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COLLECTIONS

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By Popular Demand~

Our patrons have asked... and we've listened! By popular demand the library is pleased to announce it's newest collection addition....

MÁNGO!

MÁNGO is a web-based foreign language learning software that you will be able to access from home as well as from the library. Interested in learning French? Spanish? Farsi? German? You can! How about Chinese? Japanese? Hebrew? Library patrons will be able to access more than twenty different languages. Fifteen English Second Language programs are also available.

"It's simple and fun to use," remarks library director, Gayle Roberts. "Mango has replaced Rosetta Stone at many universities and libraries."

MÁNGO teaches conversational skills, grammar skills and offers cultural traveling information. It's simplicity and self paced learning program has created excitement in the learning community. Library Journal states "this web-based language learning program...is intuitively designed."

The New York Public Library recognized **MÁNGO** by placing it on their Best Reference list.

For those younger language learners, the library is acquiring **Little Pim** dvds and flash cards; along with a new set of beginning language dictionaries.

MÁNGO will be available through the library website beginning November 18th. The **Little Pim** materials are arriving daily and will be available for

check out through the Toy Library.



Funding for the foreign language materials is provided by the Blair Public Library Foundation.



Community Collaborations~

Public libraries serve communities in many different ways. The Blair Public Library supports community connections and activities whenever possible. We believe in collaboration.

During this past year, we held a community service day where over 40 fleece blankets and dog toys were made; we've partnered

with the Crisis Center, YCAT, a local girl scout troop, Livewise40, and the Blair Community Schools to bring books and literacy materials to both those in need and those who are young.

During October, you might have noticed a silent witness in our entryway; a temporary display by the Crisis Center. We presently

have a donation box for gently used or new coats, hats, mittens and gloves. All donations are welcomed, and will be appreciated as the weather cools.

Do you have an idea of how we can help serve the community? Need a collaborator on a project? Give us a shout; we'd love to help!

Sugar Plum~

The Friends of the Library and the Blair Public Library Staff invite you to some Sugar Plum fun this coming November 18th!

Stop in for some hot apple cider (or cold if you prefer) and some scrumptious home made cookies and bars. Then visit our new book sale! The library received a large donation of new books, and they'll be offered at 20% the list price. The sale features new children's books, adult fiction and

cookbooks. These books will make great holiday gifts, and they're at the right price!

A fun, seasonal craft will be available for our younger patrons to make. "We love for the kids to have fun!" states Amy Larsen, BPL's Children's Librarian. Several tables will be set up in the youth area to accommodate the evening's crowd.

Information tables will also be set up for the Blair Public Library Foundation and The

Blair Public Library Friends. Patrons can visit with representatives of these entities and learn about volunteer and fund raising opportunities. JoEllen Maras, the Friends membership chairman, is anxious to meet some new members! "We have a strong Friends group, but we'd love having more people join. The Friends group is a wonderful way to support the library in its mission to produce quality programming for the community." Yearly memberships are available for \$5.00 a year; and lifetime memberships are available for \$75.00.



Some Sugar Plum fun in 2009

The Internet
Is only
Cliff Notes
For the
Library.

Sharaud Moore,
Freedom Writer



The Biggest Reader~

Will you be the BIGGEST READER this winter?

Our winter reading program begins December 20th and concludes on February 1st. Be "THE BIGGEST READER" this winter and win!

"The program is a fun way to beat the winter blues," comments director Gayle Roberts. "Wouldn't it be fun if we read a "ton" of books?"

Sign up is easy and can be completed at the front desk within minutes. Participants will be asked to fill out a short form with their name and age group checked.



From then on, a scale will be available at the desk to "weigh" the books you read. When books are turned in, a slip of paper will be filled out with the weight of the books read. Staff will track all totals and post updates on the total poundage.

The "BIGGEST READER" of each age group will win a fun surprise. Be sure to stop by the week of December 20th to sign up. Remember, the MORE pounds the BETTER!

BOOK CLUBS~

Read! Read! We all love to read, but it's even more fun to discuss what you're reading!

The Blair Public Library book club meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The club is currently reading *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. If you're interested in reading along with the club,

stop in and pick up a copy of the book!

Want to start your own book club? Are you currently in a club? Visit with us about the books you want to read. Along with our own book club kits, we can borrow kits from Bellevue Public Library, The Nebraska Library Commission

and the Eastern Library System (to name a few).

