

KALEIDOSCOPE

Kent District Library | Information. Ideas. Excitement!

Winter 2020-2021

Staff Picks | The Best Book I Read in 2020, *pg. 4*

KDL Lab | Winter Wonder Lab, *pg. 8*

Countdown to Happy Noon Year, *pg. 10*

Winter Online Calendar, *pg. 12*



Welcome to winter.

2020 certainly threw us all some curveballs, didn't it? Through all the change and uncertainty, we did our best to continue providing you high-quality programs, a variety of useful resources and excellent customer service, while keeping you and our staff safe and healthy. Thank you for your support and understanding through this wild ride.

With falling temperatures and limited daylight, this is a great season to cuddle up on the couch in front of your fireplace and enjoy a good book. We have plenty of books and also a fun opportunity to earn prizes for reading. Sign up for our **Let It Snow Reading Club** for adults and teens. Learn more on the back cover.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2021. We are here for you.




Lance Werner
Executive Director

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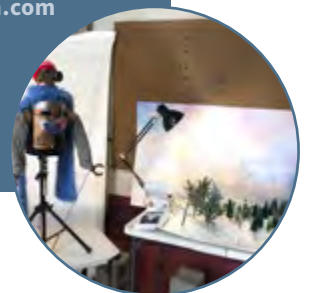
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About the cover artist:

The cover of this edition of *Kaleidoscope* features the character art of **Alysia Schmidt**.

 [alysiasartmind](#)
alysiasartmind.artstation.com

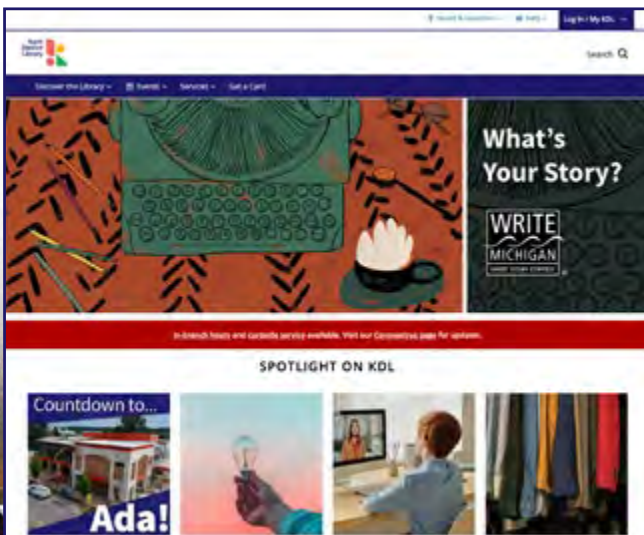
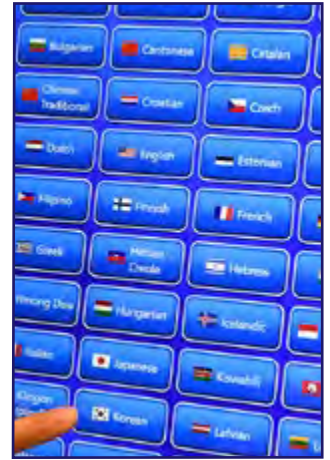
Background set design by **Brad Baker**.



KDL updates

Each KDL branch now has a ScanEZ Station, an easy-to-use touch screen scanning solution that can scan, save, fax and send your documents or photos practically anywhere. The new system provides users high-speed scanning and copying via a patron-friendly interface.

Patrons can even restore old, faded photos and documents and translate copy to text or audio in over 100 languages.



The new website is here! Check out the new features including better browsing, increased compatibility on any device and the ability to suggest a purchase and see status updates in your account.

More than 30 Career Online High School scholarships are available.

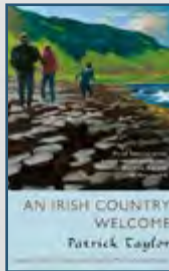
Adults can earn an accredited high school diploma in an online environment while gaining real-world career skills — at no cost to them! Learn more at kdl.org/cohs.



Great progress is taking place on the new Amy Van Andel Library and Community Center in Ada, which will open in January 2021. See the photos and videos at kdl.org/countdown-to-ada.

Staff Picks

The Best Book I Read in 2020



An Irish Country Welcome by Patrick Taylor, audiobook read by John Keating

"As always, this series is a real gem. Truly a 'feel good' story that makes me want to live in Ballybucklebo with the characters. Unlike some authors' titles that are coming out every month, release day of a Patrick Taylor's Irish Country (doctor) book is like Christmas to me!"

Yuko | Service Center



The Summer that Melted Everything by Tiffany McDaniel

"2020. The year that has melted everything into uncertainty, fear and so much anger. That isn't to say there haven't been moments where I have noticed bits of dappled sunlight that sneak their way through the trees and attempt to warm my cheeks. But you guys! This book. Oh my. This book. This is the book that melted everything. I feel as if I need to be pulled back together after reading it, but I am afraid that some pieces of me that melted will never be found again. For better or worse, this is the best book I have ever read. It seems fitting that it would come to me this year, like the Devil in the summer of 1984. One could argue the Devil came this summer too in a world of no apostrophes... a world with seemingly no hope. Disclaimer: do not read this book if you have strong trauma triggers."

Abby | Wyoming Branch



The Other Side of the Sky by Aimee Kaufman and Meagan Spooner

"Nimh is of the earth, living goddess to guide her people. North is of the sky, a prince in a tech-based world. When North falls from the sky, Nimh is there and what they discover together about their two worlds will change everything."

