

Stories Abound

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



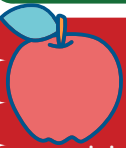
Did You Know?

On December 30, 1803, the United States of America essentially doubled in size when it formally took control of Louisiana. The US acquired the territory of Louisiana, some 885,000 square miles (2292,000 square kilometers) from France through the Louisiana Purchase!

News You Can Use



- 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.
- Our weekly activity kit themes for the month of December will be: poinsettias, gingerbread, paper ornaments, reindeer and new year's. Kits are available in the library entryway and are updated every Monday. Supplies are limited, so get them while you can.
- We will be doing some cookie decorating on Friday December 10 at 1:00pm. All ages are invited to show off their decorating skills.
- Our crafters unite event is December 16th at 6:00pm. We will be making string art.
- The library will be closed from December 24th-January 2nd for the holiday. Make sure to stock up on movies, books and more for the week!
- Don't forget to check out <https://www.prek-12resources.com/> for a variety of free resources for all ages and interests. Every link is free and does NOT require you to create an account. They are perfect for a cold and rainy day or when you are looking for something to do!



School Readiness Tip

One of the things that can make transitioning to preschool or kindergarten challenging for kids is learning how to do things on their own without their parents. Make sure your little one is ready for this transition by teaching them the skills they need right at home. You can empower children and help increase their independence by teaching them important self-care skills. This skill is often more challenging for parents than the kids, since parents either want to save time or don't want their child to become frustrated. Just have patience!



Upcoming Events

- Dec 4: National Cookie Day
- Dec 6: St. Nick's Day
- **Dec 10: Cookie Decorating at the Library**
- Dec 12: National Gingerbread Decorating Day
- **Dec 16: Crafters Unite String Art**
- Dec 17: National Ugly Sweater Day
- **Dec 24-Jan 2: Library is closed for holidays**
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve
- Dec 25: Christmas Day
- Dec 31: New Year's Eve
- Jan 1: New Year's Day
- **Jan 3: Library Reopens**



Try It At Home: Design Your Own Wrapping Paper

What you'll need to make your own Christmas wrapping paper:

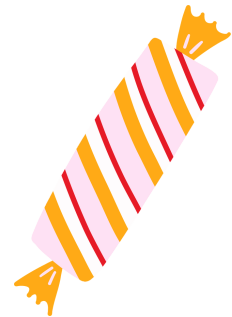
- Butcher paper or construction paper
- Acrylic paints (they dry fast, that's why we love them)
- Paintbrushes
- Glitter

Before starting this activity, talk with the kids about how real designs are made by an artist creating a small version of the design that is copied and mass produced later on.

Also talk about symmetry and making sure the design would look good in a repeating pattern. It's best to illustrate this by folding a paper into quarters and adding a dot of paint to the lines. Then, when the paper is folded back up, the design is the same on both sides.

Go crazy with your design!

When you are finished, you can always upload your design and send it to a copier if you want it more like real wrapping paper. Otherwise, you can use the smaller pieces of paper for wrapping smaller presents.



When kids are designing their wrapping paper, they are using not only art skills, but engineering skills! Engineering uses science and math to solve real-world problems. Engineering is used for everything from building roads to completing data analysis tools at an insurance company. There is almost no career today that does not use engineering in some capacity! In a simple engineering activity, kids may engage in activities such as:

- Building and design
- Construction
- Selecting the right materials
- Circuits and electrical engineering
- Physics
- Cause and effect
- Living math
- Prototype building and testing
- Creativity