Popular titles right now include *The Help*; *Tallgrass*; *Sarah's Key*; *Water for Elephants*; *Outside Valentine*; *The River Wife*; *The North River*; *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*; *The Friday Night Knitting Club*; and *Still Alice*.

Collection Connections~

AUDIO BOOKS! Our newest shipment of audio books has arrived. New fiction, juvenile fiction, non-fiction and young adult titles are available.

Do you know about **OVERDRIVE?**

If you check our webpage, you'll find an icon that directs you to **Overdrive**. Over 4,500 audio book titles are available for you to download onto CD, use on your MP3 players, or iPods. E-books are now available as well. Check out **Overdrive** today!

PUZZLE SWAP!

It's easy, it's fun .. And it's FREE! You'll find jigsaw puzzles for all ages in our swap area (over by the audio books). The rules are simple: take a puzzle, bring a puzzle.

If you take a puzzle, and it has a missing piece, please don't bring it back. Jigsaw puzzles are great entertainment, but frustrating when you don't have all the pieces!

COOKIE CUTTERS!

Whether you're celebrating National Cookie Day or baking cookies for fun, you'll enjoy our new cookie cutter selection.

Beginning December 1st, you can check out cookie cutters of all shapes and sizes! Ask for details at the Circulation Desk.

CDs!

Did you know the library has music CDs that you can check out and enjoy? With our upcoming CD additions, try some new tunes!



Check out our newest craft magazine. It's full of fun!

After School Activities~

Kids ages 8 and above are welcome to join Miss Wendy on Thursday afternoons at 4:00 pm for some after school activities. (Don't worry, siblings of all ages are welcome — you know us, we won't turn anyone away!).

Each week, kids might learn a new craft skill, try out a science experiment, or even play with puppets and create stories. You never

know what Miss Wendy might have up her sleeve.

"I try to find interesting and creative things to explore," claims Miss Wendy. "Being creative helps kids escape the learning mode. It gives them some fun after studying all week."

Past projects this year include edible Halloween art, string art, and

ceramic bank painting. "Every day I'm finding something new I want to try out!" states Miss Wendy with her enthusiastic smile.

Participants should be prepared to stay at least until 4:30 pm, but some projects have been so much fun, kids have been creative until 5:00 pm!

After School Activities are open to the public and free of charge.

Story Time Fun~

Here are a few pics to share from our Halloween Hoopla and our recent story times. Story times are Monday and Thursday at 10:30 am. Special story times are centered around holidays or special events. Join us on November 18th and 22nd at 10:30 am for our Thanksgiving themed story times, and on December 16th at 6:30 for our holiday story time.



AT A GLANCE

Contact Information

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November:

Toddler Time, 10:30 am: 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd
Story Times, 10:30 am: 4th, 11th, 18th
After School Activities, 4:00 pm: 4th, 11th, 18th
Book Club, 7:00 pm: 16th (*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*)

Sugar Plum: 18th

CLOSED: November 25th, 26th, 29th and 30th

December:

Toddler Time, 10:30 am: 6th, 13th
Story Times, 10:30 am: 2nd, 9th, 16th
Holiday Story Time, 6:30 pm: 16th
After School Activities, 4:00 pm: 2nd, 9th, 16th
Book Club, 7:00 pm: 28th (*Tallgrass*)

CLOSED: December 24th, 25th and 31st

CHECK US OUT!

www.blairpubliclibrary.com

Just for Fun~

\$5 TRIVIA CHALLENGE

**What true life character
is Stieg Larsson's
Lisbeth Salander
loosely based on?**

Email us your answer @
mail.BlairPublicLibrary.com

Or

Leave a note at the front
desk.

(this month's question
supplied by Janice LaPlante)

HOLIDAY SWAP

Tired of your old holiday décor? Starting December 1st, a decoration swap table will be set-up at the library for the month of December. Bring items to swap and go home with some "new" treasures!

(items may be dropped off
anytime during Nov-Dec)



LOCK IN ALERT

JANUARY 29th

Our patrons, ages 8 and above, will be invited to an overnight stay at the Blair Public Library Lodge.

Sign up begins January 10th.

Preregistration is required due to space limitations.

30 participants may attend; sign up is first come, first serve.

More information available in our next newsletter