Beth | Gaines Township Branch



Here's to You, Jesusa! by Elena Poniatowska

"Based on a series of interviews conducted over several years by Elena Poniatowska, *Here's to You, Jesusa!* is the story of an extremely poor and illiterate woman whose remarkable life coincided with some of the most important events in Mexican history. Overlooked and shunned by society, Jesusa's true spirit lies buried beneath her rough manner and appearance. Poniatowska's affection for her friend radiates through this fine work, and gives a voice not only to Jesusa, but to everyone who's been marginalized and cast aside. This classic of Mexican literature deserves wider recognition here in the States."

Mark | Krause Memorial Branch

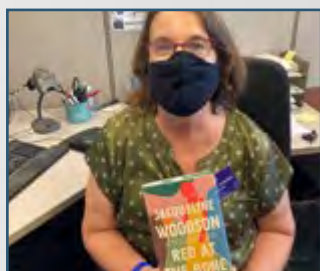


Happy: A Beginner's Book of Mindfulness

by Nicola Edwards

"This beautiful book is a great conversation starter! I loved the pictures and the memories they invoked... In hard times, this book is warm and deep and just what we need."

Ashley | Cascade Township Branch



Red at the Bone

by Jacqueline Woodson

"A beautifully written story of three generations of a middle-class black family in Brooklyn. I learned more about the underlying sorrow present at all the occasions of joy, and how hard it is for a black family to hold on to what they have to fight so hard to achieve."

Penni | Cascade Township Branch



Let's Make Ramen!: A Comic Book Cookbook

by Hugh Amano

"During quarantine, I found myself drawn to cooking more at home and reading graphic novels. *Let's Make Ramen* is the perfect marriage of the two. Not only are there tasty ramen recipes and great shopping guides, there are also beautiful illustrations and even the history of ramen all thrown in one beautifully designed book. If you've always wanted to cook ramen at home but didn't know where to start or just want to look at gorgeous illustrations of food, then this is a great book for you."

Hannah | Wyoming Branch



Stuck in Manistique

by Dennis Cuesta

"*Stuck in Manistique* takes place in the Upper Peninsula. It is a story that contains quirky but likable characters set in a small town. This book is both playful and heart-tugging, and is full of twists and turns. The troubled lives of the two main characters intersect in a novel that is a delightful read. For anyone who loves the U.P., this book is for you."

Barb | Substitute Information Staff



The Sun Down Motel

by Simone St. James

"You don't run into a ghost story/serial killer murder mystery very often. *The Sun Down Motel* read like a multigenerational, paranormal episode of 'Dateline.' It was everything I could hope for!"

Tricia | Cascade Township Branch



Untamed

by Glennon Doyle

"This was by far my favorite book this year. I read it during quarantine thinking it would take me awhile. I was so wrong! I read it in one sitting! This book was a page-turner with short chapters that made me laugh, cry and sometimes both in the same chapter. All of us have an inner-cheetah that is looking to be unleashed, and this book inspired me look at all the things in life that makes me feel caged. Such a good book (I even bought it!)"

Ashten | Wyoming Branch

From a Fellow Parent in the Trenches

I am writing to you from a very specific vantage point of parenting, which is to say, the five-and-under crowd. I am one of those parents who could appreciate the silver linings of spring 2020, but if you asked me if I miss that season, my answer would be a resounding ABSOLUTELY NOT. In March, when public life ground to a halt, my two boys were three-years-old and nine-months-old, and my husband and I began the exhausting task of spinning the various plates of our roles as parents, partners and employees. We dropped a lot of plates. Like, every day. The ones that kept spinning were sometimes wobbling and barely staying aloft, held up only by another takeout order or another 23 minutes of screen time or a pre-dinner walk around the block to stomp in every rain puddle we could find.

Refreshing our library book collection was on the same level of excitement as a birthday morning.

Like a lot of parents, I worry about any long-term effects that might linger after we all go back to normal (whatever that means). I hope my youngest child, who is fifteen months now, doesn't miss out on language development because his caregivers have to wear masks. I hope my three-year-old doesn't fall behind socially because he was stuck with two grumpy adults and a baby for months on end. I can go down a pretty dark path when I listen to the pessimistic part of my brain, but while I think it's okay to grieve the loss of balance we all used to rely on, I try not to rest there for too long.

As a library patron, I'm grateful for the ways that our library still brightened our days. The many virtual storytimes gave us some structure and something to look forward to, and my toddler grew to love some favorites (shout out to Miss Holly and Fred the Dog, and Miss Shannon!). Once curbside pickup became available, refreshing our library book collection was on the same level of excitement as a birthday morning. It eased the monotony and gave me some desperately needed bargaining chips to bribe my child into his room for nap time.

I'm also deeply grateful for my mother-in-law, who has dedicated a slice of her Sunday morning to a storytime with my toddler, every single week since this all began. It's a gift I would not have anticipated when I first mourned the loss of face-to-face time with loved ones. I kind of hope my kids don't remember much from this time in our lives, but if they do remember anything, I hope the love shining through those virtual storytimes sticks with them for years to come. Just because it was distant and remote doesn't make it any less real.



Anna | Branch Librarian
East Grand Rapids Branch

From One Collection to Another

A faithful patron donated her complete collection of Let It Snow prizes to our Kentwood Branch when she passed away. We are so grateful for this treasured gift!



LET IT SNOW

It's that time of year again! Check out the back cover for details about this popular winter reading program.



