October 29, 2020

Happy Halloween!

It's almost Halloween. Like everything else in 2020, it will be different this year. Perhaps you, like my wife and I, have decided to not do traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating. Instead, we're opting for a day filled with at home activities including some on-theme baking, crafts and some spooky fun, perhaps a movie. I've compiled a list of Halloween At Home ideas for decorating, snacks, activities, and more for a day that will be terrific.

Also, throughout the month of October, we have been sharing ideas for petrifying projects and hair-raising reads, such as:

- STEAM at Home: Puking Pumpkins
- Dancing Zombies – make your zombie, then throw on “Thriller” from my Spooky Dance Party mix
- Pumpkin Garland
- Check out some ghoulishly good books!
  - Halloween Reads – from picture books to teen titles
  - Peculiar Picks: Spooky Reads
  - Reads Revisited: John Bellairs. I revisit some spooky chapter books from my childhood.
- After the kids go to bed, have a scary grown-up movie night. Our Adult Services librarians have recommended some great horrific films.

No matter what you do, I'm sure you will have skeletons of fun!

Take care,

Josh Carlson
Manager of Youth Services

Always feel free to reach out to me at jcarlson@whiteplainslibrary.org or on Twitter.
I’d love to see some pictures of your Halloween activities!
The Library will now feature a variety of **Grab&Go Kits** that families can take home to enjoy. Librarians in the Trove and Edge are compiling several types of kits that will provide families with wonderful opportunities to unplug and engage in activities that stir the imagination and provide at-home learning and fun. Kits will be available in our lobby **while supplies last**.

The talented and extremely funny **Jester Jim** performed live for the Library on Saturday, October 10, juggling knives!, fire!, toilet plungers?! while leaving attendees laughing and amazed. In order to extend the experience so that more White Plains community members could see the show, Jim graciously allowed us to share the recording of the show. **Check it out right here**, anytime you want! **This program was supported by the White Plains Library Foundation.**

Our **Day of the Dead / Día de los Muertos** virtual altar exhibit is now **on display here**. If you missed the community performances put on last weekend to celebrate the holiday, you can view the recorded holiday, **here**.

It’s an understatement to say that 2020 has been an unusually stressful year so far. This is the perfect time to draw on **Mindfulness Practices**, a teen program we’ve previously done both on Zoom and in the Library. With school back in session, we thought another scheduled Zoom meeting might not be the best way to help teens (and adults) relax. Instead, we’re offering a series of three **recorded Mindfulness sessions** with yoga and Mindfulness educator Cristina Ortiz. **This program is supported by the White Plains Library Foundation.**
In the new column **Reads Revisited**, librarians revisit books from their childhood. **Ashley re-reads** *The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke and **Josh reopens** *The House with the Clock in Its Walls and The Curse of the Blue Figurine* by John Bellairs after thirty-ish years.

Josh recommends some **graphic novels** featuring diverse creators and characters.

Take a look at our schedule of fall **events for younger kids** [here](#). We’re offering storytime on select dates, and several great music and dance programs.

**Peculiar Picks:**
- **National Dictionary Day**
- **Spooky Reads**
- **No-Shave November**

**Celebrations and Observances in November**
New Books in the Trove and Edge.

STEAM at Home

New projects posted weekly! Recent projects have included: Exploring Leaves, making Flying Dragons, Fireworks in a Jar, programming a Human Robot, and Nature Bracelets.

Around the Web

Eight podcasts for kids craving scary stories.

100+ virtual Halloween events your little ghosts and goblins will love.

CMOM at Home – Parenting in Place. Videos featuring advice and tips from experts in child development, psychology, health and more.

With stress in schools increasing, Edutopia has some simple strategies to stay calm.

Photo of The Week