

# APLSeeds

*Growing public libraries across Alabama*

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

January 15, 2016

## Calendar

Administrators' Meeting 1/13/16

Summer Reading Kickoff 2/2/16

## Christmas in Alabama

Public libraries all over the state hosted fantastic programs during the month of December to help communities get into the holiday spirit. See what some of the libraries did:

### Chelsea

Chelsea Public Library invited children K-5 and up to make gingerbread houses at the library.



### Dutton



Dutton Community Library held an open house on December 17th. Refreshments were provided and books were given away as door prizes. 27 people attended.

## Sylacauga

B.B. Comer Memorial Library held their Annual Christmas Concert on December 9th. After attendees enjoyed refreshments, SouthFirst Bank was presented with the highest award given by the B. B. Comer Library and Library Foundation – the Library Fellow. They received the Library Fellow for their generous support of the library's Adult Brown Bag Series.

The concert featured vocalist Chris Phillips accompanied by pianist Robin Waldrop. Phillips sang several traditional Christmas selections and included the audience in a sing-a-long. It was a magical performance!



Shown with the award plaque, which will permanently be on display at the library, are Library Director Dr. Shirley Spears and SouthFirst CEO Randy Fields.

## Ashville

Kids were treated to a visit from Blinky the Elf at Ashville Public Library.



## Ragland



43 patrons came out when Santa visited Ragland Public Library!

## Eva



The Eva Public Library Christmas Float won first place in the local Christmas parade on December 5th. Kids also enjoyed a special story time at the library.



## Ider

The Ider Public Library truck won second place and \$50 for their participation in the local Christmas parade.



## Homewood

Homewood Public Library is very excited to announce that their float, Welcome to Who-Wood, was awarded Best in Show in the Homewood Christmas Parade. Many staff helped create the float, which was modeled after Dr. Seuss' Whoville. Members of the Teen Advisory Board volunteered their amazing candy-throwing skills for the parade.



## Alabaster



Albert L. Scott Library hosted several exciting programs in December. On the 3rd, children and caregivers enjoyed a visit from Princess Anna from *Frozen*. They played games, colored pictures, and heard Anna read a story. Families created holiday houses at a gingerbread workshop on the 8th. Santa and Mrs. Claus dropped in on the 15th to hear the kids' Christmas wishes. They wrapped up the holidays with the annual holiday party where attendees were treated to an old-fashioned horse-drawn wagon ride around the neighborhood!



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## Orange Beach



Over 60 children and caregivers joined Santa for story time at Orange Beach Public Library. Children were able to tell Santa all of their holiday wishes. Snacks, crafts, and music were provided while the children waited their turns and socialized with each other.

## Moulton

Mrs. Claus visited Lawrence County Public Library to read to the kids. She posed for photos before heading back to the North Pole.



# More New Books At APLS

In the last issue of *APLSeeds*, we featured some of the books APLS added to the professional development reference collection. Here are a few more books that may be of interest to you:

*Countdown to a New Library: Managing the Building Project*, Second Edition, by Jeannette Woodward walks you through the planning and construction process of a building project.

*Including Families of Children with Special Needs: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians* shows how library staff can serve kids and teens with special needs by partnering with other professionals, developing special collections and resources, and providing services for this target population.

Do you want to build strong partnerships in your community but don't know where to start? *Successful Community Outreach: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians* by Barbara Blake, Robert S. Martin, and Yunfei Du might help! This book gives practical advice on creating outreach programs and getting community support for the library.

*The Power of Play: Designing Early Learning Spaces* by Dorothy Stoltz, Marisa Conner, and James Bradberry discussed the importance of creating an early learning space that fits your space and budget. Play spaces make the library a more welcoming space for both kids and their parents while also reducing stress for library staff.

*Programming for Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder* by Barbara Klipper helps librarians understand the second most commonly diagnosed serious developmental disability. It includes resources and methods for developing programs for this special interest group.

You can find these books and more in our online catalog: <http://evergreen.apls.state.al.us/eg/opac/home>

If you are interested in borrowing any of these titles, contact us at 1-800-723-8459.



## **Weeding Your Collection** by Alisa McLeod

The New Year is here, bringing fresh starts and New Year's resolutions, which means it's the perfect time to resolve to weed your library. This can be a daunting task, but weeding allows you to take inventory and determine if there are dated materials or holes that need filling; furthermore, it allows you to improve the collection overall. Keeping your shelves clean, orderly, and free of unneeded books allows for more space to update your collection. Weeding also benefits your patrons by making it easier to browse. What's more, the library will look better, larger, and more organized.

As a rule of thumb you should endlessly review your collection, as weeding is a continuous project that should be done in a cycle. Luckily, it is a job that can be done in small increments. For example, as you are shelving or retrieving items, you can glance at surrounding items and become aware of books that should be removed due to being damaged or out of date. Taking a few minutes to do this daily will save you a lot of work in the future.

Yes, you will have staff members that feel that it is a fate worse than death to remove items from the collection, but it is an important role in a public library. Having a large collection of books does not equate to a great public library. You are in the business to provide items that are reliable sources and to meet your community's needs.

APLS teaches the CREW method, which is an acronym for Continuous Review, Evaluation, and Weeding. CREW provides librarians with a broad methodology and standards for removing materials from the collection. It recommends factoring an item's copyright date, the date of its last circulation, and whether or not it meets one or more "MUSTIE" criteria - i.e. is it misleading, ugly, superseded, trivial, irrelevant, or elsewhere? - into the decision to weed. There is even a new addendum dedicated to weeding e-books.

The CREW manual can be found here: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/pubs/crew/index.html>

Make your New Year's Resolution to weed your collection!

## **2 Resources, 1 Goal: Helping Alabama Succeed**

### **LearningExpress Library & HomeworkAlabama**

- Online Tutoring for Grades K-12
- College Placement Resources
- Help for all ages and all skill levels
- Certification Test/GED Preparation
- Career Resources

**Find both on the APLS  
Resources and Research Links Page**