I’m a huge fan of something that John Wooden, famed coach of the UCLA Bruins, said:

“Be true to yourself. Make each day your masterpiece. Help others. Drink deeply from good books. Make friendship a fine art. Build a shelter against a rainy day.”

Each of these little sentences epitomizes what the library is and what we strive to accomplish.

Will you join us this summer in drinking deeply from good books? Sign up for our Summer Wonder program to grow, experience, learn and read! People of all ages can join in on the fun. Read on the beach, in a hammock or on a bench in the park. Read in the comfort of your air-conditioned home or library. Read in bed. Read in the car by listening to an audiobook. Just make sure to read.

Not sure what to read? Our CORE Collections are a great place to start! These 100-book collections consist of titles at least one year old that are close to the hearts of KDL librarians and patrons alike. Our adult collection has been around since last spring, and you can learn about our new CORE Collections for kids and teens on page 12. These collections are available at all 20 of our branches.

I want to wish each of you a fun and fulfilling summer. Please make sure to come and visit us. The library is always a great place to be, but summer is probably the most exciting time of all!

Sincerely,

Lance Werner
Executive Director
**KDL updates**

**iVox**

**Books that Move!**

iVox is a new virtual book app for young and early readers, bringing beautifully illustrated and interactive, downloadable content directly to your home. With new titles being added monthly, iVox is a uniquely immersive experience guaranteed to delight and inspire even the most hesitant of readers. See page 14 for more information.

**Coming Soon:** At long last, the KDL catalog will be available on your personal device as a nifty mobile app. Manage your holds, browse the collection, check up on library hours or program times, and bring a digital copy of your library card with you wherever you go, all as part of a new cohesive KDL experience designed with you in mind.

**Now available at the Caledonia Twp. Branch:**

Curbside hold pick-up just got even more convenient, with new curbside texting and interactive voice response. Simply text or call from the safety of your vehicle to let your favorite librarian know you’re here. Don’t worry, you can always choose to speak with a human if you prefer. Interested in curbside texting at your branch? Let your librarian know today!
Muse by Brittany Cavallaro

“Muse is a great historical fiction that has a strong female main character who makes hard decisions. She is a great character to look up to and has a great love interest as well.”

Adrianna | Wyoming Branch

Powers and Thrones: A New History of the Middle Ages by Dan Jones

“This is a great book for history lovers who want to learn more about the Middle Ages or are not very familiar with European early history. It gives an amazing overview from the fall of Rome up until Martin Luther via vivid, gripping details. It travels through time, detailing the prominent social groups and their sphere of influence and interactions with one another. The book doesn’t just focus on European social groups but also cultures from the Middle East, Africa and Asia, and the impact they had on Europe and their connections. This book focuses on the broad strokes while still providing lots of interesting details.”

Craig | Alpine Twp./Tyrone Twp./Walker Branches

Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism by Amanda Montell

“Cultish finds itself at a perfect intersection of my readerly interests: cults and the quirks of language. Montell makes a compelling case for how language is a powerful tool that can be wielded to appeal to people’s innate and universal need to belong. Each “cult” – from People’s Temple to Crossfit (whhaaaat? – really!) – has its own lexicon, and to speak it is to truly be included. On this journey, I was never bogged down with the jargon of linguistics – Montell keeps it humorous and enthralling. You will find yourself looking at language in a new way.”

Jaci | KDL Service Center
**The Vanderbeekers Make a Wish** by Karina Yan Glaser

“This is a family you can’t help but love. Set in an idealized real world, the Vanderbeekers face real-life issues like cantankerous grandparents and changes to their schedule. Readers will appreciate the lengths the Vanderbeeker kids will go to discover their family’s history — a skill all kids might benefit from, even when (especially when) the discovery leads to hard conversations.”

*Joshua | Caledonia Twp. Branch*

**Interior Chinatown** by Charles Yu

“A deeply personal novel about race, pop culture, immigration, assimilation and escaping the roles we are forced to play.”

*Zurina | Cascade Twp. Branch*

**White Bird** by R. J. Palacio

“Although this was published a few years ago, I only recently read it and was incredibly moved by how touching and informative it was. R. J. Palacio’s story of a young girl during the Holocaust is handled with such grace and emotional integrity. Even more profound is the way she draws parallels to today’s world and underscores, once again, how much kindness matters. Although it’s a children’s graphic novel, I think everyone should read it.”

*Tricia | Cascade Twp. Branch*

**The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down** by Anne Fadiman

“Great read about how culture impacts the way we understand and communicate reality. The book immerses the reader into the worldview of the people featured, helping us experience their fears and understand their answers to illness from their perspective. I learned so much about respectful communication in culture and family dynamics. Recommended for professional interpreters, translators, advocates and caregivers in multicultural communities.”

*Sara | KDL Service Center*
Here are some of the many exciting programs we are offering this summer. For more information on dates, times and locations, visit kdl.org/events or pick up a calendar later this spring at your local branch.

**Drums for All!**
You bring your smiles and hands; we’ll provide the drums. Using instruments from cultures around the globe, we’ll learn how to express ourselves musically and communicate using a language older than words. Open to people of all abilities.

**Native American Dancers**
Reg Pettibone, a full-blooded Woodland Native American from the Ho-Chunk Nation, along with his wife Marca, from the Paiute Nation, present a unique and engaging cultural performance that amazes, entertains and educates. Reg, also a champion powwow dancer, draws on his traditional upbringing to provide the audience with a better understanding of true native culture through dance, song, stories and audience participation.

