

# Stories Abound

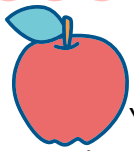
*Upcoming events, ideas and activities for families to do at home from the Monticello Public Library*



## Did You Know?

January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar (c. 713 BC); originally, winter was considered a month-less period.

Originally, February was made the last month of the calendar year. Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.



## School Readiness Tip

You might be sick of reading the same Dr. Seuss book night after night to your children. But did you know repetition is a cornerstone of learning? The more your child is familiar with subject matter, the more they can assimilate it. As they grow older, their preferences will grow more diverse.



## Upcoming Events

- Feb 1st: Lunar New Year
- Feb 2nd: Groundhog Day
- Feb 13th: Super Bowl Sunday
- Feb 14th: Valentine's Day
- Feb 14th: Library Lovers Day
- Feb 18th: Monticello No School Day
- Feb 18th: Escape Room Event (This will be a to go activity due to high cases of Covid-19.)
- Feb 21st: President's Day
- Feb 26th: Tell a Fairy Tale Day



## News You Can Use

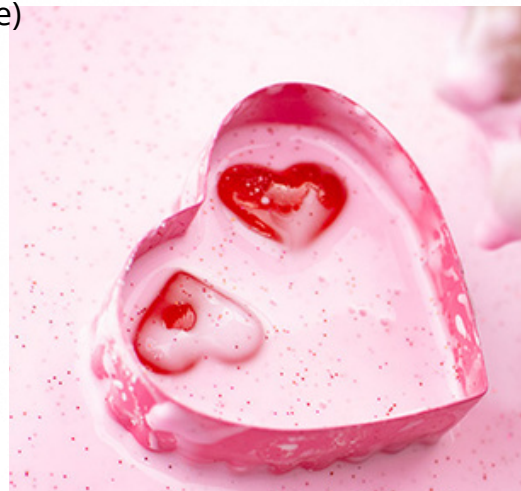
- Please make sure that you take a moment to fill out our digital survey and let us know what you think about the library! This survey is anonymous and will help us in our planning for the future. All you have to do is go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MonticelloPublicLibrary>
- The link will be available until February 7th. We appreciate your feedback!
- The library is currently open by appointment for browsing, faxing or computer use. Service with a librarian through our entryway for holds, requests, and customer service is available at all times with no required appointments.
- We want to encourage you to read (or have someone read to you) for 15-20 minutes everyday, so we created our Read Everyday Program. Every month, we have a fun coloring sheet to mark which days you have read. Color in everyday you read. When your calendar is full, return to the library for a small prize! You can find the calendar on our website, in the library or inside our activity kits at the beginning of each month.
- On February 18, we will have a special escape room activity kit to go. Supplies are limited, so get yours before they're gone! These are perfect for ages 6 and up.
- Speaking of activity kits, this month we will have Penguins (week of 1/31), Valentine's Day (week of 2/7), Winter Olympics (week of 2/14), Donuts (week of 2/21) and Mardi Gras (week of 2/28) themed kits for all ages. Kits are limited, so grab yours early!
- Check out <https://www.prek-12resources.com> for a one stop shop for educational games and more!



## Try It At Home: Valentine's Oobleck

### SUPPLIES FOR Valentine's Oobleck

- 2 cups cornstarch (or try it with tapioca flour, arrowroot, baby powder or, even potato!)
- 1 cup water ( Warm water makes for a nicer sensory experience)
- Red food coloring
- Glitter (optional, use biodegradable options if desired)
- Beads shaped like hearts
- Scoops, cookie cutters, or other play tools (optional)
- Large bowl
- Measuring cup
- An easy to clean area



### How To Make Valentine's Oobleck

- Start by preparing the area. I recommend a table cover and an easy to clean floor covering. Do not use oobleck near your favorite carpet! This will be messy.
- In a large bowl add your cornstarch.
- Measure out your water then add the food coloring. Mix.
- Now add the colored water to the cornstarch. Mix it together. You will immediately notice those non-Newtonian qualities at work! Slow, even pressure is best. Don't try and stir quickly or move quickly. Pressure like that will make it solidify.
- Once it is mixed sprinkle on some glitter. Do you notice anything?
- Now try dropping some of the heart beads onto the oobleck. Now what do you notice? If you watch closely you can see the kinetic energy moving through the oobleck as the force of the dropping bead impacts with the oobleck. You can see how it gets hard for a moment, then liquifies allowing the bead to settle and sink into the oobleck. Pretty cool!
- Now it's time to play and explore! Keep in mind because of the way oobleck behaves things might get a little messy!
- Use things like cookie cutters or scoops to see how the oobleck changes it's behaviors. We find the most fascinating part is trying to scoop it and then watching as it impacts itself as if flows back into the bowl.

### The Science of Oobleck

Oobleck is a non-Newtonian Fluid. This means it doesn't behave like normal fluids. It becomes solid under pressure and liquefies when the pressure is released. So now we know that Oobleck is this strange fluid that disobeys the rules of fluid dynamics as stated by Sir Issac Newton. This phenomenon is called "shear thickening" and it occurs in materials made up of microscopic solid particles suspended in a fluid. Oobleck therefore is a suspension. The solid molecules are not dissolving in the liquid, they are simply suspended floating about like happy little molecules. When we apply pressure to oobleck, those molecules squish together and behave like a solid. But remove the pressure and those molecules go back to floating about and we have flowing liquid behaviors once again.