



# OFF THE SHELF

NEWSLETTER OF THE HUDSON AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

APRIL 2018



## 1K BOOKS BEFORE K

Officially, kids learn to read in kindergarten. Unofficially, kids start learning how to be readers during their first weeks and months of life. That's why educators recommend parents read not just to their preschoolers but to their toddlers and babies. The movement for early literacy has a campaign called "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten."

A number with that many zeroes might sound overwhelming, but the math is reasonable. If you read one book each night, you'd hit 1,000 books in just over three years. Reading three books each night hits the goal in about one year.

Reading is an early indicator of academic success, yet studies estimate that as many as one in five children have difficulties in learning to read. Early experiences and interactions are a key factor in a child's brain development. If they grow up enjoying stories, it's easier to get them to read independently when they're older.

It doesn't matter if parents are re-reading books. The act of reading – not the constant introduction of new stories – is what's important.

Parents can sign up for "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" online or at the library. Keep track of your reading and kids can earn stickers and small prizes as incentives. For more information go to [www.hudsonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.hudsonpubliclibrary.org) and click on the button that says "Children."

## CONSTRUCTION CLUB

At the Hudson Area Library, we know the only thing kids like better than construction is destruction. Now they can do both.

We're hosting a Construction Club for kids on the third Thursday of every month. We give them a variety of materials and challenge them to create. We have Legos and K'nex, but we also use everyday items.

Have you ever watched a kid unwrap an expensive toy and then play with the box? Their imaginations are fueled by ordinary objects. When we give kids marshmallows and toothpicks, they find a way to build a tower.

Kids' natural curiosity drives them to put things together—and take them apart—to learn how things work. Educators describe these skills as inquiry-based learning and tactile perceptions. Kids just call it tinkering.

In Construction Club, we let kids tinker. The projects help them develop fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities and creative minds. Kids also learn how to collaborate when they work on challenges together.



## EARTH DAY AT THE LIBRARY

Earth Day is a global holiday with Wisconsin roots. At the Hudson Area Library, we've planned activities to commemorate the occasion.

Nearly 200 countries now celebrate Earth Day, but the event was conceived locally by former Wisconsin Governor and Senator Gaylord Nelson. Nelson formed a bipartisan partnership to launch the national "teach-in on the environment" we now call Earth Day, held each year on April 22.

Families can join us Saturday, April 28 to plant a flower at the library. We'll have a variety of flower options, including seeds for families to take home.

Elementary students have a special project Saturday, April 14. Using natural materials, kids can make Fairy House Dioramas here at the library. They also can make one at home and bring it to the library. We'll display all the entries, and patrons can vote on their favorite.

For tweens and teens, we're going to have a craft program on Saturday, April 21. We'll recycle CDs and turn them into beautiful scratch art. There will be a separate craft for younger kids who want to participate.

There's no registration for any of the Earth Day activities.

Hope you can join us!

## NEW FICTION

IN APRIL:

*THE FALLEN* BY DAVID BALDACCI

*THE 17TH SUSPECT* BY JAMES PATTERSON

*AFTER ANNA* BY LISA SCOTTLINE

*THE KNOWLEDGE* BY MARTHA GRIMES

*SHATTERED MIRROR* BY IRIS JOHANSEN

*TWISTED PREY* BY JOHN SANDFORD

*THE CUTTING EDGE* BY JEFFERY DEEVER

*A NANTUCKET WEDDING*  
BY NANCY THAYER

*ALL THE BEAUTIFUL LIES*  
BY PETER SWANSON

*THE SIXTH DAY* BY CATHERINE COULTER

*I'VE GOT MY EYES ON YOU*  
BY MARY HIGGINS CLARK

*VARNIA* BY CHARLES FRAZIER

*ACE OF SHADES* BY AMANDA FOODY

*SKY IN THE DEEP* BY ADRIENNE YOUNG

*ASH PRINCESS* BY LAURA SEBASTIAN