Greetings! Welcome to the first edition of Yakety-YAK, APLS’s newsletter for librarians serving children and youth. I believe we are stronger as a group, sharing thoughts and ideas and dealing with issues that are important to your unique area of service. This is just the latest venue for an exchange of information, in addition to the Youth Services Listserv, that we are undertaking. I hope we continue to branch out in the future, but baby steps for now. At present, this will be a monthly newsletter, but we hope to generate enough content to make it bi-monthly.

First, I want to say that as the “editor” of Yakety-YAK, this is YOUR newsletter. It is important for you to share your stories, experiences, and activities so that we can all learn from them. If there is something you want me to touch on, or include on a regular basis, let me know. ALL ideas are welcome.

Format-wise, I would like to focus on not only ideas, but also the how-to behind them. For example, if you send pictures of an activity I would like the submission to be sequential and include what you used and how you did it. Ideas for cheap and easy STEM/STEAM activities are always welcome, and I would like to include something like this in each issue. If an interesting topic pops up, I will be looking for the “go-to” people in Alabama (or elsewhere) to get the information we need. I will solicit ideas from time to time as well. It all boils down to the more you SHARE, the more issues we publish, and the more ideas we generate! We would like to do a “Tips and Tricks” section too. So, put on your thinking cap and let’s share ideas!

Please submit your ideas, articles, pictures, and anything else directly to Gail Sheldon at gsheldon@apls.state.al.us. We can’t wait to hear from you!
Newbery Award winning author, Kwame Alexander, was named CSLP’s Summer Reading Ambassador this year. His promotional videos are accessible on the CSLP website: https://www.cslpreads.org/2017-psas/. All of the promotional tools listed are available for you to use promoting your Summer Reading Program.

The 2018 Summer Reading theme is Music and the slogan is “Libraries Rock!” The artist will be Brian Pinkney. Space will be the 2019 theme with the slogan “A Universe of Stories”. The artist chosen is Leeza Hernandez, who illustrated Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo and Eat Your Math Homework. The theme for 2020 will have something to do with fairy tales, fantasy, and/or mythology. A slogan has not been chosen, however the artist is LeUyen Pham. LeUyen is known for her illustrations of Princess Black, A Stick is an Excellent Thing, and of course, the Freckleface Strawberry books.

2019 is also the year of Alabama’s Bicentennial. In celebration, APLS and the Bicentennial Committee are working to provide a supplement to the CLSP manual that will be full of Alabama specific ideas and activities for all ages. We have a lot of partners helping with this, but any ideas you might have for Alabama specific activities are welcome. You may even begin thinking about activities that my be special or applicable to where you live! Stay tuned!

If you have not heard that slime is the in thing for kids and teens, you must be living under a rock. Here is a link for 31 amazing slime recipes. There is everything from run-of-the-mill slime to magnetic slime and thermo-chromatic slime (think of the pencils that change color with the heat of your hand). Lots of adds, so beware of the extra stuff, but the recipe’s are well worth it. “Funky” materials like magnetic powder can be purchased from vendors such as Amazon. http://diyprojectsforteens.com/diy-slime-recipes/.

P.S. Slime is a great STEM/STEAM activity, too, especially the magnetic and thermo-chromatic ones. You can talk about how and why they work.
The Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC) has posted suggested summer reading lists for Birth - Preschool, Kindergarten – 2nd Grade, 3rd – 5th Grades, and 6th – 8th Grades. They can be found and downloaded here: http://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/book-lists/2017-summer-reading-list.

ALSC is also offering their live webinars for free to members AND nonmembers. Here is a list of future webinars:
Managing Children’s Services: Strategic Planning in the Youth Services Department
Thursday, September 7, 2017, 3pm Eastern/2pm Central
Managing Children’s Services: Program Evaluation
Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 3pm Eastern/2pm Central
Managing Children’s Services: Employee Engagement
Thursday, November 2, 2017, 3pm Eastern/2pm Central
For more information on these webinars and other professional development opportunities, please check out the ALSC eLearning website.

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has resources for award winners and great teen reads. They can be found here: http://www.ala.org/yalsa/bookawards/booklists/members.

YALSA also is partnering with the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) for a project called Future Ready. One Alabama library, Scottsboro Public Library, is participating in the first cohort, which includes 17 small, rural, and tribal libraries throughout the United States. The application period for the 2nd cohort of 30 libraries will begin in June and close on August 31, 2017. The goal of this project is to provide college and career readiness (CCR) services for and with middle schoolers. YALSA and ARSL will work with library staff to build needed skills while also developing, testing and refining turnkey resources, which other libraries can adapt for their own use. The project is aimed at library staff in libraries with a service population of 15,000 or fewer, as well as libraries that are 25 miles or more from an urbanized area. For more information: http://www.ala.org/yalsa/future-ready-library.

