop-in program offering 15-30 minute one-on-one tech support sessions.



Celebrate Kwanzaa and Holiday Traditions Around the World ^R

Tuesday, December 2 • 7-8 pm
Celebrate Kwanzaa and other winter holidays with cultural educator Elizabeth Kahura. Zoom link available in MPL Events calendar.

WCC AND YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY: WINTER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

New dates coming soon!

MPL is excited to offer more technology programs in partnership with Aurora Public Library District and Waubonsee Community College. Watch the MPL website and social media for scheduling and registration details as they become available.



WCC Technology Help Drop-Ins

Wednesdays • 6-7 pm

Join Waubonsee Community College and other local libraries at any of these drop-in sessions for one-on-one help. Friendly staff assist in English or Spanish.

January 21 • Waubonsee Aurora Downtown Campus Library
February 18 • Sugar Grove Public Library

The Silver Linings Series ^R

Fridays • 10:30 am-Noon

December 12: Introduction to the Art of Origami

January 9: Chair Yoga

February 13: Pop Culture Trivia

Designed for seniors, the Silver Linings Series offers monthly activities that promote wellness, learning, and social connection. Join us to stay active and have fun!

Drop-In Crochet and Knit Club

Thursdays • 6-8 pm

December 18, January 22, &
February 19

Join fellow fiber arts enthusiasts for a cozy, drop-in crafting session. Bring your own projects—refreshments provided!



White Christmas with Laura Keyes ^R

Saturday, December 20
10:30-11:30 am

This illustrated lecture discusses the making of the film and the creative geniuses behind it, including behind-the-scenes images and historical information.

Meditation Practices for the New Year 📅

Thursday, January 15 • 6-7 pm

Join Umesh Bhatia for an engaging workshop on natural, effective meditation techniques. Perfect for beginners or experienced meditators.



Vision Board Workshop: Picture Your Possibilities 📅

Saturday, January 24
10 am-Noon

Start your year with clarity and creativity! Certified life coach Alison Jamison will help you craft a vision board that reflects your goals and dreams for the year ahead.



Brain Hack 📅

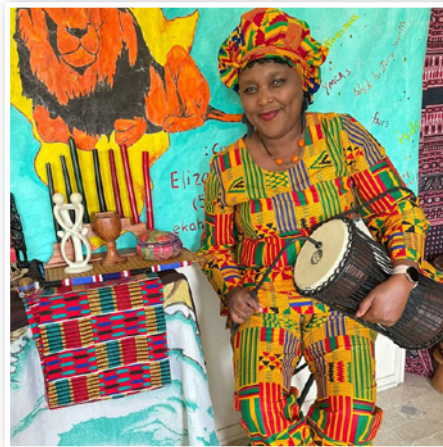
Monday, Jan 26 • 7-8 pm

William Pack returns to demonstrate the subtle tactics that advertisers, marketers, sales people, and con artists use to get you to do what they want without you noticing.

Love Stories from History: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly! 📅

Monday, February 9 • 7-8 pm

Award-winning filmmaker Lorrisa Julianus shares true and entertaining tales of historical romance—from Cleopatra's daughter's royal love story to Lord Byron's dramatic exes.



African Art and Folktales 📅

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Thursday, Feb 12 • 7-8 pm

Join cultural educator Elizabeth Kahura for a vibrant virtual journey through Africa's history and traditions. Zoom link available in MPL Events calendar.



A Guide to Overseas Genealogy 📅

Saturday, February 28
10:30-11:30 am

Explore the history of immigration to the U.S. and learn how to find genealogical records from Europe, including emigration, voyages, naturalization, and key research websites.



New! Adult Literacy Collection

Looking to build reading confidence or support someone who is? Explore our new Adult Literacy Collection in the Quiet Reading Room! Find easy-to-read books, workbooks, life skills materials, and resources for English learners and tutors—all designed to help adults learn, grow, and succeed.

Make Your Own Plant-Based Perfume 📅

Monday, February 23
6:30-8:30 pm

Join the crew from Soapy Roads in Lombard to custom blend your very own signature scent from over 20 different essential oils.



NORTH AURORA Community Group MEETINGS

North Aurora Lions Club

2nd Tuesday/month • 7-8:30 pm
northauroralions@gmail.com

Toastmasters: Timely Talkers

1st & 3rd Wed/month • 7-8:30 pm
Dan Velasco at danvelasco123@gmail.com

Toastmasters: Advanced Expressives

4th Saturday/month • 10:15 am-Noon
John Jerrard (630) 688-8438

ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

Beginners welcome! Register **R** in advance. For adults and teens over 16 (with registered adult).



