

JUMP START NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 12

December 2018



Creative Corner

Christmas Sensory Bin: Peppermint Scented Snow Play!

Materials:

- Insta-Snow
- Peppermint Extract
- Snowmen & Other Christmas Items
- Pipe Cleaners



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INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE

Add about 1/4 container of instasnow to a plastic bin or large shoe box. Then add 1 or 2 drops of peppermint extract or essential oil (optional). Add jars, measuring cups, string of beads, plastic snow men or other plastic ornaments. Challenge your child by asking where and what questions.

Want More Jump Start?

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JumpstartEasterseals/>

Visit our website: <http://www.parentasexpert.com/>



Giving families a Jump Start into a bright future!

Children's Books to Read in December

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keatz

The Mitten by Jan Brett

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs

Snowflake Bentley Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Snow by Uri Schulevitz

How the Grinch Stole Christmas! By Dr. Seuss

Winter by Roger Priddy

The Hat by Jan Brett

Pete the Cat: Snow Daze by James Dean

The Itsy Bitsy Snowman by Jeffrey Burton

Baby Loves Winter by Karen Katz



Fun Fact

Want to know a useful way to recycle your Christmas tree? Some zoos take donated Christmas trees and use them as food for the animals.



Parenting Tip of the Month!

Christmas on a budget? Try getting your children only 4 items, something they want, something they need, something to wear, something to read. Set a budget for each gift, add them up to be sure you can handle the total, and then really stick to it!



Food Fun

White Chocolate Popcorn



INGREDIENTS

- 5 cups plain popcorn, popped
- 1 (11 ounce) bag white chocolate chips
- 1 Tablespoon shortening (Crisco brand)
- 1 cup M & M's chocolate candies
- 1 cup mini pretzels
- 1/2 cup salted peanuts

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pour popcorn into a large bowl.
2. Mix in the M & M's, pretzels, and peanuts. Spread out on a large jelly roll pan (or cookie sheet).
3. Place white chocolate chips and shortening into a microwave-safe bowl.
4. Cook for 45 seconds, remove from microwave, and stir. Continue cooking at 25 second intervals, stirring each time, until chocolate is completely melted and smooth.
5. Drizzle chocolate over popcorn mixture and gently mix until most pieces are covered with chocolate.

Health and Safety

TOP 10 HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.
Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
2. Do not overload electrical outlets.
Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage into each outlet at a time.
3. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.
More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.
4. Keep trees fresh by watering daily.
Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.
5. Use battery-operated candles.
Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (NFPA).
6. Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.
A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations (NFPA).
7. Protect cords from damage.
To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors and windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.
8. Check decorations for certification label.
Decorations not bearing a label from an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.
9. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.
Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).
10. Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep/leaving the house.
Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11pm and 7am.

More Crafts to Try!



Money Tips

The holiday season is officially here! Now is a great time to share some money tips with you.

Avoid overspending by using the envelope system when you shop for gifts. Write each person's name on an envelope and decide on a specific amount. Fill each one with the exact amount of cash and once all of the money is spent then the shopping is complete!

If possible, use loadable prepaid cards for shopping as opposed to using your personal debit or credit cards. Debit and credit card fraud is at a higher rate during the holiday season.

Consider starting a Christmas Club Savings account at your local financial institution. This would help you get an early start on saving for your holiday expenses. Therefore, reducing stress and worry about money!

Black Friday deals are starting earlier and earlier each year. Take advantage of these deals if possible. Hate the chaos and crowds--shop online! Either way it's a win-win.

A Family Christmas Manger Tale

December 1st
2:00-3:30pm

Join us for a fun event for the entire family! Start your afternoon with a craft relating to the events of more than 2,000 years ago, and then enjoy a game of Dreidel with your family. Enter the sanctuary to hear the Christmas story read and see a liver creation of the Nativity. Join us in singing traditional Christmas carol favorites. Finally, cap off your afternoon by enjoying a fun Nativity snack in the upper fellowship hall. The event starts at 2:00pm, sharp, so please plan to come by 1:40pm for registration. Please call 815-942-1871 to reserve a spot for your entire family.

Photos with Santa

December 1st

Stop by any dates listed below for an opportunity to have your child sit on Santa's lap and have their photo taken. There will be no charge. Each child will receive a copy of their photo. Feel free to bring your own cameras to take additional photos as well.

Paisano's Mexican Grill & Market 1840 N. Division St., Morris, IL Every weekday from 11/26/18-12/23/18 from 5:00-7:00pm, every Saturday and Sunday from 2:00-4:00pm *Excluding Thursday, December 13th, Friday December 14th Please find us on Facebook and select your date so that we can plan accordingly based on the number of guests expected.

Jeremy Arndt, Ethereal World Fusion

December 1st
1:00-2:30pm

Jeremy Arndt is a world-traveling musician from Michigan. His 8-year musical journey has taken him to 25 countries on 5 continents. His travels have taken him to unique performance stages around the world. He writes his music on the rare and mesmerizing handpan (aka Hang Drum) and Ddgeridoo, each song a story of his journey. This concert is an intimate listening experience open to the entire community. Hear his music at www.jeremyarndt.com. This event is free, but registration is required. To register, call 815-942-6880.

