Hello and welcome to summer!

Summer is probably our very favorite time of the year at KDL. It gives us the chance to help kids and adults grow, learn and have fun all summer long. Though our summer program will look a bit different this year due to all that has been happening in our world, you can still expect all the excitement you’ve grown to love… plus more!

This year we introduce Summer Wonder, a STEAM-powered program that focuses on science, technology, engineering, art and math. It’s an at-home program of reading, learning and discovery for all ages. While KDL summer programs are enjoyed by people of all ages, we are placing a significant focus on school-age kids, to offset the summer slide that comes from being away from school. With all the closings and difficulties that happened as a result of COVID-19, summer library programs are more important than ever!

We hope you love Summer Wonder as much as we do.

Lance Werner
Executive Director

KDL updates

Katie Lawrence, a librarian at our Grandville Branch, has been elected to the 2022 Newbery Award Selection Committee. The committee members discuss books that have been published during the year and vote for the Newbery award winners. Congratulations, Katie! We are so proud of you.

Branch closings didn’t stop our Seed Library service! Over 250 Kent County households were mailed more than 5,000 seeds. We also partnered with H.O.P.E. Gardens, to make sure 500 students had seeds to plant as they learn about growing their own food. We hope the seeds were a tangible and inspiring gift to our community during this time.

Kent District Library has been recognized on the national level as a Best and Brightest Company to Work For by the National Association for Business Resources. This award follows being named one of West Michigan’s Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in 2019.

We want to send out a heartfelt congratulations to Danielle, our most recent graduate from Career Online High School. We are so proud of her hard work and accomplishment!

Though delayed a bit due to the coronavirus pandemic, we anxiously await the opening of the Amy Van Andel Library and Community Center in Ada in 2021. Dawn Lewis will be managing the branch.

KDL librarians use Facebook Live to reach their patrons as they Stay Home and Stay Safe in early 2020!

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Take this exciting, **STEAM-Powered Summer Wonder** journey with us and see where it takes you. Be ready! Learning will happen anytime, anywhere and sometimes when you least expect it.

It’s easy. It’s fun. It’s for all ages and you can participate from anywhere! Flip this booklet over or visit kdl.org/summer to check it out.

**Meet your guide on this journey**

**Name:** Curi [kyōô-rē]

**Primary Function:** Helping people to learn about and enjoy Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math!

**Birthplace:** Whitehall, MI

Curi loves to learn about new things, and every day is an opportunity to find something wonderful. She shares her knowledge with anyone who will listen.

**JUNE 1 - AUGUST 8, 2020**

**30-DAY CHALLENGE**

**for the Whole Family!**

Take the 30-Day Challenge! An at-home, self-guided program of reading, learning and discovery for all ages. Participate using the enclosed paper tracking log or online at kdl.beanstack.org.

We’d like to thank our generous sponsors for their support of Summer Wonder.
No Fines / No Barriers

Since eliminating fines for overdue items a year ago, we’re seeing nothing but upside and more smiling faces.

97% of billed items are returned
Up from 48% for patrons under age 18.

Historically, when minors received a bill for an unreturned item, more than half of them stopped using the library instead of returning the item and settling their bill. Since going fine free and forgiving late fees, the number of minors returning to the library has doubled. This is a win/win because expensive materials are being returned to the collection for others to check out and young people are using the library again.

When Carol recently found out that KDL went fine-free, she was thrilled.

“I was like, ‘Hallelujah!’” Carol said. “KDL became my shining star.”

Carol had stopped her regular visits to the Kentwood Branch of KDL due to fines she accrued during a health challenge. Now that her fines are no longer an issue, Carol and her granddaughters are back. They check out books, hang out on rainy and snowy days, use the printer to print school projects, attend programs and the farmers market and chat with other patrons.

“KDL is more than just books,” Carol said. “It’s a great place to explore your life and interests.”

As a preschool teacher, I love having the bookmobile come and read to our students, offering them a variety of books to select and showing them that reading can be fun! It’s so important to show our preschoolers literacy early to help them connect the letters with words. This is preparing them for kindergarten as they begin to learn how to read.