Winter Wonder Lab

It's that time of year where the sunshine is fleeting and you're ready for bed by 6:00 PM, or at least your parents are. You may be spending more time inside, and what better way to spend that time than curled up with a good book recommended by your friendly KDL Librarians? Or maybe you prefer to put on your lab coat and explore new ideas in your science lab (or kitchen). Either way, we have got you covered for those moments when the winter blues kick in.

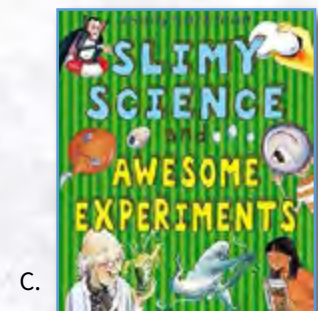
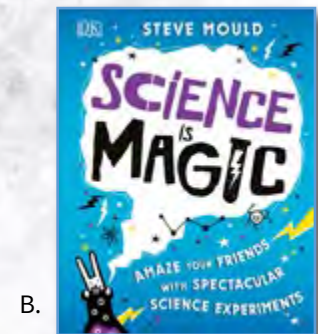
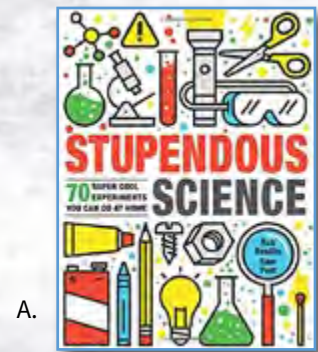
Wintertime Word Find

The words may be hidden in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards and backwards.

D R V E S D M E L T M F H R C
 R E F R N B E A R I R I E Y O
 A H E U O J N C T E B T R I N
 Z T B T W I O T E E E A A C I
 Z A R A D L E Z R M U C L I F
 I E U R D N E N O N B S O C E
 L W A E S U A M A B J E P L R
 B C R P J T R J W I N D R E O
 O F Y M E E K A L F W O N S U
 O R V E H B I N O C U L A R S
 T O L T W I L D L I F E T T K
 S S B L A M I N A S C A R F C
 E T A R G I M V O R T E X I A
 L L A U Q S C L O U D S D R R
 L U W I N T E R E D E E F D T

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| ANIMAL | DECEMBER | MELT | SQUALL |
| BEAR | DRIFT | MIGRATE | TEMPERATURE |
| BINOCULARS | FEBRUARY | MITTENS | THERMOMETER |
| BLIZZARD | FEEDER | POLAR | TRACKS |
| BOOTS | FREEZE | SCARF | VORTEX |
| CARDINAL | FROST | SCAT | WEATHER |
| CLOUDS | HIBERNATE | SLEET | WILDLIFE |
| COLD | ICICLE | SNOW | WIND |
| CONIFEROUS | JANUARY | SNOWFLAKE | WINTER |

Related titles:



Winter Magic Milk Experiment

Supplies:

- Whole or full-fat milk
- Blue food coloring
- Dawn dish soap
- Cotton swabs
- Winter-themed cookie cutters
- Plate or pie dish
- Glitter if you have some



Directions:

1. Pour a thin layer of milk onto your plate or pie dish. Just enough so you can't see the bottom.
2. Place your cookie cutter – go ahead and pick your favorite wintery one – in the center of the plate or dish.
3. Drop some food coloring drops in the milk outside of your cookie cutter (if you have glitter, now's the time for that).
4. Pour a little bit of dish soap into a cup or bowl. Place just the tip of your q-tip into the soap.
5. Using your cotton swab with a little bit of soap, gently swab or touch the top of the milk.
6. What happens?

A. *Stupendous Science. 70 Super Cool Experiments You Can Do at Home* by Rob Beattie

B. *Science Is Magic. Amaze Your Friends with Spectacular Science Experiments* by Steve Mould

C. *Slimy Science and Awesome Experiments* by Susan Martineau



Curi will return for Summer Wonder 2021!



2021

COUNTDOWN TO HAPPY NOON YEAR!

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 31
11:30 AM**

Find the livestream at:

[facebook.com/kentdistrictlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/kentdistrictlibrary)
or [youtube.com/kentdistrictlibrary](https://www.youtube.com/kentdistrictlibrary)

Celebrate the New Year in a unique way with crafts, projects and a livestream! Try some of these projects at home and join a special KDL broadcast featuring Wimee and your favorite librarians ringing in 2021 at noon.

Use what you have to celebrate at noon with:

- **CONFETTI**
- **POTS AND PANS**
- **A NOISEMAKER**



MAKE YOUR OWN BALL DROP COUNTDOWN

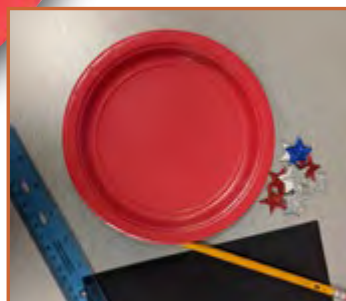
When the time comes to count down at noon, everyone gets to have their own personal ball drop by sliding their “ball” down the paper countdown.

SUPPLIES

- Small paper plates (any color)
- Cardstock cut into one-inch strips (any color)
- Writing utensils
- Craft supplies for decorating, such as glitter star stickers, glitter glue, paint, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut two small slits into the middle of the paper plate.
2. Cut the cardstock into one-inch strips and vertically write numbers 1 through 10.
3. Decorate the plate.
4. Slip the cardstock into the slits and pull through.
5. Count down from 10 and celebrate the New Year!