Santa Visits the Library

December 1st
10:00-11:30am

Come join us for a relaxing morning of special memories with your family. Santa will arrive at 10:30am and read a story to the children. After the story, we will begin taking pictures with Santa by the numbers given to you when you arrived. While you are waiting for your number to be called, we will have cookies, crafts, and stories to entertain you as you wait. Please register all who will attend, by calling Rene Norris at 815-634-4552 ext. 110, or email rene@ccpld.org

Understanding Grief

December 3rd
7:15pm

Come join us to learn about the multidimensional aspects of grief from Grief Counselor, Kathy Cherven. This program is just in time for the holidays, which can be a difficult time for many individuals. Please join us to learn more about grief and how to manage it. Light refreshments will be served.

First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Jackson St. Morris, IL

Hines Veterans Mobile Medical Unit

December 3rd
9:00am-2:00pm

Veterans who wish to receive care through the Veterans Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) from Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital must bring a copy of their DD Form 214 or their VA medical ID card with them.

This occurs the first Monday of every month at the Morris America Legion. For questions, contact Ken Buck at 815-941-3152

212 West Washington St., Morris, IL 60450

Three Rivers Book Club

December 5th
7:00pm

Our newest book club, brought to you by the library and Channahon Park District. Located at Arrowhead Community Center. For questions, call 815-467-6200
24856 W. Eames St., Channahon, IL 60410

Gun Safety in the Home

December 5th
6:00-8:00pm

Adults please join us in the Meeting Room to hear speakers James White and Terry Bitner, retired Grundy County Deputies with over 50 years of experience in law enforcement between them to talk about gun safety in the home. How safe is your gun? This program could save a life and would be time well spent. For questions or more information, contact Kathy Brown at 815-634-4552 ext. 114 or at Kathy@ccpld.org.
Coal City Public Library, 85 N. Garfield St., Coal City, IL 60416

Essential Oil Rollers Made Easy: Custom Blends

December 6th

6:30-8:00pm

Let's get together and make essential oil roller bottles with custom blends. I will help you pick out your own blend that will be perfect for what you might need right now. Then you'll get to make your own roller to take home with you. This class is \$5 and open to all levels. Please RSVP and let us know if you are bringing a friend in order to have enough roller bottles for everyone. Send us an email (info@threewellsclinic.com) or call 815-942-2580 to RSVP.

Three Wells Acupuncture Clinic, Inc.

105 E. Main St. Suite 304, Morris, IL 60450

A Village Christmas, FREE event

December 8th

4:30-7:30pm

Bring the family to "A Village Christmas." Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, decorate cookies, make crafts, listen to stories, and enjoy free cocoa, cookies, and candy. Christmas Tree Auction to benefit local food pantries at 7:00pm.

Santa at the Bakery

December 8th

1:00-4:00pm

\$5 Donation, all proceeds go to Toys for Tots. 7th Annual Morris Bakery Event.

Morris Bakery, 315 Liberty St. Morris, IL

Santa's Snowy Shindig

December 8th

4:30pm

Just as the holiday season begins and the end of the year approaches, we invite you to one last fun family weekend. Boys and girls, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, join us and share the special dinner we have planned. Children wear your best outfit for a perfect picture with the "man in red". Must register by December 1st. Fee: \$10 for adults and children 13 years old and up. \$5 for children 2-12 years old (includes picture, dinner, and lots of family fun). Afterwards feel free to join us at our FREE Tree Lighting Celebration. Tree Lighting begins at 6:00pm sharp.

Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St., Godley, IL

Pictures with Santa

December 9th

1:00-3:00pm

Pictures with Santa is hosted by Lori Bonarek Realty. Bring your cameras and your wish list! Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

Located at: 640 S. Broadway St., Coal City, IL

Tree Lighting Celebration

December 8th

6:00pm

Come celebrate with us as we begin the holiday season with the lighting of our giant tree! Our Tree Lighting Celebration will be complete with hot chocolate, inflatable obstacle course, wipeout, and much more. With a special visit from Santa, this will be the perfect holiday experience for the whole family. Don't forget your camera! Tree Lighting will be on the patio with activities immediately following in the gymnasium. This event is

The Nutcracker Movement & Dance Class

December 11th

10:00am-10:45am

Does your little one love to dance and move? Then sign them up for this one of a kind creative movement and dance class! Led by an instructor from Goldstar Dance Academy, this 45 minute program will include a reading of the classic Nutcracker story and feature music from the famous ballet. For ages 2-6 years old, with an adult. Registration is required because space is limited! Go to

<http://www.trpld.org/event/1281091> and click the REGISTER button.

Minooka Community Room, 121 E. McEvelly Rd., Minooka, IL 60447

Craft with a Cop

December 9th

1:00pm-3:00pm

Join us for Craft with a Cop! Santa will be here too! Bring your camera to take your child's picture with Santa. This is event is free and open to the public.

