Imagination Library Comes to Natchitoches

Thanks to efforts by the United Way of Northwest Louisiana, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is now available to all children living in Natchitoches Parish under the age of 5! Through this free program, the child receive one book per month through the mail until the age of five. Children can enjoy building their own personal library from an early age and also better prepare themselves for school.

At the NPL and NEB, we love to share our love of knowledge, learning, and reading with everyone, but we believe this is especially important for children. The Imagination Library goes along well with our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program to encourage childhood literacy and learning. The more children are read to, the quicker they learn to read themselves, setting the stage for all learning later in life.

Children are eligible for both programs from birth, and the only requirement is that they live in Natchitoches Parish.

To sign up your child for the NPL’s 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library stop by the NPL’s Children’s Circulation Desk for a copy of both registration forms.
The Natchitoches Parish Library has formed a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) to better communicate with teen patrons and plan events at the library. The TAB meetings occur twice monthly and there is no requirement for participation. Any teenager interested in what is going on at the parish library and who would like to have a voice in what events and programs are offered are encouraged to attend.

Past events have included “Chalk It Up,” where teens added some fun temporary “graffiti” to the NPL’s parking lot; a teen and senior craft hour at a local long term care facility; and most recently, “Game On,” our first teen game night, which included video games, life-sized board games, and pizza! The Teen Advisory Board also had Juanita Murphy, president of the Natchitoches Humane Society, as a special guest speaker sharing how teens can help animals in their community.

The next special event the TAB is planning is a Lunar New Year Party on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 6pm. Teens will celebrate and learn about Chinese culture to ring in the Chinese New Year, or “Spring Festival”, with this year being the year of the rooster.

Chinese New Year is considered a major holiday for the Chinese and has had a major influence on the lunar new year celebrations of many neighboring countries. Regional customs and traditions can vary widely, but it is often a time for families to gather and have a special dinner together.

Sign up is required for this event as space will be limited. To reserve your spot, you may sign up at the NPL’s Second Floor Circulation Desk, call Teen Programmer, Michelle Pichon at 318-236-9240, or message the Natchitoches Parish Library on Facebook.
# January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1:30am Family Story Time @NPL</td>
<td>10:30am Story Time @NEB</td>
<td>10am Coffee &amp; Coloring @NPL</td>
<td>10:30am Beginner Computer Class @NEB</td>
<td>5:30pm TAB Meeting 6pm Zumba with James (18+)</td>
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<td>9am Author Story Time @NPL</td>
<td>10:30am Family Story Time @NPL</td>
<td>10:30am Coffee &amp; Coloring @NEB</td>
<td>6pm Adult Craft Night @NPL</td>
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<td>6pm Zumba with James (18+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10am Craft Club @NEB</td>
<td>1:30pm Family Story Time @NPL</td>
<td>6pm Night Time Story Time @NPL</td>
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<td>6pm Don’t Fear the New Year (9-12yrs) @NPL</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>CLOSED FOR MLK JR. DAY</td>
<td>10:30am Story Time @NEB</td>
<td>10:30am Beginner Computer Class @NEB</td>
<td>6pm Zumba with James (18+)</td>
<td>6pm Lunar New Year Party (6-12 grades)</td>
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**Color Key:**
- Adult Fitness Series
- NPL Children’s Event
- NPL Teen Event
- NPL Adult Event
- NEB Event

*Note: All events are located at NPL unless specified otherwise.*
January Activities

Weekly Events:
- Tuesdays @NPL (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st) 10:30am—Family Story Time: Join NPL staff for a story and coloring time.
- Wednesdays @NEB (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th) 10:30am—Story Time: Join NEB staff for a story and coloring time.
- Thursdays @NEB (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th) 10:30am—Beginner Computer Classes: A starter-course to basic computer use.
- Thursdays @NPL (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th) 6-7pm—Zumba with James: Lose those extra inches we all gain during the holidays with a great Zumba workout, led by James Morrow

HAPPY NEW YEAR

-Thursday, Jan. 5
- 10am Coffee & Coloring @NPL: Coffee and light snacks along with adult coloring pages. Color pencils supplied!
- 5:30pm TAB Meeting: Teen Advisory Board meeting to plan future programming events. New members welcome!