NOISE MAKERS

When noon arrives after the countdown, everyone can shake their noise makers to celebrate!

SUPPLIES

- Paper plates
- Ribbon/streamers
- Paint, markers or crayons
- Dried beans, pasta or pony beads
- Tape
- Glue or stapler



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tape the curled ribbon to the plate so that when folded in half, the ribbon will stick out.
2. Add a handful of beans to the plate and fold in half.
3. Secure the plate closed with glue or a stapler.



NEW YEAR'S POPPERS

Get ready for the ball drop and pop your own popper!

SUPPLIES

- Tissue paper
- Washi tape or string/ribbon
- Toilet paper rolls
- Candy and confetti



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Measure your tissue paper to be about 10-12 inches wide. Toilet paper rolls are about 4 inches long.
2. Lay your roll onto the tissue paper at one end and begin rolling.
3. Gather the end on one side and twist.
4. Secure with washi tape or string and fill the other end with the treats or confetti.
5. Small treats such as candies, confetti, printed messages & jokes and trinkets are all things that would fit.
6. Secure the second end with washi tape and you are done.
7. When it is time to open them, grab both ends and pull hard!

IT'S ALL ONLINE!
kdl.org/livestream



December

All programs stream online | Calendar begins Wednesday, December 2

ALL BOOK CLUBS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION

An email address is required for registration and instructions for how to join us on Zoom. This program will be moderated by KDL staff and you will have the option of participating with or without video. Parents are encouraged to read book reviews of each week's chosen title in advance to determine if the book is one their child will enjoy.



MONDAYS

More than Superheroes: A Graphic Novel Series for Teens and Adults

December 21, 4:00 PM

Learn about graphic novels that may be new to you! *For teens and adults.*

Elementary Book Talks

December 7 & 21, 6:30 PM

Looking for your next great read? Tune in for expert recommendations from KDL youth staff. We'll tell you all about our favorite new books, including graphic novels, nonfiction, picture books, chapter books and more! *For school age children.*



Elementary Graphic Novel Book Club

December 14 & 28, 6:30 PM

If you love to read and discover new books, join our graphic novel book club! Selected titles will be listed on kdl.org/events. *For school age children.*

TUESDAYS

Storytime

December 8 & 15, 10:00 AM



Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading. *For families with children.*

What We're Reading

December 8, 15 & 22, 6:30 PM

Catch up on what your favorite KDL librarians and special guests are currently reading. *For adults.*

WEDNESDAYS

Teen Graphic Novel Book Club

December 16, 4:30 PM

Join Monica and Katie for our Teen Graphic Novel Book Club. We will be discussing *Twins* by Varian Johnson. We guarantee you'll have a blast! *For teens.*

What We're Learning

December 2 & 9, 7:00 PM

Tune in to these local presenters from the comfort of your home. *For adults.*

December 2: Home Repair Services - Keeping the Cold Out
December 9: Drawing Animals with John Ball Zoo - brought to you by Lions & Rabbits

Anti-Racism Book Club Dec. 16, 7:00 PM,

***Between the World and Me*
by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

This monthly virtual book club will discuss books across genres that explore issues of race in America as a means of better understanding ourselves, our history and our community. *For adults.*

THURSDAYS

Storytime

December 3, 10 & 17, 10:00 AM

Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading. *For families with children.*

FRIDAYS

Author Chats

December 4, 11 & 18, 7:00 PM

Author interviews and conversations from West Michigan, as well as winners of the Library of Michigan's 2020 Michigan Notable Books award. *For adults.*

Streaming in a Spooky Wonderland

December 11, 10:00 PM



Teen librarians Hannah and Monica go on a nighttime winter walk through the woods, with plenty of scary stories and possible screams! *For teens.*

WINTER BREAK SPECIALS

Coding Class with Coders4Tomorrow

Monday, Dec. 28 - Thursday, Dec. 31, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Pre-registration with email is required for this week-long Zoom program.

Coders4Tomorrow will teach the basics of Python coding in a fun way! Along with instruction from experienced undergraduate and high school coders in the essentials of Python 3, a real coding language used in industry, guest speakers and creative final projects are included to spark prolonged interest in coding. No prior coding experience is needed. **For grades 7-10.**

Basic computer and internet skills and an internet connection are required for this remote class. It is recommended that all participants have basic typing ability and math proficiency in order of operations and exponents. Participants are asked to attend each day, since the material builds on the previous day.

Cool Jams with Wendy & DB!

Wednesday, Dec. 30, 10:00 AM

Enjoy a special jam session with musical guests, Wendy & DB. *For families with children. Find out more on page 15.*



Wimmee's Words | Weekdays at 1:00 PM in December and 4:00 PM in January and February (see page 14 for additional information).

January | February

All programs stream online | Begins Monday, January 4

MONDAYS

10:00 AM, Family Storytime
Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading. *For families with children.*

More than Superheroes: A Graphic Novel Series for Teens and Adults
January 18 and February 15, 4:30 PM



Learn about graphic novels that may be new to you!
For teens and adults.

Elementary Book Talks
January 4 & 18 and February 1 & 15, 6:30 PM

Looking for your next great read? Tune in for expert recommendations from KDL youth staff. We'll tell you all about our favorite new books, including graphic novels, nonfiction, picture books, chapter books and more!
For school age children.