Morris Police Department, 200 E. Chapin St., Morris, IL 60450

We Care Mobile Food Pantry

December 12th
5:00-6:00pm

The mobile food pantry is open to any resident of Grundy County, regardless of income. Arrive at 4:00pm for registration, food distribution begins at 5:00pm.
We Care of Grundy County, 530 Bedford Rd., Morris, IL 60450.

Lori Bonarek Realty—Home Buyer Seminar

December 18th
6:30-8:00pm

Home Buyer Seminars—“Country Living, no down payment required”—Rural Development Loan overview.
Irving St. Annex-A, Coal City Public Library, 85 N. Garfield St. Coal City, IL

Festival of Lights Light Show

Throughout December | 5-9pm

The Promenade Bolingbrook | 631 E Boughton Rd., Bolingbrook

250,000 LED lights twinkle, sparkle and dance to more than 20 different Holiday songs! The show will play nightly on the hour 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 pm. The 60 ft tree sits in the round-a-bout in the middle of the shopping mall. The last show will be on Dec.31st.

Paisano's Mexican Grill & Market Grand Opening

December 14th
4:30pm

Please join us for our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to help up celebrate our grand openings. We will be showcasing our Full Meat Market/Butcher Shop, our market stocked with authentic Mexican and American items, and our candy/baked goods department. To show our appreciation, we will be serving our gourmet donuts to everyone in attendance. In addition, we will be randomly giving away gift certificates in various amounts ranging from \$1.00 to \$10.00 in value with every purchase that day. Finally, all attendees will be given the chance to enter into a raffle for a catered 10-person taco party (no purchase necessary).
1840 N. Division St., Morris, IL 60450

Christmas Hope Closet

Dec 1 | 10am-1pm

Joliet First Nazarene | 1009 S. Briggs, Joliet
We Provide Gently Used Clothing From NewBorn To Adult Size, We Also Have Baby Items, Toys And Misc. Things. All Communities Are Welcome. We Will Also Have Pictures W/ Santa, Hot Cocoa, and snacks.

Holiday Lights Show

Throughout December | 25314 S. Plainview Drive, Channahon
This year, there will be 7 houses that will light up together with sights and sounds. The display will have over 40,000 lights, eight continuous songs on 64 channels, and a 6400 light 25' mega tree. To add to the amazing musical light display, guest appearances are anticipated by Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus December 7 and Saturday, December 8 from 5 pm - 8 pm. They will arrive on a fire truck along with Elsa and Anna.

Get Your Picture with the Grinch

Dec 1 | 11am-1pm

Craft'd | 16031 S. Lincoln Hwy, Plainfield

Get your FREE picture taken with the Grinch! Props will be provided for the photos.

Everyone will leave with a family photo. Proofs will be emailed to you so that they can be used as a family Christmas card.

Illumination: Tree Lights at the Morton Arboretum

Throughout December | 4:30pm-9:30pm
Morton Arboretum | 4100 IL-53, Lisle

See trees in a different light at Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum. General admission for Illumination takes place November 17, 2018 through January 1, 2019. You'll be surrounded by color as you walk a one-mile paved path amid interactive lighting effects that highlight the beauty of trees in winter. Enjoy seasonal music, marvel at ever-changing, interactive lighting designs, and warm up by a crackling fire with a cozy drink or roast marshmallows for s'mores.

Grand Opening of Nowell Park Recreation Center

Nowell Park Recreation Center | 199 Mills Rd, Joliet
Saturday, December 1 | 10am – 2pm

Check out our new, state-of-the-art facility at an open house! Don't miss a live DJ, open gym, raffles, games, tours, food & more!

Raffle will take place at the event where you can enter to win a Bike, a One-Year Fitness Membership to Nowell Park Recreation Center, and a Birthday Party Room Rental!

DECK THE HALLS WITH NATURE CRAFTS

Dec 1 | 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM | \$3/person | All ages
Four Rivers Environmental Education Center - 25055 West Walnut Lane, Channahon

Sip on hot chocolate, listen to festive music, and craft up something spectacular with your family and friends. From ornaments to a nature swag, there is something for everyone! All crafting abilities are welcome and all materials will be provided. Registration required by Thursday, November 29: 815.722.9470.

Channaholiday's Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dec 2 | 3-5pm
Channahon Village Hall | 24555 S. Navajo Dr., Channahon

This event is FREE and everyone is welcomed! The event takes place whether it snows or not, so dress warm! Hope to see you there!

