

# Stories Abound

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

Wishing you a safe and happy July!



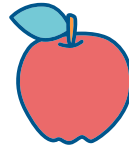
## News You Can Use

- Have you signed up for summer reading? We are encouraging patrons of all ages to join. It's not too late to start your summer reading! Sign up in the library or at our website at [www.monticellopubliclibrary.org](http://www.monticellopubliclibrary.org)
- Every Thursday from 1-3pm, we have a drop in STEM program for kids of all ages! Each week has a new and different activity and connects with the newest craft in the library entryway. We will be holding them all outside, unless the weather is not cooperating, then we will move inside. We will post any changes on our Facebook page.
- Our craft and STEM themes for July are: 4th of July, Pirates, Water, Fair/Carnival and Airplanes!
- Don't forget to check out <https://www.prek-12resources.com/> for a variety of free resources for all ages and interests. They are perfect for when the pool is closed or on a rainy day!



## Upcoming Events

- July 1st: STEM Day 1:00-3:00 pm
- July 4th: Independence Day
- July 5th: Library Closed
- July 8th: STEM Day 1:00-3:00 pm
- July 9th-11th: Monticello Homecoming
- July 9th: Movie in the Park Begins at Dusk
- July 10th: 4 Square Volleyball 3:00-7:00 pm
- July 15th: STEM Day 1:00-3:00 pm
- July 21st-24th: Green County Fair
- July 22nd: STEM Day 1:00- 3:00 pm
- July 30th: Movie in the Park Begins at Dusk
- Aug. 4th: Getting Excited About Science



## School Readiness Tip:

Interesting experiences like zoos or museums or taking hikes or even watching a new documentary give kids a broader framework for new information they might encounter in books, and when kids have lots of experiences to draw on, they have a better chance of making a connection to what they read!



## Did You Know?

Intense physical activity programs have positive effects on academic achievement, including increased concentration; improved mathematics, reading, and writing test scores; and reduced disruptive behavior? Find ways to ensure your child is active for 60 minutes each day. It not only is good for their physical health, but their mental health as well.

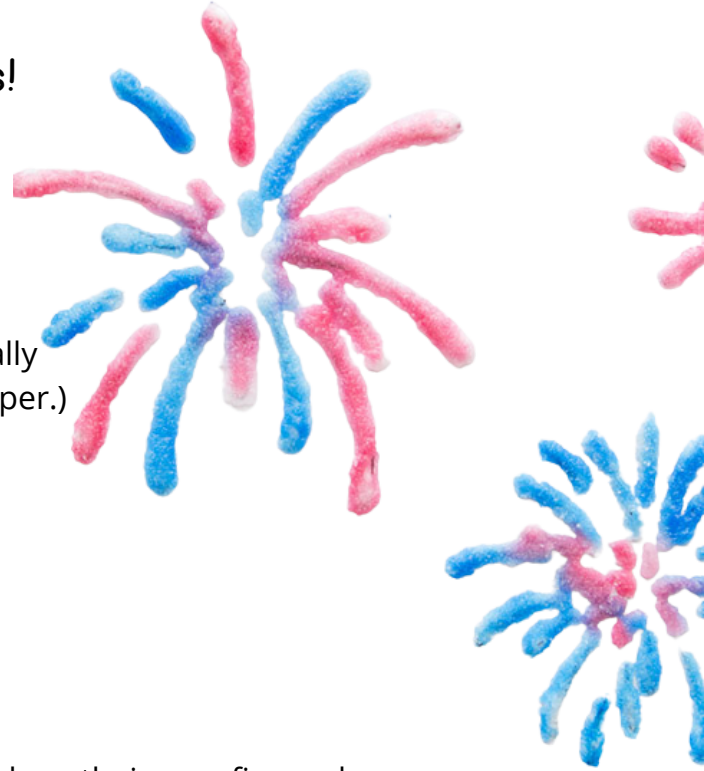


## Try It At Home: Salt Painted Fireworks

The 4th of July is a time for fireworks!  
Make your own with salt and glue!

### You will need:

- White thick cardstock  
(Tip: Getting the extra large cardstock (12 x 12) is usually thicker and will help the paint from running on the paper.)
- Liquid watercolors or food coloring
- Salt (any kind will do)
- White glue
- Paintbrush
- A little bit of water



### What to do:

1. Print off free fireworks template or you can have kids draw their own fireworks.
2. Begin by tracing the fireworks with your glue. Finish tracing every line on your page.
3. Now for one of the fun parts – sprinkle on your salt! Make sure to cover every part of the glue. Pour a generous amount of salt to make sure you don't miss a spot! You want good coverage for when you paint. Then shake off any excess salt from the page.
4. Finally you can paint your fireworks with watercolors or food coloring. (We suggest using liquid watercolors as they are easy to use and more vibrant than food coloring, but food coloring would also work.) Dilute your watercolors with only a little bit of water to keep the colors vibrant.
5. Then watch the magic! Gently tap on the salt and watch the watercolor spread along the fireworks.
6. Once you're done painting, set aside to dry. Be careful not to touch the salt or it may come off.
7. If you accidentally knock off some salt, you can scrape all of the salt off and see a beautiful watercolor painting underneath.

### Salt Painting Tips:

- Use a highly concentrated solution of your liquid watercolors. Only add a small amount of water to your solution to keep the color vibrant.
- Dip your paintbrush gently into your liquid watercolors to get only a little bit of watercolor at a time. If you have too much water when you're painting the water will spill over and get your paper very wet. This is fine if you're doing this art activity for fun but if you want to keep your art or are doing this with older kids we found it works best with just a little bit of paint.
- You can paint after the glue dries or right away – it shouldn't make a difference!
- Use some cardboard underneath your cardstock to avoid getting your counter or table wet as the liquid watercolor may seep through a bit.