

# GARDEN CITY LIBRARY FOUNDATION HERALD

## SPRING CALENDAR

**April 29 - May 6, 2021**

**Please support us through Idaho Gives at [www.idahogives.org](http://www.idahogives.org)**

## 2021 BASH FOR BOOKS

Watch for upcoming details about this year's **Bash for Books!** Thank you to the following organizations that have already committed to be our sponsors:

- Idaho Central Credit Union
- Idaho Power
- Intermountain Gas
- Mountain America Credit Union
- Republic Services
- Western Building Maintenance



## GET READY TO LOVE LEARNING

For the next six weeks, children participating in the Garden City Public Library's Kindergarten Readiness Program (KGR) will have a lot to look forward to on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Miss Amanda will greet them with her warm smile and enthusiastic disposition, which will signal an upcoming hour of fun. During one class this week the children stuck out their tongues to imitate an iguana, replicated the arm movements of the Macarena as they recited the months of the year, and coaxed out the shy Mail Mouse puppet with a song. While they were enjoying the activities and the company of Miss Amanda and their new friends, however, they were also acquiring important academic and social skills.

Two and half years ago as she prepared to begin teaching the KGR program at the Garden City Public Library, staff member Amanda Berardinelli watched hours of early childhood instructional videos and interviewed kindergarten teachers in the area prior to developing her curriculum. Recognizing letter names and sounds and writing are the literacy skills children most need for success in kindergarten, so her lessons emphasize these skills. During each class her puppet Mail Mouse assists Miss Amanda by delivering several colored envelopes, each containing a new letter and a picture of something, usually an animal, that begins with that letter. Using sight, sound and movement, the students interact with each letter by determining whether the upper and lower case forms are the same or different and repeating the sound the letter makes as they imitate the animal whose name begins with the new letter.

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**GARDEN CITY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION**

## BOARD MEMBER REQUEST

We need committed board members!

For an application form please email us at

**[gcpl.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:gcpl.foundation@gmail.com)**

**subject: Board Application**

## DONOR APPRECIATION

We are deeply grateful to our donors for contributing \$9,000 towards this year's Annual Appeal! You can still donate at **[gardencitypubliclibraryfoundation.wildapricot.org/Donate](http://gardencitypubliclibraryfoundation.wildapricot.org/Donate)**

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The latest news and updates from your favorite library foundation

## LOVE LEARNING CONTINUED

Students also learn a new shape, color and number each day and practice raising their hands, taking turns and interacting with their classmates. A craft project, usually one of the favorite activities of the day, enables students to learn to use scissors, another important skill they will need in the coming years. At one of this week's sessions the students listened to a self-affirming book before completing a worksheet that required them to write their names and identify a favorite animal and book. The day wrapped up with students using a paper bag, string, glue and crayons to create a puppet of themselves. After bidding them farewell in a good-bye song, Miss Amanda enticed the children to join her next week for another really fun topic: insects!



The KGR Program is one of the many programs sponsored by the Garden City Public Library Foundation. The six-week sessions are ongoing throughout the year and prepare over 100 children for kindergarten. Despite the logistical and technical challenges, the KGR program moved seamlessly to

a virtual format this year, and the occasional appearance of a sibling or a pet doesn't seem to affect the students' concentration or joy. The Idaho Commission for Libraries supplies graduating students with a backpack full of books and games in recognition of their first step on a journey of life-long learning.

## BUILDING AN EARLY FOUNDATION OF LITERACY



The ability to read well has a profound effect upon children's lives and not just upon their academic lives. Reading fluently enables children to acquire knowledge in all subjects, improves concentration and builds critical thinking skills, but reading also fosters imagination and empathy and even lowers levels of stress. The benefits of reading last a lifetime, but the time to develop reading skills and engender a love of reading is quite short and begins well before children start school.

With this in mind, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) in conjunction with the Garden City Public Library offers a program to promote literacy in children from birth to kindergarten, particularly in children who are less likely to have books in their own homes. Each month for nine months library staff members deliver one book for each child in the kindergarten and preschool programs at local schools: Whittier Elementary, Pierce Park Elementary, Shadow Hills Elementary and the Boise's Head Start Program. In total, the staff delivers almost 200 books each month.

Rachel Worthington, the library's My First Books liaison, makes a 20-minute, virtual visit to each classroom each month. She reads a couple of books to the children and teaches them rhymes and songs, experiences which bolster their enjoyment of stories and language. An important aspect of the program is allowing children to build their very own libraries and encouraging them to read their books to their younger siblings. In addition, each month the ICFL sends a newsletter with suggestions to encourage early literacy to the parents of all participating children. The My First Books Program is yet another way the Garden City Public Library serves our community.