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Since the bookmobile hit the road a year and a half ago, its travels have included:

- 516 visits to schools, community centers and attractions
- 31,619 visitors
- 13,157 miles
- 46,260 items borrowed

For a schedule of visits or to learn about having the bookmobile visit you, go to kdl.org/bookmobile.
June 21 is International Yoga Day, which celebrates the physical and spiritual prowess that yoga has brought to the world stage.

As we practice moving our bodies, each pose is linked to a breath that gives us something to come back to. Every time we notice or observe any discomfort, tight spaces, or metaphorical cobwebs in the body, this is where the practice truly begins. By simply breathing and noticing, we have the opportunity to practice letting the discomfort and thoughts be there without holding on so tight. And as we get curious about this process on the mat, we start to see changes off the mat too. That’s why it’s called yoga – to unite. To connect. To come back to you, without all the external noise around you.”

– Ashten, Wyoming Branch

Why is yoga important to our physical and mental health?

“Why is yoga important to our physical and mental health? Yoga links our breath to movement, which brings us into a state of mindfulness. Mindfulness helps to slow down the pace of our everyday lives and gives our brain a break from the hustle and bustle. The breathing in your yoga practice helps to calm your parasympathetic nervous system. This can lead to better focus, better rest at night and an overall feeling of zen. What do you have to lose?! ”

– Morgan, Plainfield Twp. Branch

You can check out our yoga-related videos anytime! Go to facebook.com/kentdistrictlibrary/videos and click on the “yoga” playlist.

Why do you support KDL?

“Why do you support KDL? A better educated society should be everyone’s goal. What better way is there to get educated than with the materials available through KDL? Whether it’s an adult having their mind broadened or a child learning the building blocks of reading, we will all benefit.”

– Randy Hansen, Centennial Securities

Randy Hansen is President, CEO and CFO of Centennial Securities, an independent financial services firm. He took a few minutes to answer some of our questions about the causes he supports and his latest recommended read.

Why do you enjoy attending the Literary Libations Gala?

“A better educated society should be everyone’s goal. What better way is there to get educated than with the materials available through KDL? Whether it’s an adult having their mind broadened or a child learning the building blocks of reading, we will all benefit.”

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What other causes are also important to you and why?

Centennial is involved with several different community events/charitable organizations including most notably the Grand Rapids Griffins Griffins Youth Foundation, Pursuing a Dream Foundation, Blandford Nature Center, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Kids Food Basket and Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding. All of these organizations fill a need or gap in our community and we’re proud to be associated with their missions.

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What are you reading right now?

I just finished a book by Mitch Albom entitled The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto. I thought it was amazing since I listen to the audio version of books because of my commute time. It had a full cast of characters and was truly entertaining.… plus the journey it took me on was wonderful. Most of my books are spy/ crime thrillers like Vince Flynn’s Mitch Rapp series or John Sandford’s Prey series.

Randy Hansen, Centennial Securities

Centennial Securities Company has been a sponsor of the Literary Libations Gala since its inception in 2015 and has been the Presenting Sponsor since 2016. Their generous and faithful partnership has provided the foundation for the success of this annual gala and directly supported KDL’s programming and outreach.
Staff Picks

The Poetry Remedy: Prescriptions for the Heart, Mind, and Soul edited by William Sieghart

“This is an amazing book of literature and poetry. Everyone will find a passage that appeals to them! My favorite poem is “Thinking,” which says in part, “If you think you are eaten, you are. If you think you dare not, you don’t.” This compilation will warm your soul!” – Robin, Information Substitute

The Three-Body Problem by Liu Cixin

“This is pretty hard-core science fiction, except that it’s not completely apparent until the last hundred pages. The Cultural Revolution in China is woven throughout the book, with groups rising up in dissent over theories of astrophysics. Say what? Right. The way that the story unfolds plays with concepts of time, with a breadcrumb trail that converges at the end. All we know for sure is that someone is coming to Earth. Even though the story resolves, it was unexpectedly thrust onto the national stage. It openly shares her last hundred pages. The Cultural Revolution in China is woven throughout the book, with groups rising up in dissent over theories of astrophysics. Say what? Right. The way that the story unfolds plays with concepts of time, with a breadcrumb trail that converges at the end. All we know for sure is that someone is coming to Earth. Even though the story resolves, it was unexpectedly thrust onto the national stage. It openly shares her last hundred pages. 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One Day at HorrorLand by R.L. Stine