Holiday Sing-A-Long

Dec 1 | 2-3pm
Joliet Public Library | 150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet
Get into the spirit of the season! Bring the whole family and sip on hot chocolate as local musician John Condrone leads us in singing our favorite holiday classics! Children of all ages with adult, no registration required

Family Paint Party

Dec 2 | 2-3pm
Joliet Public Library | 150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet
Families explore your artistic side. Paint, canvases, and a few ideas will be provided; just bring your creativity! Children of all ages with adult. *PLEASE NOTE* Parents who want to paint must register themselves, as well. Registration opens Nov 19 >
<https://jolietlibrary.libcal.com/event/4510855>

Christmas in the Commons

Dec 2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 | 2-6pm
New Lenox Commons | 1 Veterans Pkwy, New Lenox
On Saturdays and Sundays from December 2 through December 23, join us in the Commons to shop at the holiday market, skate on the synthetic ice skating rink, visit Santa, enjoy wagon rides, and more!

Reading, Book Signing, Toy Drive, & Chicken

December 3 | 6 PM – 7 PM | Chick-fil-A Bolingbrook - 245 N Weber Rd, Bolingbrook
A Bag for Santa has partnered with Chick Fil A Bolingbrook & Operation Christmas to bring you a fun holiday event. We will have a toy drive, craft station, reading and book signing, and a special guest appearance from Santa Cow!

Family Movie Night: Frozen

Dec 3 | 4:30-6:30pm
White Oak Library-Crest Hill Branch
We are breaking out the popcorn! Bring the whole family to enjoy a movie tonight!

Lockport Holiday Open House

Dec 4 | 5-7pm
White Oak Library-Lockport Branch
You are invited to our Holiday Open House! Drop in between 5 and 8 pm for holiday crafts, refreshments, and surprises.
Crafts and Cookies -- 5 to 8 pm
Santa and Mrs. Claus -- 6 to 7 pm with free photo opportunities (bring your camera).
Taft Concert Band and Choir -- 5:30 and 6:00 pm.
Sing-along -- 5 to 7:30 pm
LAGHS Historic Ornament Sale -- 5 to 8 pm
Friends of the Library Holiday Book Sale -- 5 to 8 pm
Drawing for Hollingworth Candy Basket at 7:45 pm

Family Fun Night: Cards & Cookies

Dec 4 | 6-6:45pm
White Oak Library-Romeoville Branch
Decorate some holiday cards and enjoy some yummy treats.

Holiday Open House

Dec 5 | 4-7pm

White Oak Library-Crest Hill Branch |

All ages are welcome to stop by for a fun-filled evening of crafts for kids, teens, & adults, hot cocoa & cookies, performance by a school choir, and a visit by the Jolly Old Elf himself - Santa! (Bring your camera.)

Everybody Plays

Dec 6, 13, 20, & 27 | 10-11am

Joliet Public Library | 150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet
Children from birth to three years are invited weekly to play and explore various sensory activities, toys, and textures in our storytime room. It is a great opportunity for children and parents to interact. Drop in and play!
Dress for mess! Ages 0-3 with adult, no registration

Holiday Open House

Dec 6 | 5-7pm

White Oak Library-Romeoville Branch

Drop in for a night of music, hot cocoa and cookies, crafts and a visit from Santa! Bring your cameras for a great photo opportunity. This is an ALL AGES program, so bring the whole family.

Drive-in Movie: Little Einsteins

Dec 7 | 10:30-11:30am

White Oak Library-Lockport Branch

Watch Little Einsteins and make your own Rocket Ship out of a cardboard box! For ages 2-6 with a caregiver.

Journey to the North Pole

Dec 7 & 8 | 5pm

Four Seasons Park | 22500 Lockport St., Plainfield
Bundle up for a wagon ride to the North Pole through Four Seasons Park (22500 Lockport St.). On the way sing along to some great holiday songs, enjoy some snacks, and keep your toes warm next to a roaring fire. Once your ride has reached the North Pole, the children will have an opportunity to visit with Santa and his elf. Each child will receive a bell during their visit with Santa. Registration deadline is Friday, December 7 at noon. If adding your family to the wait list, please add everyone who wishes to attend.
Fee is per person, 1 and under are free with paid adult and do not need to register.

Santa's Workshop

Dec 8 | 10am-12pm

Smith Family YMCA | 1350 S. Briggs St., Joliet

Santa is bringing his workshop to the YMCA! Stop by to get a photo with Santa, do crafts and spread Christmas cheer. This special event is free and open to all.

A Village Christmas Party

Dec 8 | 4:30-7pm

121 E. McEvilly Rd., Minooka

Santa will be at the Minooka Community Room to visit with children of all ages from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. on December 8th! There will be cocoa, cookies, crafts, music, entertainment - all indoors! For more details call 815-467-2151 Ext. 3185.

Winter Wonderland

Dec 8 | 10am-12:30pm

Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Course | 24355 W Bluff Rd., Channahon

Start the winter season with us. Back by popular demand - live reindeer! You and your family will have the opportunity to pet and get a photo with the real reindeer. A roving juggler will entertain you from 10-11:30am. During this event you will also experience carolers, horse drawn carriage rides, a candy cane scramble, kite flying and more. Candy cane scramble will take place at 11am. You will also enjoy a nice hot cup of chocolate, decorate sugar cookies and make a winter wonderland craft. Bring your cameras! Dress for the weather, activities will take place outside.

