



Prairie Times

Prairie Skies Public Library District Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Check our calendar of events (back page) for a complete list of this month's events.

10/3

Porch Goose Party 11 am @ Plains



It's Wardrobe Time for Your Porch Goose!

Create 2 no-sew outfits for your Porch Goose: a Spooky Ghost for Fall and a Reindeer Costume for Winter! It's (no) Sew Fun!! Call us to register for this FREE and fun adult program.

10/10 &
10/24



Grab your friends, and head over to the library to play our decks!

Sat. 10/10, 11 am @ Plains

Sat. 10/24, 11 am @ Ashland

New players are always welcome!

10/17



11 am @ Plains

Create a simple Chat Bot using Python coding software. No previous coding experience required. This program is geared toward techies ages 13 & up. Younger kids are welcome with parent help.

10/2 -3

Library Book & Puzzle Sale @ Plains



Stop in during business hours and browse our selection of "new to you" books and puzzles for sale. Hardbacks for \$1; paperbacks for \$.50 and Fill a Bag for \$5!

10/10

Preschool Nature Program 11 am @ Plains



Stories, songs, and a nature lesson for your little sprouts! Get ready to explore, get dirty, and learn about nature. This program is fun for ages 3-5; but all are welcome.

10/24



11 am @ Plains

Let's do the Monster Mash! Bring your little goblins and ghouls to this Halloween-inspired music program. Wear a costume, or come as you are! This program is fun for ages 0-6; all are welcome.

ALL
MONTH



Warm, Cozy
Nutmeg

Did you know nutmeg was popular even before it joined forces with cinnamon, ginger, allspice, and cloves to make "Pumpkin Spice?" Pick up your free sample of this ancient spice and make the savory and sweet recipes included with your packet.



@pskiesld



Prairie Skies Public
Library District



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pspld.com



At Your Library

Celebrate the Story of America: Record *Your Story* with Illinois Voices 250!

This month, bring your loved ones and friends to our **IL Voices 250 Recording Project**. You can record **personal histories, family memories, and local lore**. With these diverse stories, reflections, and memories from our community and across the state, Illinois Voices 250 will create a lasting record that will be preserved in a special collection at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.



Caregivers Corner

Sensory Bins: Simple Play, Big Benefits

Want an easy, low-cost play activity to help your young child explore the world through touch, sight, sound, smell, and movement? Make a sensory bin!

A sensory bin can be as simple as a plastic tub, baking tray, or dishpan filled with safe materials like dry oatmeal, shredded paper, cotton balls, fabric scraps, water, leaves, or large pasta shapes. When you add scoops, cups, child safe tongs, spoons, toy animals, or blocks, your child can pour, sort, dig, hide, find, and pretend!

Sensory bins support learning through play.



Scooping and pouring strengthen fine motor skills. Sorting objects builds early math thinking. Searching for hidden letters, animals, or shapes encourages language, problem solving and attention.

For neurodivergent children or children with sensory differences, sensory bins may also offer a predictable, small-scale way to explore textures that they either avoid or are drawn to. Some children are hypersensitive and avoid certain sounds, smells, or textures, while others are hyposensitive (sensory-seeking) and may enjoy deeper sensory input through digging, squeezing, or scooping. As an example, a child who avoids sticky textures might begin exploring by using a spoon, then touching the material with one finger, and when ready, using a whole hand to explore. Pay attention to what your child seeks out or avoids in sensory play. (*cont'd at top...*)

Getting to know their sensory preferences can help you increase their comfort level as they are ready or offer the deeper sensory experiences they are seeking.

Some safety considerations. Always supervise sensory bin play, especially with children who mouth objects. Avoid small, round, hard items that may cause choking, and do not use water beads with young children because they can expand if swallowed and cause serious injury.

Sensory Bins: Play for Any Day

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) emphasizes that young children need time and freedom to explore sensory materials such as water, sand, mud, and nontoxic natural items. Sensory bins bring those opportunities to children in smaller, contained environments that are not weather or location dependent.

The best bins are safe, inexpensive, closely supervised, and responsive to what your child enjoys, avoids, or is ready to try next! So, grab that extra bin, gather some materials and tools and enjoy connecting with your child as they explore!



Sources:

National Association for the Education of Young Children; Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center; Child Mind Institute; American Academy of Pediatrics/HealthyChildren.org; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

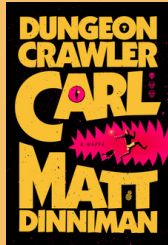
For the full article, visit www.pspld.com/blog.



At Your Library

Read & Watch This!

Looking for a good read or a your next binge! Try one of these...