 **Elementary Graphic Novel Book Club**

January 11 & 25 and February 8 & 22, 6:30 PM



If you love to read and discover new books, join us for our graphic novel book club! Selected titles will be listed on kdl.org/events.
For school age children.

TUESDAYS

10:00 AM, Rhyme Time
Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading. *For families with children.*

6:00 PM, Teen Tuesdays @ Home
Check out kdl.org/events for instructions to log in to participate in these exciting programs provided by your favorite KDL Teen Librarians.
For teens.

January 5 and February 2
Animal Crossing
January 12 and February 9
Dungeons and Dragons
January 19 and February 16
Among Us


6:30 PM, What We're Reading
Catch up on what your favorite KDL Librarians and special guests are currently reading.
For adults.

WEDNESDAYS

10:00 AM, Storytime with Mr. Dave



Traditional stories, music and more for the whole family.
For families with children.

 **4:00 PM, Teen Graphic Novel Book Club**

January 27:
***Snapdragon* by Kat Leyh**
February 24:
***They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei**
Join Monica and Katie for our Teen Graphic Novel Book Club. We guarantee you'll have a blast!
For teens.

WEDNESDAYS (Continued)

7:00 PM, What We're Learning
Join a local presenter as they share an assortment of information, ideas and excitement, all from the comfort of your home. *For adults.*

January 13: Swords, Myth vs Reality
January 27: Michigan's Polar Bear Soldiers of WWI
February 10: Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives - Riot Race and Reconciliation; 1967 Grand Rapids Uprising
February 24: Home Repair Services

 **7:00 PM, Anti-Racism Book Club**

This monthly virtual book club will discuss books across genres that explore issues of race in America as a means of better understanding ourselves, our history and our community.
For adults.

January 20, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi
February 17, *Riot Baby* by Tochi Onyebuchi

THURSDAYS

4:30 PM, Hodgepodge: A Teen Librarian Talk Show
Join Miss Monica and Miss Clare as they talk books, games, teen happenings and more with special guests. *For teens.*

Cooking with Mandy
February 4, 11, 18 and 25, 6:30 PM
Join Mandy Thompson in her kitchen to learn to make risotto, pupusas, a variety of pesto types and gnocchi. *For adults.*

THURSDAYS (Continued)

7:00 PM, Evening Storytime
Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading. *For families with children.*

FRIDAYS

9:30 AM, Babytime



Delight and engage your baby with songs and a story that help your baby develop listening and language skills. *For young children.*

10:00 AM, Celebrating Your Community!



A special storytime featuring local artists and performers from our community. *For families with children.*

1:00 PM, KDL Curiosity Lab Online | Ask the Expert
January 8, January 29 and February 19

Meet in the KDL Curiosity Lab as we ask local STEAM experts some curious questions from kiddos just like you!
For school age children.

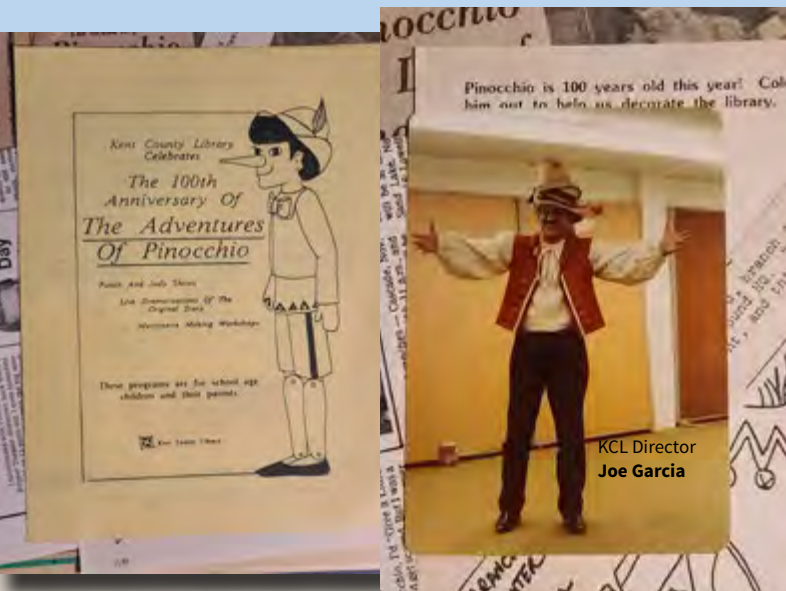
SATURDAYS

11:00 AM, Celebrating Your Community! (Encore of Friday's program)

SHOWTIME AT KDL

THEN

In the 70s, a woman by the name of Bernie Houseward worked for what was then called Kent County Library. Last year, she replied to the KDL eNews to comment on one of our new initiatives, and we ended up messaging back and forth trading KDL history. Recently, she called to tell us that she had unearthed files from her time at KDL and offered to give them to us. We accepted and, after finding no shortage of gems in the lot, are glad that we did. **Thanks, Bernie, for your service to KDL all those years ago!**



David Specht
Kent District Library
814 W. River Center Dr. NE
Comstock Park, MI

Dear David:
Thanks for wanting to look at my old "treasures." I wish I could exactly remember the dates I worked at what was then KCL, but I believe it was 1972-1974 and then again 1977? to 1980? Whatever the years were, I had a great time.
I was hired to create a puppet and creative dramatics program to carry to 4 counties to fulfill a grant. I worked through the Children's Services Department. During the time I was there, there were so many creative people working in that department. It was one creative idea broadened by another person's input, critiqued by a third, and polished by a fourth. The ideas were flying so fast, it was hard to get a work in edgewise. We were also fortunate to have a printing department to assist with our ideas. Some of the most exciting were: The Reading Railroad, a program for preschoolers; First Grade Round-Up promoted to the schools in the KCL district which ended with 1st graders receiving a library card; and the theatrical spectacle of Pinocchio, in which the newly hired director, Joe Garcia played a role.
Several of the people I worked with at that time remain some of my best friends.
It was fun going through all this stuff and remembering it all. Thanks for the opportunity!