The Polar Express

Dec 8 | 12-2pm

Lincoln-Way West High School | New Lenox

The Lincoln-Way West Student Council presents "The Polar Express". Come join us at our first annual Christmas event.

We will have train rides, activities, hot chocolate, and a meet and greet with Santa Claus! Admission is only \$5.00. The event will take place in the Lincoln-Way West high school cafeteria.

Breakfast with Santa and the Grinch

Dec 8 | 8:30am & 11am

Prairie Bluff Golf Club | 19433 Renwick Rd., Lockport
We know Santa likes cookies for a midnight snack, but what does he eat for breakfast? You and your family are invited to come make a holiday memory sharing breakfast with Santa.

Children will be able to visit with Santa, make a craft and listen as Santa reads a story. Be sure to bring your camera!

All adults and children attending the event must register!

Codes:092BS138 (8:30am) 092BS238 (11:00am)

Fees: Resident: \$13 (2-11yrs), \$18 (12& older), 1 & under free

Non-Resident: \$15 (2-11yrs), \$20 (12& older), 1 & under free

Supervisor: Sarah Aspel, Ages: All, Min./Max.:60/40

Facility: Prairie Bluff Public Golf Club Banquet Room

Soothing Santa Photos

Dec 9 | 8-9am

Louis Joliet Mall | 3340 Mall Loop Dr., Joliet
Individuals with all spectrums of special needs and their families are invited to a private photo session where extra care is taken to support the sensory, physical and other developmental needs to make this a magical holiday experience.

Bowl with Santa

Dec 9 | 10:30am-12:30pm

Joliet Town and Country Lanes | 2231 W. Jefferson St., Joliet

It's that time of year! Santa will be at Joliet Town & Country Lanes on Dec 9th. Santa will visit and take pictures with every bowler. Children will have unlimited bowling during party time. They will also get to create a craft to take home with them as a souvenir. Santa's Elves will take Polaroids to add to the children's craft, but parents are welcome to take pictures on their phones while Santa visits. Only \$15 per bowler. Space is limited to 60 bowlers. Reserve your spot online today!

Santa's Comin' to Town

Dec 11 | 6:30-8pm

Shorewood-Troy Public Library | 650 Deerwood Dr., Shorewood

REGISTER BY PHONE OR IN PERSON ONLY.
ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOT AVAILABLE.
815.725.1715.

Santa's coming!!! Don't miss Santa's annual visit to the Shorewood-Troy Library. A great time will be had by all with a family-friendly holiday movie, snacks, and crafts while we wait to see Santa. Make sure you're on the 'Nice' list this year, boys and girls! **Registration is required for all attending the program**

Stories with Santa

Dec 11 | 6:30-8pm & Dec 12 | 10-11:30am

Joliet Public Library-Black Rd. Branch | 3395 Black Rd., Joliet

Santa's helpers will read seasonal stories. Children will have the opportunity to meet Santa and spend time doing activities with their families. Bring your camera! This event is co-sponsored by the Will County Reading Council. Children of all ages, no registration.

Second Sunday Sensory Swim

Dec 9 | 2:30pm

Gallowich Family YMCA | 749 Houbolt Rd., Joliet
Sensory-friendly swim times will feature no music and little-to-no whistle use by our lifeguards. Swimmers will also be provided with an assortment of toys to play with during their time in the pool.

Free Family Admission for YMCA Facility Members. \$8 Per Family for Community Members.

Mobile Food Pantry

Dec 10 | 4-6pm

White Oak Library-Romeoville Branch

Are you hungry? If you don't have enough to eat, Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry can help. Nutritious food is distributed for free to low-income neighbors in need, and it is distributed on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last. Please bring your own bags and boxes. Items will be distributed in the Library parking lot.

Little Explorers

Dec 12 | 10am to 11:30am

Four Rivers Environmental Education Center - 25055 West Walnut Lane, Channahon

Children and their parent or guardian are invited to come out and play! A new nature theme is chosen every month with hands-on activities that may include a story, games, dancing, art, a hike, other outdoor activities and more! The theme for December is squirrels. A variety of group and free play activities will be available. We encourage experiencing all types of weather, rain or shine, so please dress accordingly. While activities are designed for ages 3-5, younger children are welcome. This is a great opportunity for parents and children to meet in a natural setting to exchange ideas and get to know each other.

Holiday Movie Marathon

Dec 13 | 1:30-7pm

Joliet Public Library | 150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet

The weather outside may be frightful, but our toasty warm Burnham Room is bound to be so delightful. Cuddle up under the mistletoe and sit tight, we've got a Holiday Movie Marathon on our hands. Enjoy some light refreshments and Holiday Classics on us! All ages with adult, no registration.

1:30-3:30 pm - Miracle on 34th Street (PG, 1994)

3:35-5:10 pm - Jingle All the Way (PG, 1996)

5:15-7:00 pm - Home Alone (PG, 1990)

Swimming with Santa

Dec 14 | 6:30-8:30pm

Gallowich Family YMCA | 749 Houbolt Rd., Joliet
Join us for a special Christmas celebration that includes swimming, cookies and cocoa and a visit from Santa Claus! Free and open to the community.