**Juggling Stunt Show**
A thrilling show for all ages! Clark performs skilled juggling, daring circus stunts, magic and more. Plenty of action, humor and a dynamic rock soundtrack are combined to deliver an experience beyond the ordinary.
One of the most satisfying experiences of Summer Wonder for staff is when we get to collect the many 30-Day Challenge completer tickets from kids and congratulate them for reaching their goal — a familiar refrain that never gets old. What better way to reward their efforts than to escort them over to the prize books and invite them to choose one to take home? There is something magical that happens in that moment. Kids cannot believe their good fortune. “You mean I get to pick out my own book and take it home for free, for keeps? Wow!” Some of our young patrons have never enjoyed the privilege of owning their own book, so for them especially, this is the most perfect reward.

Most will very meticulously peruse the array of titles to determine which one they would like to read. It is a process known well to those of us who have ever picked up a book to consider reading. They gaze at the covers, lend a critical eye to the back or inside covers, flip the pages for things like font size, word difficulty, illustrations and, well, just plain feeling a connection that tells them they’ve met their perfect match — a book which will lure them in and take them on yet another journey of the imagination. To our good fortune, we get to bear witness to it all — that beautiful pairing of book to child and child to book.

We mark them as “complete” in our system, look them in the eye, smile, and with their book in hand, send them on their way.

Duke Otherwise
Musical talent Duke Otherwise is sure to entertain with fun songs like "Joy's a Grump," "Billy, Put Your Sister Down," "Everybody Spin" and more!

Rock and Read!
Jam out with Miss Paula and the Candy Bandits as they perform original children’s music. Check out her new book, Miss Paula’s Six-String Stories, also available for purchase after each program while supplies last.

Hey kiddos, want your own book? Attending programs like the ones seen here count towards your 30-Day Challenge goals when you sign up for Summer Wonder! Flip this magazine over to get started!
FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Exotic Zoo

Meet a variety of mammals, reptiles and birds from around the world for a hands-on learning experience.

KDL LAB Experience promotes creativity, problem-solving skills and unstructured exploration time. Carefully selected learning tools and activities are designed to help students increase their proficiency in STEAM disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

Our Lab programs this summer include:

• Magical Menagerie
• A Journey Through Time
• Super Cool Spy School
• Theme Park Frenzy
• Ahoy! A Pirates Adventure
• Pocket Monster Palooza
• Superhero Training Camp
• Artopia

For more information on dates, times and locations, visit kdl.org/events or pick up a calendar later this spring at your local branch.
**Dragon Ball Food!**

Discover the fun and exciting food-based names of *Dragon Ball*, the world’s most-recognized Japanese cartoon and comic. *Dragon Ball* scholar and local East Grand Rapids author Derek Padula will entertain with the silly and easy-to-understand names of *Dragon Ball*’s main characters, places and things. Learn about Eastern and Western culture, food and language. Food samples provided, while supplies last.

**Brick Building Mania**

Teens, help build a superhero image using LEGO® bricks with Michigan’s own Brick Maniac, Aaron Liepman! Each program will build on the next until the final image is displayed at the Summer Wonder Bash events.
It’s music time! Discover Africa’s diversity through live music paired with storytelling from African artists, both local and touring. Presented by Motherland Cultural Connections.

Families welcome.

“For Adults

“My hope is that we will be able to see the humans behind the stories, build empathy for others from different backgrounds than ours, learn from each other and destroy stereotypes we have of each other that hinder us from growing together in a community where we all show up as our authentic selves.”

— Myra Maimoh

10 | Summer 2022 | KDL.org
Explore Tai Chi

Tai Chi is an ancient practice known for improving balance, flexibility, strength and overall well-being. Join certified Tai Chi instructor Brenda Schroeder, who will lead participants through some basic choreographed movements. No experience required.

For adults only.

For more information on dates, times and locations, visit kdl.org/events or pick up a calendar later this spring at your local branch.

Did You Know?

You can get free passes to area attractions with your KDL library card. Participating organizations include Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids Children’s Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum and more. Learn more at kdl.org/perkpass.
Can you have too much of a good thing? Not when it comes to great books! Due to the success of our Adult CORE Collection as well as popular demand, we are expanding it to include teens and youth. Each of these collections will consist of 50 of the top circulating, perennially popular titles KDL has to offer. No holds are allowed, so our patrons are practically guaranteed to find a good read.

The teen collection includes:

- The Selection by Kiera Cass
- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

The youth collection includes:

- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J. K. Rowling
- Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Check out an old favorite or explore a totally new genre. These titles were hand-picked by our staff, and we think you’ll love them, too!

kdl.org/core-collection
Celebrate Literacy!

You’re invited to join Kent District Library for an evening of silent auction, drinks, dinner and discussions with bestselling authors.

Tickets include dinner and a copy of one featured book.

Proceeds from Literary Libations support KDL programs and services such as our early literacy kits, which engage our youngest community members with library resources and a new book.

Reserve Your Seat at kdl.org/gala

For more information, please contact the Office of Fund Development at 616.647.4142 or fund@kdl.org.
Check out iVOX!

iVOX uses state of the art immersive reality technology to create the read-along of the future.

Download the app today!

kdl.org/ivox
Lunches at the Library

Keeping young minds engaged and primed for learning is as essential as fueling growing bodies, so we are partnering with Feeding America of West Michigan this summer to provide free lunches to students through their “Gather 2 Grow” program. Kids ages 2-18 (or up to age 26 with different mental or physical abilities) can enjoy nutritious lunches weekdays, June through August at many KDL Branches and the Bookmobile. For specific locations and more info visit kdl.org/lunch.