Sincerely,
Bernie Houseward
Bernie Houseward

NOW

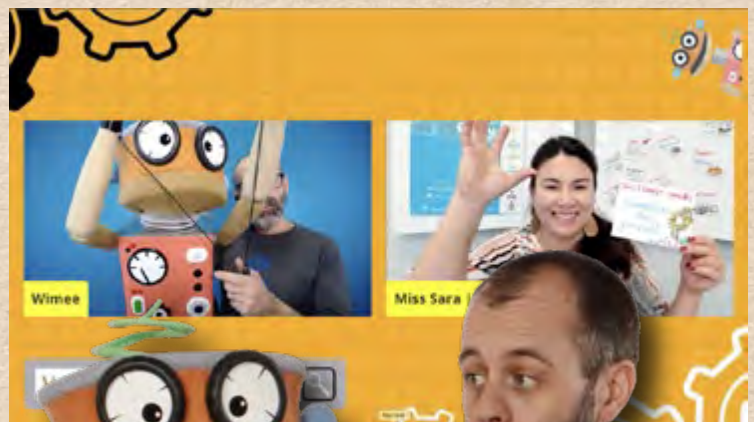
Wimee's Words

Weekdays at 1:00 PM in December
Weekdays at 4:00 PM starting Jan. 4

No programs Dec. 14 - 18
or Dec. 24 and 25.

kdl.org/livestream

Wimee's Words sparks imagination and inspires creative thinking with interactive wordplay, songs, and stories, celebrates the diversity of languages and cultures, showcases technology that invites creativity and much more!



Cool Jams with Wendy & DB!

Wednesday,
December 30
10:00 AM
kdl.org/livestream



The latest album from Wendy & DB, *Hey Big World*



The award-winning children’s music duo, **Wendy & DB**, created a special program for libraries that KDL will stream during winter break. One of KDL’s most popular performers, Wendy & DB entertain with their unique style of songs about science, nature, diversity, safety and the arts.

“We have enjoyed translating our live show to an interactive virtual format because of the pandemic. We have had the chance to ask children and families to make use of ordinary things found in their household like a dishtowel, a bucket and spoons from the kitchen to use those items to bring our show to life at home. It has been a joy for us to stay connected by watching the children show us their favorite stuffy, sing, dance and jump and go on a journey around the world in the safety of their home.”

– Wendy Morgan of Wendy & DB



Fall Teen Photo Contest Winners

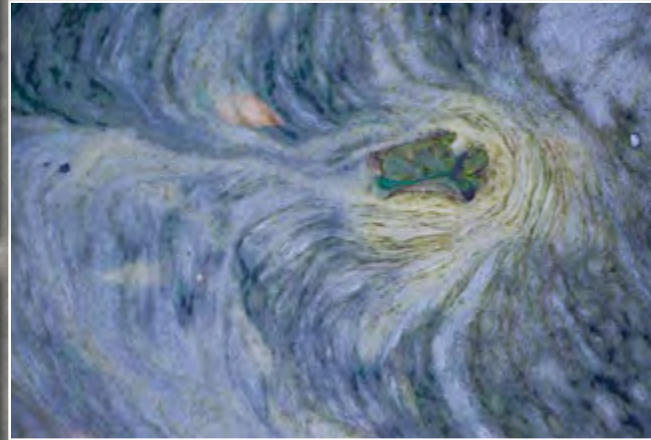
To learn more about the contest and view all the submissions, visit kdl.org/teenphotowinners.



Himalayan Salt | Kristina Faber



Road Through The Fall | Megan VanSweden



Reeds Lake Foam | Jack Ashley-Oswalt



Fields of Wonder | Levi Bodziak



The Cloud Mirror | Fielding Elzinga



Church is in Session | Grace Dykema



Critique Craftsmen | Kara Sias



Fall Overlook | Ana Heagle

If You Can Dream It, You Can Screen It

By Celeste Frank

”

The (Kent County) Teen Film Festival has been an amazing opportunity for me and it is such an incredible way to expand my videography skills. It has allowed me to put my creativity to work to produce an original video. It was very inspiring to see my films shown at Celebration Cinema. I've always loved film and making videos, and the Teen Film Festival was a wonderful way to use this hobby of mine. I have been in four film festivals and I appreciate every experience.

I think teens should participate in the Teen Film Festival because it is a great way to use the film skills you have and to put your creativity to the test. It is exciting, and a really fun way to create a video or movie.



20
21



KENT COUNTY TEEN FILM FESTIVAL

Call for Entries
Oct. 1, 2020
Submissions Due
Jan. 22, 2021
Festival
Feb. 27, 2021
10:30 AM

This year's Festival
will be online at
kdl.org/livestream

To submit your entries and for more
information, visit kdl.org/teenfilmfestival

SPONSORS

Kent
District
Library





KDL WiFi Mobile Hotspot
2,222 checkouts

2020

by the numbers (so far)



The average KDL user has **saved \$951** by checking out physical items from the library.