Santa Toddler Time

Dec 15 | 9-10am

Sky Zone Joliet | 2318 Essington, Joliet

Santa will be making a very special visit for our Toddlers! Jump in to see Santa on Saturday, December 15th from 9am-10am and let him know what you're wishing for! Bring your little ones, ages walking to 5 years old, to join in on the fun. \$14 for Jump Time! During Toddler Time, jumpers and helpers must wear SkySocks. Helpers do not need to purchase jump time but are required to wear SkySocks and walk the pads near their Toddlers.

Reserve Now:

http://jolietstore.skyzone.com/areas/Toddler_Time/Default.aspx

An Evening with Santa

Dec 14 | 6:30-8pm

C.W. Avery Family YMCA | 15120 W. Wallin Dr., Plainfield

Festivities will include pictures with Santa, Christmas cookie decorating, bounce house fun, crafts, games and much more!

Breakfast with Santa

Dec 15 | 9am-12pm

Nowell Park Recreation Center | 199 Mills Rd., Joliet
Get into the holiday spirit at Nowell Park Recreation Center with this FREE event! Enjoy crafts, games, snacks and a visit with Santa! Pictures with Santa will be available for a small fee.

SOME (So Others May Eat) Pancake Breakfast

Dec 15 | 8-10am

Westminster Presbyterian Church | 1015 Winthrop Ave., Joliet

So Others May Eat (SOME) Pancake Breakfast is a free pancake breakfast for the community and is held the 3rd Saturday of the month from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Winter Campfire & Stroll

Dec 20 | 6:30pm to 8pm

Four Rivers Environmental Education Center
25055 West Walnut Lane, Channahon

Welcome the winter season and spend a spell around a warm fire. Listen to the magical sounds of nature at nighttime. Enjoy songs, stories and poems including a Christmas carol or two! Take a guided stroll of approximately 2/3 of a mile through the night landscape. For all ages and Free!

Registration is required by calling 815.722.9470 by Tuesday, December 19 or by registering online:

<http://bit.ly/2NszJfu>

A Very Grinch Christmas

Dec 21 | 7-8:30pm

Gallowich Family YMCA | 749 Houbolt Rd., Joliet

The Grinch is coming to the Y! Come for a holly jolly evening of Christmas cheer, crafts and activities. Stay for the opportunity to get a picture with the Grinch.

Lego Play Day

Dec 27 | 2-4pm

Joliet Public Library-Black Rd. Branch | 3395 Black Rd.,
Joliet

The library will supply Lego™ bricks for free play. Drop in and see what you can build! Children of all ages with adult. No registration is required.

End of the Year Family Storytime

Dec 29 | 2-3pm

Joliet Public Library | 150 N. Ottawa St., Joliet
Countdown to 2019 during the last storytime of the year! Music and party favors will be awaiting your arrival complete with a balloon drop and a grape juice toast! Happy New Year!

Children of all ages with adult. No registration needed.

“Noon” Years Eve

Dec 31 | 11am-12:30pm

Joliet Public Library-Black Rd. Branch | 3395 Black Rd.,
Joliet

Celebrate the end of 2018 with us! We will have party games, crafts, and a special countdown to noon! Children of all ages with adults.

Registration opens Monday, Dec. 17, 2018

><https://jolietlibrary.libcal.com/event/4689615>

Watseka First Christian Church

546 N 6th Street

Watseka, IL 60970

December 16 2:00 p.m.

December 16 4:00 p.m.

December 20 6:00 p.m.

December 20 8:00 p.m.

December 21 7:00 p.m.

TICKETS ARE FREE – RESERVATIONS NEEDED BECAUSE OF LIMITED SEATING FOR EACH PERFORMANCE.

Box Office Phone # 815-242-7870 – CALL ASAP, SEATING FILLS UP QUICKLY.

Yours truly and 50 of her friends will be singing and getting you in the Christmas Spirit!

Santa on the Square and Lighting of Main St

Dec 1st 3-8pm

Kankakee, IL

3-7 Holiday Walk

3:30-7:45 Santa Claus

5:45 Lighting of Main St

Live entertainment all evening.

A Wonderful Life Radio Play

Dec 14, 15, and 16

Live at the Majestic Theater, Kankakee IL

It's a dinner theater.

Elf on the Shelf

December 1st

10:00am

Santa's scout elves are back for the holiday to report if you've been naughty or nice. Drop-in and have some elf-themed fun!

