

# APLSeeds

*Growing public libraries across Alabama*

Edited by: Stephanie Taylor

April 22, 2016

## Calendar

Administrators' Meeting	5/11/16
OCCL Training	5/19/16
Administrators' Meeting	7/13/16
New Directors Orientation	8/17/16 - 8/18/16

## Alabaster March Programs

Families turned out for the annual *Dye-ing to Color Workshop* at Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Attendees transformed dozens of plain boiled eggs into works of art. The children brought their imaginations, and the workshop leader, Julie Littleton, provided everything else.



Additionally, the library threw a 100th birthday bash for the award-winning children's author and illustrator, Ezra Jack Keats. On March 11th the kids made birthday cards, which were mailed to the Keats Foundation. They talked about Keats and his work and discussed the art of collage making, a technique Keats often used in his illustrations. The kids played a Keats Bingo game using words from his books and made collage bookmarks. Then they sang "Happy Birthday" and enjoyed cupcakes.

During the month of March, the library also hosted an Easter story time and programs for the *Pete the Cat Book Club*, the *American Girls Club*, and the *Lego League*.



# Bingo at Foley

The Foley Public Library had a successful winter season of Bingo. With a room that holds up to 40 people, they were nearly filled to capacity each session.

Five Bingo cards were available for a \$1 donation. Five games were played per round and three rounds played per night. Gift certificate drawings were done between rounds with a final blackout game at the end of the evening. Donated money will help purchase more prizes for the next Bingo Night. The final grand prize on March 11th was a \$75 Academy Sports & Outdoors gift card. They also gave away sponsor donated \$10 and \$20 gift cards for local restaurants. The next Bingo season will start July 8th. Attendees are already looking forward to it!



The Bingo winners can't wait to play again!

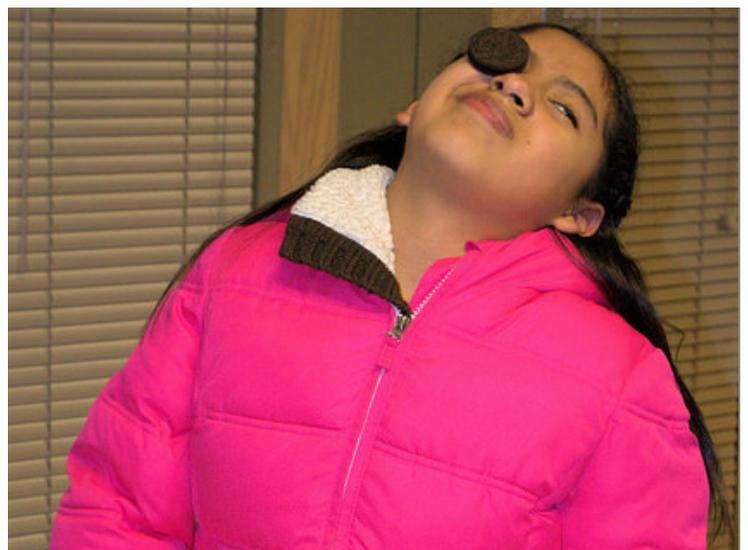
# Brantley Science Fair



The 5th and 6th grades at Brantley Elementary School recently had their science fair and wanted to display the boards around town. When asked, the library welcomed the chance to show off local kids' hard work.

# Homewood's Anti-Valentine's

Over 40 teens decided to skip Valentine's Day and instead celebrate their love of chocolate at Homewood's annual *Anti-Valentine's Day Chocolate Party*. Games, candy bar tastings, and several chocolate fondue stations were a big hit.



# Alabama Mosaic: A Blast From the Past

AlabamaMosaic, an online repository of digital materials about Alabama's history, culture, places, and people, holds thousands of photographs, letters, manuscripts, postcards, books, maps, slides, and audio recordings. It's a fascinating resource for anyone who loves Alabama history.

Birmingham Public Library contributed the photo shown below of their main reading room circa 1928.

See more of Birmingham Public Library's contributions, and browse other wonderful photos and documents at [www.alabamamosaic.org](http://www.alabamamosaic.org).



DELIVERY ROOM  
BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.  
MILLER & MARTIN ARCHITECTS

Photo credit:  
Birmingham, Ala., Public Library Archives

# Decatur Program

Decatur Public Library celebrated an early St. Patrick's Day with the Vulcan Eejits, a Celtic band, on March 10th. Over 135 people attended the musical event. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is part of the *Library After Hours* series.



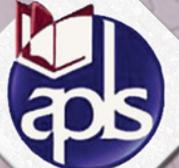
Save the Date:  
August 17 & 18, 2016

APLS is hosting a two-day New Directors Orientation for public library directors in the state who started on or after August 1, 2012.

More information is coming soon!

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## Passive Program in Odenville

After receiving a donated puzzle, Odenville Public Library started a passive program that allowed people to drop in and work on the puzzle at their leisure. It turned out to be quite a popular activity, as people from the community frequently stopped by to work on the project little by little. Two patrons even started a friendly competition to be the first to finish and ended up completing it together. A small donation ended up being a fabulous community builder!



## Pelham Shredding

Pelham Public Library is offering a fantastic service to the community. On April 16th, Shred-it USA will be onsite to provide guests with a safe and secure place to shred their confidential personal and business documents. From 9:00 am to noon, anyone can bring their documents in and have them shredded by a certified shredding agent. From drop-off to destruction, all documents will be constantly monitored and protected.

## Easter in Eva



Eva Public Library recently hosted an Easter egg hunt for young patrons. Librarian Nancy Thompson entertained the group with a story before they went outside to hunt eggs.



Director Betty Golden and the story time kids rest after the egg hunt.

**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**

# The Librarian's Toolkit

**Bringing Teens Into Your Library**, by Judith Wright, Teen Librarian at Homewood Public Library

When it comes to library patrons, teens often remain overlooked, but it is important to remember that they are just as valuable as the children or adults that visit your library. Because teens can easily be misunderstood, it is essential to provide an environment where they feel welcomed.

If you are looking to bring teens into your library, start with local schools, and form a partnership with the school media specialists. Send your program information or flyers to the schools for them to publicize. Does the school host an anime or book club? Visit some of these extracurricular clubs and highlight what is happening at your library to let the students know you offer services especially for them.

Another great resource is to form a Teen Advisory Board (TAB). Ask teachers or media specialists to invite students to apply. By having an application, teens understand this is a serious commitment. Once you have formed your TAB, get their opinions! Teens are honest - sometimes brutally so. Suggest several program ideas and let them vote on which one to implement. Not sure what graphic novels to order? Ask them to review your standing order! They will like knowing that their voice matters.

TAB meetings at our library start off with an icebreaker or team-building exercise that gets teens out of their comfort zones. Food is an important part of our meetings (and any teen program in general). If you feed them... they will come!

Another great benefit of a Teen Advisory Board is built-in volunteers. If you need extra hands at your Summer Reading Kickoff or have a time consuming craft, let them help! Teens are eager to volunteer. Schools or service organizations often require volunteer hours. Volunteering helps build their confidence and gives them the opportunity to gain skills for their resume or college applications.

If the thought of teen programming terrifies or stumps you, there are great online resources like Teen Services Underground (<http://www.teenservicesunderground.com>) or Teen Librarian Toolbox (<http://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com>) that showcase ideas that have worked for other Teen Librarians.

It takes time to bring teens into the library, but it is extremely rewarding when they show up and return with a love of the library!

