

# Stories Abound

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



## News You Can Use

Still haven't signed up for summer reading? That's okay! There's still plenty of time left. Summer Reading is going until August 29th. We have a ton of family friendly activities that you can do to earn points for prizes. We are proud to have a digital version from Beanstack and a paper version available for patrons of ALL AGES! (Kids AND Adults are able to participate in our summer program.)

It's simple: track your reading or activities and earn prizes! That's it. Check out our link on our website: [www.monticellopubliclibrary.org/slp-2020](http://www.monticellopubliclibrary.org/slp-2020) to download the app, register and learn more about Beanstack. You can request a paper version from the library if that's more your thing, too.

We will have a live stream of Colossal Fossils on Facebook on July 2nd at 1 pm. We are also excited to have an upcoming video from Duke Otherwise that we will be posting on Facebook on Saturday, July 11th.

Check our free resource links. They are perfect for a rainy summer day. [www.prek-12resources.com](http://www.prek-12resources.com)

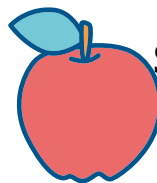
Beginning July 1st, our entryway will be open for Express Services Monday thru Thursday from 12pm to 6pm to speak with a librarian, pick-up holds, or request other items. A computer/printer station will also be available by appointment.

## Upcoming Events



- July is National Ice Cream Month!
- July 2nd Colossal Fossils Live Stream on Facebook at 1 pm
- July 4th Independence Day
- July 11th Duke Otherwise Digital performance at 3:30 pm
- July 19th National Ice Cream Day
- July 30th International Day of Friendship

Stay safe, stay home & wash hands!



## School Readiness Tip:

(Best for ages 0-8)

Encourage children to ask lots of questions. Don't worry if you don't know the answers! You can say, "That's a great question. I don't know. How could we find out?" This encourages critical thinking, fosters curiosity and teaches kids that learning is something that is an ongoing process.

## Did You Know?



Giving children choices helps them develop independence, planning skills, and confidence, all important for long-term success. Give them two choices that are both OK with you and let them decide!



## Try It At Home: Petal Mandalas

### **You will need:**

- \*Clear contact paper cut into a large rectangle (one per child)
- \*Scissors
- \*White construction paper cut into a large circle (one per child)
- \*Collected or purchased flower petals, blades of grass, or any other flat materials that will stick to contact paper (e.g. construction paper, tissue paper, ribbon, or wrapping paper)



### **How to do this:**

1. Show children examples of mandalas and explain to them that a mandala is a Sanskrit word meaning circle, and it usually refers to a geometric image.
2. Pass out one white, circular piece of construction paper to each child. Invite the children to create a pattern or design on top of the paper using the petals, grass, or other provided materials.
3. Press the sticky side of the contact paper onto the mandala. Have children use their fingers and hands to press down all over the paper, making sure the items are secure. (There will be some contact paper hanging over the edges of the mandala. Let children choose if they want to fold the excess onto the back of the mandala, or use scissors to cut it off.)

### **Try These Tips and Tricks to Make It Easier or Harder:**

- \*For younger children, introduce the concept of a mandala through visual arts and math. With older children, consider investigating the cultural significance of mandalas within Buddhist and Hindu traditions.
- \*Journey to a nearby garden or outdoor space. Invite children to explore the garden and share what they see/smell/hear/feel. When all the children have had a chance to explore the garden, invite them to collect any fallen petals or leaves that they find interesting.
- \*Prompt children's creativity by providing real-life examples of mandalas. Inspire them by sharing the work of a specific artist, like Lori Schouela.

### **What is my child learning?**

Creativity often follows on the coattails of experience and mastery. Pattern recognition can help us acquire mastery in a given domain, and precedes our desire to create our own patterns (Tweney, 1996). When engrossing themselves in mandala creation, our artists (the children) are likely to first imitate the patterns of others. Eventually, they'll gain the confidence and self-expression to develop their own designs.