Pattern Paper Pinecone Ornaments **R**

Saturday, December 13
10am-Noon OR
Tuesday, December 16
6:30-8:30 pm

Add vintage charm to any holiday with paper pinecone ornaments. This craft is 100% customizable, just swap out the paper choice! Registration starts November 1.

Inspirational Wired Fabric Flowers **R**

Saturday, Jan 10 • 10 am-Noon
Shari Pontillo returns to use wire and fabric to write your favorite inspirational words in a 3D flower. All materials provided. Registration starts December 1, please only sign up for one January class.

String of Pearls Forever Plant **R**

Tuesday, Jan 20 • 6:30-8:30 pm
Do you have a brown thumb? Using simple beading techniques, create a string of pearls succulent impossible to kill. Registration starts December 1, please only sign up for one January class.

Paper Marbling **R**

Saturday, Feb 14 • 10 am-Noon
OR Tues, Feb 17 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Learn to custom marble paper the easy way! With alcohol ink and shaving cream, create swirled, stone-like paper suitable for cardmaking, mixed-media, and journaling. Registration starts January 2, due to the holiday.

PLEASE NOTE: March Art Club–Project TBA. Registration opens February 1.

Book Club is Our Alibi Monday, December 15 **R** 7-8:30 pm

Join us at Crema Coffee Roasters for our quarterly thriller book club. This session, we discuss *This Girl's a Killer* by Emma C. Wells. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read it!



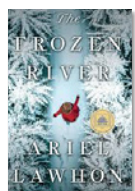
ADULT BOOK CLUBS

Digital copies of book club titles may be available on Libby, Hoopla, or (coming in December) the Palace Project; print copies are available for checkout at the User Services Desk. Please register **R** in advance.

Morning Book Club **R** Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am



DECEMBER 3
The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year by Ally Carter



JANUARY 7
The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon



FEBRUARY 4
The Cat Who Saved Books by Sosuke Natsukawa

Evening Book Club **R** Thursdays • 7-8 pm



DECEMBER 4
Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson

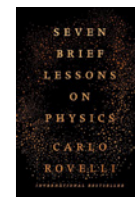


JANUARY 8
The Women by Kristin Hannah



FEBRUARY 5
Rock Paper Scissors by Alice Feeney

Narrative Nonfiction Book Club **R** Mondays • 7-8 pm



DECEMBER 8
Seven Brief Lessons on Physics by Carlo Rovelli



JANUARY 12
Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed by Dashka Slater



FEBRUARY 9
Patient Zero: A Curious History of the World's Worst Diseases by Lydia Kang and Nate Pendersen



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA | WINTER 2026: DEC, JAN, FEB

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9 am–9 pm

Friday-Saturday
9 am–5 pm

Sunday
1–5 pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Saperston, President
Darlene Bailey
Tanya Berley
Katherine Bogle
Peggy Carlson
Elizabeth Cranford
Laura McCoy

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Thursdays • 7–8 pm
December 11, January 8, February 12

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Wednesday, December 24
Thursday, December 25
Wednesday, December 31
Thursday, January 1



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

“If I could live in one place other than my home, I would live at the library.”
– MPL patron

How have you been coping with the stress of the world lately? I struggle with deep focus when there may be a million things on my mind, most of which are beyond my control. I've found that short, uplifting stories can allow me to continue reading until my brain reboots and is ready for more. Daily rituals of peace can help; I tuck under a blanket, pour a cup of something warm and disappear into pages. Sometimes just a few fluffy stories can help me get started with the day.

I'm learning how to pickle foods and just made batches of lemon rosemary pickles. It only took a few minutes to make them, and it is healthier and cheaper to make good brine and keep it going. Our library has a wealth of cooking and canning materials, and I'm learning how to eat

better while saving money doing things my Granny knew how to do. Learning how to do, make, and stretch yourself can help get through a valley.

We have many opportunities to help you find your own pockets of comfort or stretch your skills, attend programs, grab a museum pass, check out audio/visual items, utilize computers, and connect with others. While you can't necessarily live at the library, you can visit us and make it a place of comfort in your life. Step in this winter season, especially for our Holiday Open House, and share your peace.



Shannon Halikias
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