Oswego Youth Program Room, 32 W. Jefferson St.,
Oswego, IL 60543

Moments of Christmas

Dec 1st starting at 5:30pm

Dec 2nd starting at 5pm

Kankakee County Museum, 801 S 8th Ave, Kankakee
Hear stories and take pictures with Santa. Tickets \$10.
Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.kvta.org

Breakfast with Santa

December 1st

8:00-9:30am

Join the Parks and Recreation Department and Senior Services Associates at the Beecher Community Center for a morning of games, crafts, a yummy hot breakfast and a visit from Santa at this fun, family event! Pre-registration is required and everyone attending must register. Registration is available online (<https://www.yorkville.il.us/625/Breakfast-with-Santa>) or by calling 630-553-4357. Cost is \$6 per person which includes food and games.

Tree Lighting and Festival of Trees

December 2nd

5:00pm-6:30pm

Santa will arrive on a fire truck and light the Christmas tree. Enjoy photos with Santa, free refreshments and musical entertainment, and vote for your favorite tree in the Festival of Trees! This event is free and open to the public.

December 8th

10:30-11:00am & 11:30am-12:00pm

All Aboard! Join in the holiday fun!

Enjoy hot chocolate and a snack while listening to the story, the Polar Express. Children will write a letter to Santa and deliver it to him. Space is limited. Register today, go to

<http://yorkville.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=278&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2018/12/01>

Yorkville Public Library, Children's Program Room, 902 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville, IL 60560.

December 13th

6:00-7:30pm

Grinch-mas Party

All ages: Drop-in for this Suess-inspired holiday celebration. The fun will make your heart grow! Montgomery Meeting Room, 1111 Reading Dr., Montgomery, IL 60538

December 1st

Breakfast with Santa, supporting Oswego classrooms
This year, Breakfast with Santa will offer the same great pancakes and a visit from the jolly old elf himself. This event will occur at Oswego High School from 8:30-11:30am. In addition to the pancake breakfast, families will be able to play games, do crafts, and, of course, visit with Santa for pictures and gift requests. The event runs from 8:30-11:30am with two breakfast seatings at 8:30 and 10am. Patrons must choose one of the two seating times but are welcome to enjoy games and activities for the full three hours of the event. Tickets are \$7 per person or \$24 for a family of four, when purchased in advance. Price increases by \$1 per person at the door. For tickets, visit, www.oswegofoundation.org/breakfast-with-santa.html. Proceeds benefit the Oswego Foundation for Educational Excellence, and support Oswego 308 SD Classrooms by providing grants for additional items for students and classrooms to enhance educational opportunities.

December 8th

10:00-12:00

Santa is coming to the Yorkville Public Library. Stop by between 10am-12pm for a visit. Don't forget your camera!

Yorkville Public Library, 902 Game Farm Rd., Yorkville, IL 60560

December 11th

6:30pm-7:00pm

Shake, Move, & Sing Together

Ages babies-5 years old with an adult. Help your little ones learn to love music! Please register all children attending. For questions, call 630-978-1272

Montgomery Youth Program Room, 1111 Reading Drive, Montgomery, IL 60538

December 21st

10:00am-10:30am

Storytime at Panera

Ages 2-7 years old. Meet the traveling librarians at Panera Bread. The library will bring the stories and Panera will provide the cookies and milk. Located at 1450 Douglas Rd., Oswego, IL 60543. Please register for this event by calling the library or going to the library's website, www.oswego.lib.il.us

LIBRARY PLAYGROUPS

Joliet Public Library-Main

Toddler Time (18m-3yrs) Thursdays at 9:45am

Curious Little Monkeys Playgroup (birth-36m) Thursdays at 10:15am

Family Storytime in Spanish (all ages) Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Family Storytime (birth-6yrs) Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Joliet Public Library-Black Road

Toddler Time (18m-3yrs) Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:45, 10:45, and 11:45am

Lapsit (birth-24m) Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15am

Family Storytime (birth-6yrs) Tuesdays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 10:15am

Shorewood Library

Sensory Storytime (birth-1yrs) Select Fridays at 10am (check website for dates)

Itty Bitty Storytime (birth-3yrs) Select Mondays & Tuesdays at 10am (check website for dates)

White Oak Library-Romeoville

Preschool Playtime (2-7yrs) Thursdays at 10:30am

White Oak Library-Crest Hill

Toddler Time (3m-3yrs) Wednesdays at 10:30am

Stay & Play (3m-3yrs) Wednesdays at 11am

STEAM Storytime (2-4yrs) Mondays at 4pm

White Oak Library-Lockport

Music In Motion (2-4yrs) Mondays at 10:30am

Toddler Time (3m-3yrs) Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30am

Stay & Play (3m-3yrs) Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11am

Evening Toddler Time (3m-3yrs) Thursdays at 6pm

Three Rivers Public Library Minooka, IL

Open Play: Mondays, 10:00am-12:00pm, Minooka Branch. Drop-in program for all ages with caregiver. **No Open Play group on 12/24/18 or 12/31/18

Baby & Me: Tuesdays, 10:30am-11:15am, Minooka Branch. A story time for ages birth-20 months with caregiver. Register through the website—www.trpld.com **In the month of December, this group will occur only on 12/4/18.

Toddler Time: Thursdays, 10:30am-11:15am, Minooka Branch. A story time for ages 20 months-3 years old with caregiver. Registration required. *In the month of December, this group will only occur on 12/6/18.