Dog Man: Unleashed
by Dav Pilkey
636 checkouts



Dog Man: For Whome the Ball Rolls
by Dav Pilkey
639 checkouts



The Giver of Stars
by Jojo Moyes
691 checkouts



Camino Winds
by John Grisham
693 checkouts



Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas
by Dav Pilkey
701 checkouts



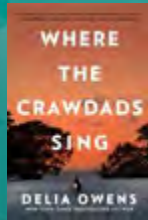
The Guardians
by John Grisham
709 checkouts



Dog Man: Fetch-22
by Dav Pilkey
941 checkouts



Guts
by Raina Telgemeier
948 checkouts



Where the Crawdads Sing
by Delia Owens
1,277 checkouts

Curbside pickup service:
270,000+ items checked out at 80,000+ visits



Most popular digital (OverDrive) checkouts

Livestreaming:

- 1,100+ online programs
- 140,000+ attendees watching live
- 400,000+ recorded viewings



The Glass Hotel
by Emily St. John Mandel
960 checkouts



The Splendid and the Vile
by Erik Larson
966 checkouts



White Fragility
by Robin DiAngelo
983 checkouts



Little Fires Everywhere
by Celeste Ng
999 checkouts



The Vanishing Half
by Brit Bennett
1,001 checkouts



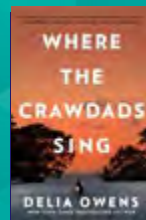
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
by J.K. Rowling
1,098 checkouts



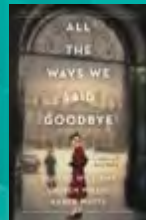
The Giver of Stars
by Jojo Moyes
1,400 checkouts



Untamed
by Glennon Doyle
1,421 checkouts



Where the Crawdads Sing
by Delia Owens
1,719 checkouts



All the Ways We Said Goodbye
by Beatriz Williams
1,804 checkouts



3,666 library cards issued online while the branches were closed due to COVID-19, allowing immediate access to digital resources.

Digital collection usage increased 71% and **database usage increased 107%** during the first full month of the COVID-19 stay-at-home order.

1,000+ mobile WiFi hotspots available for checkout (700 were purchased in response to COVID-19)

Digital Dinner:

Socially-Distanced Donors Show Up & Support Literacy

By David Specht, Digital Marketing Strategist

At the 2019 Literary Libations gala, one of the presenting authors experienced a fairly lengthy flight delay the morning of the event and therefore was not able to make it to Grand Rapids in time to speak to our guests at dinner that evening. Throughout the day, we worked with the author's publicist and the author to record his remarks and fortunately were able to play them back at dinner. Our video looked fine, the guests were pleased and all was well; crisis averted. Little did we know that just six months later we would be finalizing plans to transition the entire 2020 gala to a virtual format. Boy were we in for a treat.

Lucky for us, we KDL folk are pretty good at pivoting. Throughout the spring season, we had worked to transition our hundreds of in-branch programs to an online platform, designed and launched a curbside pickup service for patrons to access items from our collection, and reworked our entire summer reading program (Summer Wonder) so that participants could reap all of the benefits without ever setting foot in a branch. We had the experience, the equipment and the know-how. And while producing a gala is certainly more robust and complex than producing a Family Storytime program, we were ready to make it happen.

Little did we know that just six months later we would be finalizing plans to transition the entire 2020 gala to a virtual format.

Sure – we could've cancelled Literary Libations. Our guests would've understood, the authors could make the trip next time around and life would carry on. But for the last five years, our donors, staff, volunteers and friends have come together to make this one fall evening so special. And in a time when everything is so uncertain and gatherings with loved ones are few and far between, it became clear to us that sharing this experience with our family – the KDL family – was more important than ever.

For the most part, the run-of-show resembled that of years past: intro from our emcee, highlights from the last 12 months, shout-out to sponsors, a main video highlighting the program for which we are hoping to improve funding, talks from our authors and closing remarks from our executive director, Lance Werner. And while initially we had to work through connectivity issues, confusion due to differing time zones and everything else that comes with hosting a virtual program, ultimately the event went off without a hitch.

Catherine Behrendt, gala emcee, thanks the presenting authors before KDL Executive Director

Lance Werner gives closing remarks.



For a full recap
of the event, visit
kdl.org/gala



We had spent the days leading up to the gala testing out internet connections of authors, familiarizing everyone with the livestream platform, figuring out which conference room in the KDL Service & Meeting Center made for the best makeshift “stage” and chatting on the phone with our ticketholders as they navigated the sometimes-complicated process of accessing the secret gala livestream landing page on their televisions – and all of the preparation paid off. We had a lovely evening.

What was special about that night, September 16, 2020, wasn't the production quality of the livestream, or the tasty takeout meals that our partner restaurants provided our guests, or even the intimate talks from our authors. What made that night special was the nearly 300 people who, even though we were in the midst of a pandemic, decided to show up and support their library. That night, we raised nearly as much in donations as we did the previous year when we all gathered in person. And just as our regular gala attendees would've understood had we not held a gala due to the circumstances, we would've understood if our regular attendees decided against attending the gala and contributing donations. But they did attend, and they did contribute. Throughout the evening, we received photos from our guests, sharing with us their livestream gala viewing setups, their families dressed for the occasion and their dinner tables set with their plated takeout meals, complete with printed programs for the evening.

