

## New & Noteworthy



### **Mother Goose Has Already Made a Difference for 600 Kids**

Our Mother Goose on the Loose, Dana Antonelli, is scheduled to regularly visit 14 area childcare centers and preschools, presenting 28 storytimes each month. In addition, she presents 10 storytimes a month at the Champaign Early Childhood Center. Already, 481 children have participated in these on-site storytimes. We also offer community members a chance to attend Mother Goose on the Loose storytimes at each library location — 240 children and family members have participated since July. Each child gets to take home a free book for building their home library.

### **90% of New Launchpads Checked Out in One Weekend**

We added Playaway Launchpads for young children to our collection. The tablets include preloaded audiobooks, learning apps, and read-alongs. After just one weekend, 90% were checked out!

### **Have You Heard of Hygge? Cozy Winter Event Especially for Adults**

Hygge (pronounced Hoo-gah) is Danish for being cozy and comfortable. Community members will have a chance to take a break from being busy to enjoy crafts, snacks, cozy reads, and a meditation class, on Sunday, December 16, from 2 to 4 p.m.



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## Program Highlights



*Nnedi Okorafor's talk drew a full house in the Robeson Pavilion Room AB and café overflow seating, as part of the Great Authors at the Library series.*

### **Author Nnedi Okorafor Inspires 90 Teens by Day and 213 Fans by Night**

On October 18, Nnedi Okorafor presented a wonderful evening talk to a full house in the Robeson Pavilion with overflow seating in the café. We livestreamed the event and had viewers from as far away as Bogota, Columbia, tuning in (you can watch the recording at [champaign.org/live](https://champaign.org/live)). We shared copies her new Marvel comic, *Shuri #1*, with the first 100 audience members to arrive and 50 copies of *Binti* were placed throughout the community in the days before her visit. During the day, Ms. Okorafor spoke to 90 teens and staff from Franklin, Edison, and Jefferson middle schools and signed books.

### **374 Kids and Families Enjoy Howl-o-ween Activities & Book Giveaways**

On October 27, 374 kids and their families came in costume and participated in Howl-o-ween-themed activities in the Robeson Pavilion, including face painting, miniature golf, and crafts. Every child got to pick a free book "treat" to take home and begin building their own home library.

### **Customer Service Focus for Staff Training with ZingTrain Experts**

On November 9, we brought Michigan-based customer service experts from ZingTrain to lead an all-day workshop on creative ways for improving how we connect with customers.

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## Douglass Branch Highlights



*This fall DIY Kids crafters had a chance to craft campfires and sample s'mores.*

**Tech Help Drop-in** We are partnering with the iSchool to provide free tech help at the Douglass Branch from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesdays through December 19.

### **Club Fred Succeeds in Engaging Kids After School**

We offered 10 sessions of Club Fred in October with 155 participants. They enjoyed playing games on the Xbox and Wii, using laptops for homework and games, playing board games together, and playing outside.

**DIY Kids** activities bring kids and families to the Douglass Branch on Wednesday afternoons after school to enjoy do-it-yourself projects. Upcoming workshops include Slime Time (12/5) and Build a Snowman Game (12/19).

### **Chess Tournament 2018**

We've introduced a new monthly chess club for kids and teens of all skill levels on the last Thursday of the month. Registration is open now for the second annual Chess Tournament scheduled for Friday, November 30, at 3:30 p.m.

### **Book Mentor Project Links Families to Library**

In partnership with WILL-TV's Book Mentor Project, Amanda hosted a field trip to the Branch for two Head Start classes. She presented a storytime, hands-on crafts, and a tour to 40 participants. On October 18, she hosted Family Reading Night for 70 Book Mentor Project participants and volunteers. They got to listen to *Please, Mr. Panda* by Steve Antony, enjoy themed activities, and eat pizza.

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# Library Love from Our Customers

We received this letter from Jon Norris recently via email:

“As a resident of Champaign, I wish to express my appreciation of your work, and the work of your staff, at our library.

My wife and I count on your library for programs for our grand-daughter. While her Mom is working as a nurse at Carle, we provide child care for our grand-daughter. The enthusiasm of your Children’s Library department is truly heartfelt.....the staff truly enjoys their work; the staff is very interested in the children and the accompanying adults.

Mr. Mike contributes beyond his job by participating in the Dog Parade; our grand-daughter thoroughly enjoyed that event. Ms. Laurel during story time has much energy and much enthusiasm as she reads stories and encourages all of us in activities. Ms. Kristen captures the attention of all with her gift of guitar playing. Ms. Molly gets engaged during the pre-school playtime by sitting on the floor with my grand-daughter and builds towers with her. Please continue the make and take....it is educational for me as well as my grand-daughter. The make and take encourages motor skills and developmental skills as children mature and progress in age. Ms. Katrina’s smile and sweetness is so contagious.....

You know, I keep telling your staff that each of them is uniquely contributory to the library.....I guess I’m acting too much like Mr. Rogers.... : )

You chose a GREAT staff.....your check out staff and your information staff serve the public greatly by saying “hello” and welcoming us to the library..... And yes, those staff at the information desk and at Checkout know when I’m at the library for my own use and ask about my family’s health!

EXCELLENT JOB!”