Three Rivers Public Library-Channahon

Family Story Time (all ages) Wednesdays at 7pm

Bookies & Milk (all ages) Thursdays at 7pm

Morris Public Library – Morris, IL

Story Time: Tuesdays, 9:30-10am and Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00am. Come enjoy hearing a story and participating in songs and fingerplays with your little one. **In the month of December, Story Times will occur on 12/4/18, 12/5/18, 12/11/18, and 12/12/18

Wiggle Worm: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00am and Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm.

Following storytime, the child and caregiver will participate in stories, songs, and activities together. Afterwards children can engage in free play in the basement with a variety of toys. **No Wiggle Worm in the month of December. Instead, the Library will be showing a movie after Story Times.

LIBRARY PLAYGROUPS

Oswego Public Library, Oswego, IL

Baby Goose Storytime: Mondays from 10:00-10:20am. Ages 3-18 months with an adult: Share stories, rhymes, and music with your baby. Location: Montgomery Youth Program Room.

Make & Take Mondays: Mondays, all day. All ages: Come to make a simple craft. Craft will take approximately 10 minutes to finish. Location: Both Montgomery Campus and Oswego Campus.

**In the month of December, All Day Holiday Make & Takes will be occurring every week day between 12/3/18-12/21/18.

Crafts will be holiday-themed and will take approximately 15 minutes to finish. Each week will be a different craft!

Read & Play Baby: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00am. Ages 6-23 months with an adult. Drop in for stories, music, and some fun free-play. (No class October 9th). Location: Montgomery Youth Program Room.

Totally Twos: Tuesday, 10:00-10:45am. Ages 24-35 months: Bring your two year old to the library for some free play mixed with stories and songs. (No class Oct. 9). Location: Oswego Youth Program Room.

Tiny Tot Art: Thursdays, 9:15-9:45am. Ages 16-23 months with an adult--Hear a story, sing, make a process-oriented art project, and dance, too! Aprons are provided. (No class Oct. 11) Location: Montgomery Youth Room. Registration ends 10/3/18 at 9:00pm. Must register for class and must give 24 hour cancellation notice to allow others on the waiting list to attend.

Toddler Art: Thursdays, 10:00-10:30am & 10:45-11:15am. Montgomery--Ages 2-3 years old with an adult--Hear a story, sing, make a process-oriented art project, and dance, too! Aprons will be provided. Please sign up for only 1 session per week. (No class Oct. 11th). Registration ends 10/3/18 at 9:00pm

Read & Play Everyone: Saturdays, 10:00-11:00am. Oswego Campus--Ages 2-7 years old with an adult--Drop in for fun with stories, songs, & free-play. (No class Sept. 29). Location: Oswego Youth Program Room.

Plano Community Library District, Plano, IL

Yorkville Public Library, Yorkville, IL

Drop-In Story Time: Fridays, 10:30-11:00am. **In the month of December, Drop-In Storytime will only occur on 12/7/18.

Coal City Public Library District

Family Lapsit: Mondays, 6:00pm-6:30pm OR Wednesdays, 10:00am-10:30am. Family Lapsit is designed to introduce your child to a love of books. The child and caregiver will participate together in songs, activities, and stories. The child must be a Coal City Public Library District resident with a library card held by his/her caregiver. If you are not a resident, please see the children's department. Contact Tricia Meyer, 815-634-4552 ext. 105, tricia@ccpld.org

**In the month of December, Family Lapsit will only be held on Monday, 12/3/18, and Wednesday, 12/5/18

Terrific Tots: Mondays, 10:00-10:30am, Thursdays, 10:00-10:30am & 6:00-6:30pm. Terrific Tots is a class where your 2 to 3 year old and a caregiver can enjoy listening to books, singing and dancing to songs, and creating a craft. The child must be a Coal City Public Library District resident. Contact Rene Norris, 815-634-4552 ext. 110, rene@ccpld.org

**In the month of December, Terrific Tots will only be held on Thursday, 12/6/18.

Wilmington Public Library

Storytime (all ages) Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:30am

Sensory Storytime (all ages) Mondays at 12pm

PJ Storytime (all ages) Thursdays at 6pm

Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District

Baby Time (newborn-18 mos) Tuesdays at 10:30 am

Tot Time (18 mos-3yrs) Wednesdays at 10:00 or 10:30 am

Watseka Public Library

Saturday Story Time - Ages 2-5 December 1, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. "Celebrate December"

Pre-school program - Ages 2-5 December 4, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. "The Gingerbread Baby"

Baby Book Club - Ages 0-3 "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"

Punch and Judy Puppet Christmas Show December 10, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.w/Anne Newman AND visit with Santa

Preschool Program (ages 2-5) December 18, 2018 - 10:00 a.m."Holiday Fun"

Central Citizens Library District

Baby Book Club December 7 - 10:00 am "The Mitten"

Baby Book Club December 21, 2018 10:00 am "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"

Coloring Page