“A favorite from my days in elementary school, this classic R.L. Stine title was not as terrifying as I had remembered. The plus side is that I didn’t have to sleep in my parents’ bed for an entire week after reading it this time around.” – David at the KDL Service Center

Betty Ford: First Lady, Women’s Advocate, Survivor, Trailblazer by Lisa McCubbin

“This is an encouraging and interesting biography of a woman who was unexpectedly thrust onto the national stage. It openly shares her struggles and what she went through to overcome them.” – MaryBeth, Information Substitute

Lovely War by Julie Berry

“This story is sort of a blend of horror, thriller and musing on the mundane joy of caring for small children. As a parent of a toddler and a baby, I read it at the perfect time because her language and descriptions of parenting ring so true. But even if you aren’t a parent, the tension around the plot is also very compelling and makes it a fascinating, creepy ride.” – Anna at East Grand Rapids

Coronavirus Changes Connections, Collaboration and Coffee

From the desk of David Specht, KDL Digital Marketing Strategist

Daily Schedule:
8:00 AM – Wake up
8:05 AM – Turn on laptop
8:10 AM – Think about how I should brew coffee
8:15 AM – Respond to the morning’s emails
8:45 AM – Realize I still haven’t brewed coffee
9:15 AM – Hear my partner frantically roll out of bed and ask me why I didn’t wake her up
9:30 AM – Finally brew coffee (mainly because my partner has requested it)
10:00 AM – Take my dog, Ripley, outside
10:30 AM – Realize that it is somehow not 10:30 AM, but is in fact already 5:15 PM. (Where did the day go? Was that large mug of black coffee actually a large black hole?)
6:00 PMish – Switch from my “work stool” at the breakfast bar to my post-work spot on the sofa. (The work stool will be revisited a minimum of three times throughout the evening. It’s tough to leave your “office” when it’s three feet from your couch.)

But as physically comfortable as the home office might be, the first few days weren’t so comfortable mentally. Even though I was waking up with my regular alarm, powering up my laptop and connecting with my team, it made me anxious to not be heading to the office. I truly felt like I was doing something wrong. Perhaps it was the uncertainty. The not knowing what the future held and not having any

Continued on page 12
control over it. I’ve been an employee at KDL for over four years now, and the thought of no longer being a part of that family – or worse yet, that family being dissolved completely and all of my teammates losing their jobs – was difficult to shake from my mind. Even with the words of reassurance from management, hearing so many other organizations furloughing and letting go of their workforce was enough to keep me on edge. And I was concerned for my loved ones – their livelihood, their health, their stress. I still am. You probably are, too. And while the thought of the entire world battling a pandemic can be stressful and overwhelming, knowing that we’re all in this together is comforting. It helps to know that you’re not alone. And the work being carried out by my colleagues – from live streaming yoga storytimes to collecting greeting cards to deliver to senior centers – has, I think, helped our patrons know that they aren’t alone either.

I think in a way being apart has actually brought us closer. Had you told me a few months back that I would miss meetings, or that I would miss the slightly burnt coffee that I reluctantly dump into my cup each day around 3:30 PM, I would’ve shot you a look of confusion. But I miss my desk, my team, my home away from home. Over the last few weeks, I’ve had the chance to connect and collaborate with so many members of staff with whom I’d hardly interacted with since starting at KDL. Up until now, there weren’t many reasons that our paths would cross. Now, I’ve had hour-long phone calls to brainstorm a project and left the conversations feeling like I gained a new teammate and a new friend. We’re working together to get through this and I think we’ll all be better for it in the end. KDL’s Executive Director, Lance Werner, will often say that KDL is here to “help people be the best versions of themselves.” And I think that is truer now more than ever. Not only for our patrons, the phrase is traditionally interpreted, but for us employees, too.

Branch Hours

At the time of printing, all libraries are closed to the public. We’re hoping to be open soon and are eager to see you when we reopen, we expect to resume regular hours of operation. For the latest updates, visit kdl.org/coronavirus.