Stories Abound

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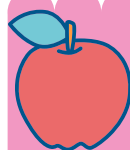
News You Can Use

- On April 15, we will have our first Peeps Diorama contest. Create a unique diorama using Peeps marshmallow candies as the main characters. Take cues from history, current events, pop culture, politics, trends, art & more! We particularly enjoy entries that have a creative play on the word "peep". Feel free to make your scene at home and bring it in or stop into the library anytime on the 15th to create.
- We encourage you to read (or have someone read to you) for 15-20 minutes everyday. Every month, we have a fun coloring sheet to mark which days you have read which you can get at the library or at our website. Color in everyday you read. When your calendar is full, return to the library at the end of the month for a small prize!
- We have launched our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Stop in or go to https://monticellopubliclibrary.beanstack.com to sign up.
- Our activity kits this month will be: Suncatchers (3/28), Easter Bunnies (4/4), Easter Eggs and baskets (4/11), Earth Day (4/18), and May Day Flowers (4/25).

Upcoming Events

- Apr 1st- April Fool's Day
- Apr 2nd- Children's Book Day
- Apr 5th- National Library Workers Day
- Apr 10th - National Siblings Day
- **Apr 15th- Peep Diorama Contest**
- Apr 15th- Monticello No School
- Apr 17th- Easter
- Apr 18th- Monticello No School
- Apr 22nd- Earth Day
- Apr 28th- Take Your Child to Work Day

School Readiness Tip

During play and daily routines like handwashing, parents can provide learning opportunities such as counting. Because a child's brain develops more rapidly during the first 5 years, **Vroom.org**, a website and app, was developed to assist families in promoting their child's development. They provide science-based tips to turn everyday moments with your child into brain building opportunities.

Did You Know?

April is a great month for meteor showers. One of which is the Lyrids meteor shower, which appears from April 16th to April 26th each year. There's another one called the Eta Aquariids meteor shower that can be seen onwards from April 21st.

Supplies for Peep Slime

- Peeps {sleeves of 5}
- Cornstarch
- Vegetable Oil
- Tablespoon
- Bowl and Spoon
- Potholder

How To Make Peep Slime

- STEP 1: Break apart the sleeve of 5 peeps and add to a microwave safe bowl.
- STEP 2: Add a tablespoon of vegetable oil to the bowl of peeps.
- STEP 3: Put the bowl of peeps in the microwave for 30 seconds.
- STEP 4: Remove the bowl form the microwave {adults should do this please}.
- STEP 5: Add a tablespoon of cornstarch at a time and mush it into your softened peeps. The peeps will be warm to on the hot side so adults should do this to start. We didn't use a spoon.
- STEP 6: We added a total of approximately 3 TBL of cornstarch to each color batch. You can feel when it isn't really sticky anymore, but you want to make sure to really knead each tablespoon in well before you add more. We did fin the 2x the pink peeps needed a bit less cornstarch.
- STEP 7: Continue to knead and stretch and play with your peeps slime!
- At this point, you can continue to make more batches of the peeps slime if you have more colors.

The Science Behind the Slime

When you heat up a marshmallow or a peep {which is also a marshmallow candy} you heat up the molecules in the water that is contained within the marshmallow. These molecules move farther apart. This is known as a chemical reaction between the heat and the water in the marshmallow. When you add the cornstarch, a natural thickener, you make a thick stretchy substance which is known as the great peeps slime! Your hands playing, kneading, stretching, and generally having fun with the slime dough keeps it going. What happens after awhile to this peeps activity? As the peeps slime dough slime cools down, it's going to harden. The molecules in the water move closer together again, and that's that. This slime is not going to last all day or overnight.