Joining the Project LIT Community

In an issue of this newsletter back in June, I discussed antiracism and shared some resources, as well as recommending reading. However, reading isn’t enough. In order to be an antiracist, in order to promote and nurture equity, inclusion and social justice, one must learn, change, grow and act – you have to do the work.

And we are doing it.

First, I am so proud to announce that the Library has become a Project LIT Community chapter. We have joined a group of over 1000 chapters across 48 states, but we are one of only a very few chapters based in public libraries (most are school-based). Find out more about Project LIT Community here, as well as find the annual Project LIT Community reading lists.

Project LIT Community is: “a national, grassroots literacy movement, a team of dedicated educators and students who work together to… EMPOWER our students as readers, writers, and leaders… PROMOTE a love of reading… NURTURE authentic reading identities by increasing access to high-quality books, building community, and fostering a sense of belonging… CHAMPION young people and books that reflect their lived realities, communities, and identities… READ, DISCUSS, AND CELEBRATE books that make our students feel seen, heard, affirmed, and valued… AMPLIFY voices and stories of students and educators of color… REWRITE the narrative about which texts and authors are deemed worthy of academic study… [and] PROVIDE students with as many positive literacy experiences as possible.”

Continuing in this vein of programs and services, I am so excited to share two amazing programs the Library will be hosting in October. A big thank you to the White Plains Library Foundation for supporting these programs!

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.: Raising Race Conscious Kids Workshop
Sachi Feris, of Raising Race Conscious Children, will help parents and caregivers become more comfortable discussing race with young children. “In this workshop, you will develop confidence to talk about race with young children, practice various strategies to proactively talk about race with young children, and strengthen children’s ability to become a change-maker.” Look for resources, recommended reading and more information to come over the next few weeks in preparation for this workshop.
Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.: In Conversation with National Book Award winner Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

National Book Award winner Dr. Ibram X. Kendi will be in conversation to discuss his work on antiracism. Leading up to the event, take part in our community read - One Book, One White Plains. We will be reading his book with Jason Reynolds, Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You: a Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning, as well as NYT Bestseller, How To Be An Antiracist. More information on these discussions to come soon.

Consider this the beginning of a series of programs that will engage the White Plains in conversation, tackle tough topics, and hopefully make us, and the community, all a little better. Expect book discussion groups revolving around Project Lit titles; blog posts to share resources, reading and topics to think about; as well as future workshops and presentations.

Take care,

Josh Carlson
Manager of Youth Services
jcarlson@whiteplainslibrary.org

Remember, you can always reply to this email or reach me on Twitter.

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September Teen Book Group

On Friday, September 11th, we'll discuss Dumplin' by Julie Murphy. Find out more and register here.
Peculiar Picks

Behind Closed Doors
Fox and Chick

Ms. Ashley Recommends

Amazing Audiobooks for Kids Part 3
Great Graphic Novels for Kids Part 3

Trove StoryWalk:
The World is Waiting for You

Get ready to explore the world as you take a walk along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and the Library Plaza. We also have kits that contain a list of suggested STEAM activities along with a craft. Families can pick up these kits from the vestibule on the first floor of the library while supplies last. Find out more here.
Back to School

Back to School Books from Ms. Tata

Parenting: New School Year & Homeschooling from Ms. Lauren

Homeschooling Reading List from Ms. Lauren

Steffi Nossen Fall Schedule

Storybook dancing returns this fall on select Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. See our website for the full schedule.

This program is supported by the White Plains Library Foundation.

STEAM at Home Projects

Recent projects have included balloon rockets, origami structures, and how to make your own ice cream! New projects each week.
NYPL's Essential Reads on Feminism. The 19th Amendment turned 100 on August 18. NYPL celebrated with reading lists, digital collections and other online resources for Adults, Teens and Kids.

San Diego State University Library presents "Anti-racism & Educators as Allies – A Virtual Children’s Literature Exhibit"

How to Diversify Your Toybox

How To Protect Children's Eyes During Remote Learning

8 Tips to Help You Become a More Organized Parent

8 Insightful Picture Books to Help Kids Cope with Anxiety

2020 Children’s and Teen Choice Book Awards Finalists Revealed

Black Lives Matter Stencil Making and Artist Tijay Mohammed

Tips to Help Parents and Caregivers Best Support Remote Learning
**Photo of the Week**

*Left:* Ruby celebrating after winning a Summer Reading Basket from the Library!
Photo by Melissa.