PBS for KIDS helps extend children’s learning on fun summer trips to the library, restaurants, the park, and more with these easy printable worksheets and activities.

Summer of Adventure Activity Book
Explore Your Neighborhood
Animal & Nature Activity Book
Explore Your World
and more.....

Just scroll and look around for tons of great resources to offer kids and parents during the summer! http://www.pbs.org/parents/summer/
**STEAMing Along**

**STEM/STEAM** activities on the cheap blowing your mind? Sometimes all it takes is a blast from your past, dressed up with a little bit of the now.

Remember those tin can telephones? All they were was two tin cans and some string. Your parent would cut the lid off a can of veggies or fruit, wash it out, crimp the cut edge down, poke a hole in the bottom and give you and your friend some string. Well, throw in a bit of “today” and you can decorate your tin can phones with bits of colorful duct tape. Voila! STEAM project. You can incorporate just about every part of STEAM into this project. SCIENCE: how does it work and why? How does sound travel? TECHNOLOGY: how has the technology changed through the years? (We went from talking to each other directly, letter writing, Morse code, radios and telephones - landlines as we call them now - and cell phones. Then think about the future…) ENGINEERING: how to put it together. Does it work when the string is slack, or is it better when it is tight? Why? Can you make a “party line”? ART: make that tin can a work of art that reflects your personality. MATH: Does it work better with a short string or a long string? Measure and see what length works best.

**STEM/STEAM** does not have to be hard…or expensive. The possibilities are endless.

Here are some good books to go with this activity:

*Sounds All Around;* Pfeffer, Wendy
*All About Sound;* Trumbauer, Linda & Larwa, David
*Sound: Loud, Soft, High Low;* Rosinsky, Natalie M.
*How Does Sound Change;* Johnson, Robin

Pictures courtesy of Lemon Lime Adventures.
Love Tolkien and Hobbits? Are Bilbo Baggins, Frodo, and Samwise friends of your patrons? Then Hobbit Camp is for you!

Would you like to get middle-schoolers in your area involved in a guided, interactive summer reading program based on J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit* this summer?

**Hobbit Immersion Camp**  
**July 10-21, 2017**

This summer, Signum University (www.signumuniversity.org) is sponsoring a **FREE** two-week program on the *The Hobbit*, in partnership with local libraries across the country. Signum University is a non-profit online university with a dedication to making education more accessible for everyone and a special interest in promoting the study of Tolkien and other works of imaginative literature.

**What does the program look like?**
- We provide a reading schedule, an outline and instructions for activities and **daily interactive online live presentations at 1pm ET** taught by a veteran middle-school teacher who has been teaching *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* as an intensive literature elective at the middle-school level for ten years in Fairbanks, Alaska.
- Campers (ages 10-13) will read the assigned chapters, participate in the daily online classes, and then meet at their local library for discussion and to work on individual or group projects.

**What does your library need to do to participate?**
All your library needs to do is contact Signum to sign up and then supply these simple requirements:
- Provide a supervised space where the Hobbit Campers can discuss the story and create their projects, 3-5 times per week for the two weeks of the program.
- Print, from provided originals, copies of the three activities for the Campers to work on.
- Provide basic writing and drawing implements, paper, scissors, tape or glue, and recycled or new tag board.
- Some Campers may need access to a computer with an internet connection to participate in the daily online classes.

**Can your library engage with the kids even more?**
Absolutely! We are happy to see libraries take the opportunity to get even more involved with their Hobbit Campers! Optional additions could include:
- Host a live, group viewing of the daily online interactive session with the Signum instructor. All you’d need is a computer, projector, and an internet connection.
- Have a librarian on staff who is enthusiastic about Tolkien? Supplement the project work-time with some additional guided discussion of the daily Hobbit reading!
- Want a more interactive and engaging reading experience? Schedule extra sessions with the Campers and read the chapters aloud together (about two chapters a day for the 10 days of the program)!

**Is this program really free?**
Yes! There will be no charge to the library or the students, and Signum University will provide the teaching presentations and the materials for student projects.

Interested in having your library partner with us for this fun new program?  
Send us an email at camp@signumu.org

Signum University
See how public libraries around the state are decorating for the Summer Reading Program...

Hoover

Oneonta

Cherokee County
Thanks for all the pictures so far! If you haven’t contributed yet, please send your photos to Gail Sheldon at gsheldon@apls.state.al.us.