-Monday, Jan. 9
- 10am NEB Craft Club @NEB: Come join us for our first project and learn to quilt! (all materials provided)

-Tuesday, Jan. 10
- 9am Author Story Time @NPL: A special reading and book signing by local author Christina Washington.
- 10:30am Coffee & Coloring @NEB: Relax with coffee, refreshments, coloring, and friends! (all materials provided)
- 6pm Adult Craft Night @NPL: Create a large paper snowflake décor craft for your window, wall, or fireplace! (sign-up required)

-Friday, Jan. 13
- 6pm “Don’t Fear the New Year” (9-12 years) @NPL: Friday the 13th cupcake decorating class. (sign-up required)

-Tuesday, Jan. 17
- 6pm Night Time Story Time (4-7 years) @NPL: Join us for an evening of milk, cookies, and stories! (sign-up required)

-Thursday, Jan. 19
- 10am Coffee & Coloring @NPL: Coffee and light snacks along with adult coloring pages. Color pencils supplied!
- 5:30pm TAB Meeting: Teen Advisory Board meeting to plan future programming events. New members welcome!

-Tuesday, Jan. 24
- 6pm Art with Annabel (5-8 years) @NPL: Join our children’s librarian for a night of crafting and pizza! (sign-up required)

-Thursday, Jan. 26
- 6pm Lunar New Year Party (6-12th grades) @NPL: Come and celebration the Year of the Rooster with some Chinese culture in recognition of the first day of the Chinese lunar calendar. (sign-up required)

-Tuesday, Jan. 31
- 4pm Block Builders Club (kids all ages) @NPL: Join fellow crafters for some building fun and discussion of your designs. (walk-ins welcome)

NOTES:
“What’s Up” This Month?

NSU is restoring its astronomical observatory and hopes to offer programs for students and the general public! Dr. Chad Thibodeaux, Professor of Chemistry, is directing the redevelopment NSU’s School of Biological and Physical Sciences, namely the Astronomical Branch.

Dr. Thibodeaux is hoping to gain support to maintain existing equipment and acquiring new and updated instruments. This is important in several ways. For one, the general public is invited to be a part of this growth in studying astronomy. Whatever the study may be, there is always the need of public support. And for students in this field of science specifically, there is always the need for advanced study. These new developments will make it possible! Secondly, it will make available for Natchitoches another place of growth in a field of education. All this requires is support from those in academics and citizens of the community!

So what is needed from the people of Natchitoches? One is possible volunteers to help with the “nuts and bolts” repair. Another is anyone who may have a background in astrophotography, celestial navigation, or physics. And, perhaps the most important, public interest and excitement, two very key elements!

*Celebrate Winter*
Create for a Door or Window
Snowflake Décor Craft

Tuesday, January 10
6:00 p.m.
Adults, Ages 18+ " Sign up, 2nd FL.

Join us for
Beginner Computer Classes
at the
Northeast Branch Library

Thursdays @ 10:30
January 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2017
3129 Hwy. 71
Campti, LA 71411
(318) 476-3280

LIBRARY TIP #98: EAT A BALANCED DIET

THAT DOESN’T COUNT.

DONUTS ARE BULKY, BUT POP TARTS ARE SURPRISINGLY DENSE.
Simple Skillet Meals: Stir-Fry Chicken and Vegetables

Servings: 4  
Prep Time: 25 minutes  
Start to Finish: 25 minutes

Ingredients:
- 1 tbsp. canola or vegetable oil
- 1 cup julienne (matchstick-cut) carrots
- 1 medium onion, sliced (about 1 cup)
- 1 lb boneless skinless chicken breasts (about 3), cut into 2x1/2 inch strips
- 1 & 1/4 cups water
- 4 oz uncooked vermicelli, broken in half
- 1 cup frozen sweet peas
- 1/2 cup stir-fry sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt

Instructions:
1) In 12-inch nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add carrots, onion and chicken; cook 6 to 7 minutes, stirring frequently, until chicken is no longer pink in center and vegetables are tender.
2) Stir in water and vermicelli. Heat to boiling. Cover; cook 3 minutes.
3) Stir in peas and stir-fry sauce. Cook about 2 minutes, stirring frequently, until peas are thoroughly heated. Remove from heat. Stir in garlic salt.

Do you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers? Fill out this form and bring it to either branch’s circulation desk and it may be featured in a future issue! Feel free to use a separate sheet of paper for more space, but be sure to include all requested information. You may also email submissions directly to alan@natlib.org. You may include pictures.

Name: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Recipe: ____________________________
Ingredients: ________________________

Instructions:

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***STAFF, PLEASE DELIVER TO ALAN’S MAILBOX. THANK YOU! :)*