Sci-Fi



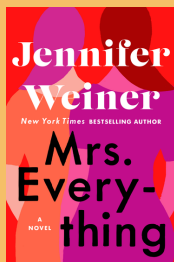
Non-fiction



Graphic Novel



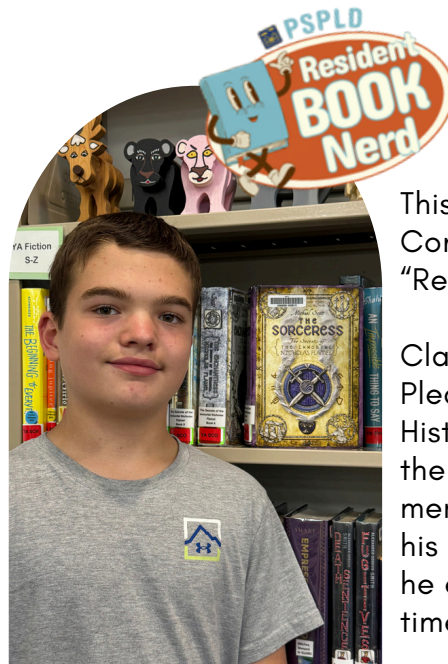
Romance



Palace Audio



Prime



October Teen Librarian Clark Cantrell

This month brings us another Teen Librarian! Congratulations to Clark Cantrell, our "Resident Book Nerd" for October!

Clark is 13 years old, and an 8th grader at Pleasant Plains Middle School. Math and History are his favorite subjects. Clark plays the tuba in the school band, and he's also a member of the Bowling Club. He's active in his BSA Scout Troop and, besides reading, he enjoys learning about coding in his free time.

For each Teen Librarian, we purchase a book or resource to add to our shelves. Clark loves the City Spies series by James Ponti, and asked us to add more of this 8-book series to our collection. Thanks, Clark!

Do you know a kid who loves books and the library? Call us or stop in to nominate!
Plains: 217-626-1553 , Ashland: 217-476-3417



Coming
Soon!



Pigeon Visits the
Library! Tues., 11/3,
5-6 pm @ Ashland



Tea-Rex Tea Party!
Sat. 11/7 10:30 - Noon
@ Bayleaf &
Butterscotch in Plains

Around Your Town

ASHLAND

Halloween Parade and Party, Sun, Oct. 25th, 3-5 pm.
Parade begins at the Firehouse, party at the Firehouse to follow.



Community Event of Announcement? Please email your flyer or info to pspldnass@yahoo.com.

PLEASANT PLAINS

Village Garage Sale, Saturday, 10/3, 7 am - 2 pm.

Pleasant Plains Community Club breakfast fundraiser Sun., Oct. 3, 8 am-noon. PPCC, 206 W 4th St, Pleasant Plains.

Halloween party, Sun, Oct 25, 4:00-5:30 at the community park. Moved to the community building if weather is poor.



October Events



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9/28 Storytime, 10 AM @ Plains	9/29	9/30 Storytime, 10 AM @ Ashland	10/1	10/2 Library Book Sale, 9 AM - 5 PM @ Plains	10/3 Porch Goose Outfits, 11 AM @ Plains Library Book Sale, 10 AM to 1 PM @ Plains
5 Storytime, 10 AM @ Plains	6	7 Storytime, 10 AM @ Ashland	8	9	10 Magic the Gathering, 11 AM @ Plains Preschool Nature, 11 AM @ Plains
12 CLOSED Indigenous Peoples Day / Columbus Day	13 Board Meeting, 6 PM @ Ashland	14 Storytime, 10 AM @ Ashland Staff Meeting, both locations close @ 3:30 PM	15	16	17 Tech Club, 11 AM @ Plains
19 Storytime, 10 AM @ Plains	20	21 Storytime, 10 AM @ Ashland	22 Bookies Book Club, 7 PM @ Plains	23	24 Magic the Gathering, 11 AM @ Ashland Music & Movement, 11 AM @ Plains
26 Storytime, 10 AM @ Plains	27 Ashland Book Club, 6 PM @ Ashland	28 Storytime, 10 AM @ Ashland	29	30	31 Trick or Treat @ Library, 10 AM to 1 PM, both locations

Visit Us!



www.pspld.com

Ashland Library

125 W. Editor Street, Ashland, IL 62612
217-476-3417

M, W, Th, F 9 am - 5 pm
T 9am - 7 pm

Pleasant Plains Library

555 Buckeye Rd, Pleasant Plains IL 62612
217-626-1553

M, T, W, F 9 am - 5 pm
Th 9am - 7 pm

Both Locations: Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm, CLOSED on Sundays