Welcome to Montrose Regional Library’s school and educator newsletter!

Kits Galore! Library of Things Now Available!
Remember when COVID kept us all cramped up indoors? Remember how many in-person activities were restricted to carry-out only? We librarians know all-to-well how cumbersome those times were, but we have also seen a trend emerge: takeout activities. Not only did books and DVDs retain their popularity in COVID times, but take-home activity bags and other checkoutables became very popular here in town.

They became so popular, in fact, that your friendly neighborhood librarians have been concocting an ever-growing collection of items -- we call them kits -- for folks to check out, use, and return, just like books! When you come to the library’s Children’s Room, you’ll now see a set of three-ring binders near the chess table full of activities to check out.

- Wanna go to a state park? Check out a Park Pass & Backpack.
- Wanna learn the ukulele? Check out an instrument.
- Wanna view the stars? Check out a telescope.

The great news is that ALL of our kits are FREE to borrow, for yourself or your classroom, just like everything else at the library. A few caveats do apply: you need a permanent card without any fines and you can only check kits out for a week at a time. It’s first come, first serve on the kits, so no reservations. But you can renew a kit you have already checked out for one additional week. Swing by the Youth Services desk at your local library for more details, and let’s get those kits moving!

Library Card Sign-Ups
Every September, libraries around the country celebrate library card sign-up month. While the celebratory month has just passed, if you are a teacher and want a packet of sign-up forms to hand out to your students, then the library can still help. Contact Youth Services at 970-249-9656, Option 2, for more information.
**Safe Sitter and Safe @ Home**

This school year the library will restart its popular babysitting program, SafeSitter. Designed by nurses and parents, this cumulative course series begins with the basics of staying at home by oneself in Safe @ Home. Fourth-grade through sixth-grade students learn practical skills for safely being at home alone for hours at a time, helping them develop responsibility and adult-like behaviors. Then sixth graders, pre-teens, and teens can attend the babysitting course, Safe Sitter. In Safe Sitter, participants learn the basics taught in Safe @ Home as well as proper care and safety required for watching other kids: nieces, nephews, brothers, sisters, etc. Once participants complete the Safe Sitter program, they’ll have the certification to safely babysit for friends or family, help out in the church nursery, or start up their own babysitting business!

Courses for both Safe @ Home and Safe Sitter are approaching, so contact James at the Montrose Regional Library for more information: jstetson@montroselibrary.org or 970-964-2551.

**PTAB**

ATTENTION: THIS IS ONLY FOR KIDS WHO LIKE MAKING THEIR OWN CHOICES AND TELLING OTHERS WHAT TO DO.

If you are between the ages of 9 and 12, enjoy sharing your ideas with others, and want to make a visible impact in the community, why not join the library’s Pre-Teen Advisory Board group? When you attend Pre-Teen Advisory Board meetings, you can give your ideas about the books, games, and programs that the library offers to kids! Meet like-minded peers and have fun making the library the best it possibly can be for Montrose youth.

The first meeting is scheduled for Thurs, Oct 6, from 4:30-5:30pm. Register at montroselibrary.org/PTAB.

**Books-n-Bites**

Are you a fourth grader or older who likes books? Do you enjoy discussing the latest thing you’ve read with others? Do you like free food?

If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, then Books-n-Bites might be for you. Available to kids ages 9-13, the monthly meeting involves snacks and conversation around a pre-selected book. While it’s open to many participants, the first 15 kids who sign up get a free copy from the library to read and keep after the talk. To register, visit bit.ly/mrdyouth. For more information, contact the Youth Services Desk at Montrose Regional Library: 970-249-9656, option 2.
**Teen Services for Educators**

**Teen Judges for Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Award**

Know any teens who want to duke it out with teens across the state to decide the best YA publication in Colorado this year? The Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award is a yearly event in which teens decide which YA title released in the past year is the cream of the crop, and we are looking to form a book team to go head to head with The Ivory Key by Akshaya Raman and The Red Palace by June Hur. We will read both books between October and December, then submit a book talk for the titles before January. The winner is announced during a conference in the spring, after participating teens complete the aforementioned dueling. We are accepting sign-ups and will be meeting on Oct. 26 at 4:30pm in the library meeting room to discuss the event. This is open to 7th-12th graders. Any additional questions, please ask Nancy in Youth Services. Sign up: https://bit.ly/3CjvF8R

**Teen(ish) Book Club**

The Teen(ish) Book Club is a casual gathering of book nerds, ages 12ish to 17ish, and is perfect for anyone looking to debate, discuss, or geek out on books from all genres. Book choices are suggested and voted on by club members, and the first 10 participants to register always receive a free copy of the book. The next selection is Ranger’s Apprentice by John Flanagan, to be discussed (alongside delicious treats) on Wednesday, Nov 2, from 4:30-5:30pm. Register at https://bit.ly/mrldteen to claim your spot and your book.

Educators, if you have any interest in spreading the word about teen programs to your students, hosting book talks or discussions, or digging into various electronic sources, let Amy know -- she’d be happy to visit! Call 970-275-9383 or email adickinson@montroselibrary.org

**Electronic Resources for Educators**

**E-Resource Spotlight: EBSCO Schools**

Did you know... that students can access a variety of EBSCO databases to support research and learning across subject areas? MAS Ultra School Edition features 360 full text reference books, 85,670 biographies, over 107,000 primary source documents, and an Image Collection of over 510,000 photos, maps & flags, color PDFs and expanded full text backfiles (back to 1975) for key magazines.

Middle Search Plus provides full text for thousands of biographies and historical essays. Middle Search Plus also contains 84,774 biographies, 105,786 primary source documents, and a School Image Collection of photos, maps and flags.

These are merely two of the EBSCO school offerings. Get started at montroselibrary.org/online-research-tools, scroll down to “Schools,” then click “Resources for Students,” and choose the best resource for your aims!
Upcoming Programs

**Family History**

October is Family History Month and your local library wants to help connect people to their roots. Join us on Wednesday, October 5, at 3pm for a family tree craft, family history show-and-tell, and riveting stories from Montrose’s past, told by local storytellers! Held in collaboration with the Montrose Historical Society and Fore-Kin Genealogical Society, you’re sure to have a fantastic time! Open to all ages and no registration necessary.

**Lotería Game Night**

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the library is hosting a Lotería Game Night on Wednesday, October 12. All community members are welcome to participate in this family-friendly, Mexican-style game night at the library. Come win prizes, eat pan dulce, and join in the fun between 4:30 and 5:30pm in the meeting room! Open to all ages and no registration necessary.

**Teen(ish) Game Nights**

What better way to unwind than with Mario Kart, Sushi Go!, Banagrams, and delicious snacks? Made purely for fun, friends, and stress relief, anyone ages 11(ish) to 18(ish) is invited to join us for Teen(ish) Game Nights in the library meeting room. Come for ten minutes or two hours on both or either of the following Game Nights: Friday, October 28, from 3-5pm and Thursday, December 1, from 4-6pm. Registration recommended (so we know how many snacks to bring) at https://bit.ly/mrldteen.