Even though we were spread out across the county, this year's gala somehow felt more intimate than ever before. And while all of us – staff, volunteers, gala planning committee and guests – certainly look forward to coming together for an in-person event next year, I think that the first (and hopefully only, let's be honest) Literary Libations Virtual Gala will always hold a special place in our hearts.



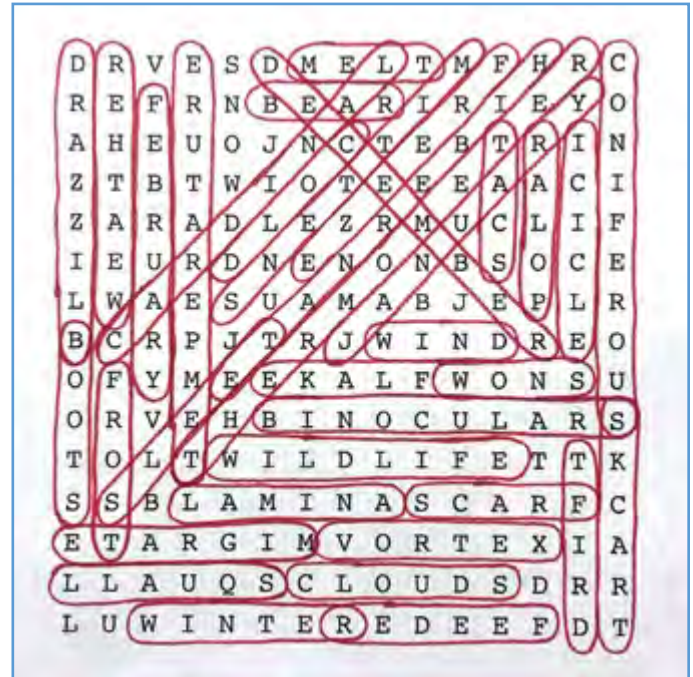


Your support helps kids learn at home at a time when they need it most.

Donate now to support KDL programming and outreach.

kdl.org/donate

Answer Key From Page 8



About the Cover



Find out more about this cover and the artwork you see at kdl.org/WinterCover.

To discover other ways you can help, contact:

Christine Mwangi
Development Manager
cmwangi@kdl.org | 616.784.2092

So we can cheer you on as you learn at home, post your cool photos on social media and use:

#LearningAtHomeKDL

Welcome to KDL



Christine Mwangi | Development Manager
One of her favorite books is *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.



Yasmeen Shatawi | Shelver, Cascade Twp. Branch
One of her favorite books is *I'll Be Watching You* by Andrea Kane.



Elvia Myers | Executive Assistant
One of her favorite books is *My Stroke of Insight* by Jill Bolte Taylor.



Sean Wojtczak | IT Administrative Assistant
One of his favorite titles is *The Prelude, The 1805 Edition* by William Wordsworth.



Remington Steed | Webmaster
One of his favorite books is *The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass, Aged 37¾* by Adrian Plass.



Rachel Williamson | Programming Specialist
One of her favorite books of all time is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.



Anna Lauber | Shelver, Cascade Twp. Branch
One of her favorite books is *An Elderly Lady Is Up To No Good* by Helene Tursten.



Grace Miguel Cipriano | Outreach Specialist
One of her favorite books is *La Sombra del Viento (The Shadow of the Wind)* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

Branch Locations

OPENING JANUARY 2021

AMY VAN ANDEL LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER
7215 Headley St. SE
Ada, MI 49301

ALPINE TOWNSHIP
5255 Alpine Ave. NW
Comstock Park, MI 49321

ALTO
6071 Linfield Ave.
Alto, MI 49302

BYRON TOWNSHIP
8191 Byron Center Ave. SW
Byron Center, MI 49315

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP
6260 92nd St. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

CASCADE TOWNSHIP
2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

COMSTOCK PARK
3943 W. River Dr. NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321

EAST GRAND RAPIDS
746 Lakeside Dr. SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

ENGLEHARDT
200 N. Monroe St.
Lowell, MI 49331

GAINES TOWNSHIP
421 68th St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

GRANDVILLE
4055 Maple St. SW
Grandville, MI 49418

KELLOGGSVILLE
Kelloggsville High School
4787 Division Ave S
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

KENTWOOD (RICHARD L. ROOT)
4950 Breton SE
Kentwood, MI 49508

KRAUSE MEMORIAL
140 E. Bridge St.
Rockford, MI 49341

NELSON TOWNSHIP
88 Eighth St.
Sand Lake, MI 49343

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
2650 5-Mile Rd. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

SPENCER TOWNSHIP
14960 Meddler Ave.
Gowen, MI 49326

TYRONE TOWNSHIP
43 S. Main St.
Kent City, MI 49330

WALKER
4293 Remembrance Rd. NW
Walker, MI 49534

WYOMING AND KDL TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER
3350 Michael Ave. SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

KDL SERVICE AND MEETING CENTER
814 West River Center Dr. NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321

For KDL Branch hours and the latest information, visit the new **kdl.org!**



616-784-2007
Toll-free: 1-877-243-2466



See all new events
and programs at
kdl.org/events

LET IT SNOW

Kent District Library is pleased to
present Let It Snow for adults and teens.

Read a minimum of six books between January 2 and
March 31 to receive a **Let It Snow** 2021 ceramic 15 oz.
mug. Read an additional four books to be entered into
a drawing for a winter cap or an iPad.

Participate online at kdl.org/snow or pick
up a printed form at any KDL branch.



LET IT:
SNOW

2021 WINTER READING CLUB
KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY

