ITASCA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

WINTER 2026-27

DECEMBER - FEBRUARY



INFORMATION. COMMUNITY. LEARNING.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration is required for most programs. Please visit itascalibrary.org for additional information and registration.

A Look Back at the Iroquois Theater Fire (on Zoom)

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

Through powerful storytelling, historic imagery, and thoughtful context, this program examines the 1903 tragedy that forever changed fire safety standards in theaters and public spaces. We are pleased to provide this program with the support of some of our neighboring libraries.

Deck the Gifts: Gift Wrapping Drop-In

Saturday, December 5, 10:00-4:00 p.m.

Wrap up the holidays at the library! We'll set out a merry mix of wrapping paper, bows, and tags so you can tackle your gift wrapping in a cheerful, stress-free space. Bring your gifts and enjoy some holiday spirit while you wrap!

Needle Felted Avocado Magnets



Saturday, January 9, 2:00 p.m.

Learn to create an adorable avocado friend using wool and needle felting techniques. Please be advised that we will be using sharp utensils for this project. Itasca residents ages 18 and up only, please.

Puzzle Race

Wednesday, January 13, 6:00 p.m.

Ready, set, puzzle! Team up with 2–4 people and race against the clock to complete a 500-piece puzzle in just two hours. Work together, find the pieces, and see if your team can be the first to finish. The winning team will take home a prize!

Paper Flower Workshop for Adults

Tuesday, February 2, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Did you enjoy our floral decorations for summer reading? Learn how to craft your own colorful flowers using crepe paper and wire! Each participant will get to make and take home an oversized flower of their own. Itasca residents only.
Please note there will be a separate session for teens.

Valentine's Day Flower Arranging

Thursday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.

Create your own Valentine's flowers for yourself or someone special using holiday-colored mixed flowers in a cute Valentine container. All materials are included–just bring a pair of garden pruners or shears. Itasca residents only.

Brush Pen Calligraphy



Wednesday, February 10, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Discover the art of modern brush lettering in this beginner-friendly, hands-on workshop! You'll learn foundational strokes and techniques, then take home your own brush pen to keep practicing. Itasca residents only.

ILP ILLINOIS LIBRARIES PRESENT

Funny on Purpose with Sasheer Zamata

Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.

Known for her four seasons on *Saturday Night Live*, Zamata has built a career defined by sharp humor, thoughtful storytelling, and memorable performances across television, film, and stand-up comedy. In this engaging conversation, Zamata will discuss her creative journey, the evolving landscape of comedy, and how humor can create space for connection and conversation. Sasha-Ann Simons, an award-winning journalist, news anchor, and talk show host, will join Sasheer Zamata in conversation.

Navigating Hallowed Ground with David Grann

Thursday, February 18, 7:00 p.m.

David Grann is an author and journalist whose bestselling titles include *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, and *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder*. Grann's work dives into bizarre and often violent moments in history, making them feel immediate and interesting while still showing how they fit into the larger historical picture. Daniel Zalewski, Executive Editor of The New Yorker, will join David Grann in conversation.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Crafters Anonymous

1st Thursday of the month: December 3, January 7, and February 4
4th Wednesday of the month: December 23, January 27, and February 24

Everyone who does handwork and wants to share time with other crafty people is welcome to join this fun, casual get-together. Bring whatever you're working on! No registration is needed.

Trivia Night

2nd Tuesday of the month: December 8, January 12, and February 9

Compete with your team of up to six people for a chance to win prizes. A reservation at Fox and Turtle is highly encouraged.

Dungeons & Dragons

Saturdays: December 26, January 9, and February 27
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Drop in for a monthly Dungeons & Dragons adventure! Each Saturday session is self-contained, so you can join whenever you're available without committing to every month. All experience levels are welcome. 18 years and up.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration is required for most programs. Please visit itascalibrary.org for additional information and registration.

WINTER JAZZ MUSIC SERIES

Join us at the library for a special three-month jazz series this December, January, and February. Enjoy live jazz in a warm, welcoming setting, with wine served throughout the evening. Come relax, listen, and enjoy an evening of great music and good company. This series is generously sponsored by the Itasca Bank & Trust Co.

Chris White Jazz Trio performs *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.

Petra Sings, Andy Swings
Tuesday, January 5, 6:30 p.m.

Swing 33
Thursday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.



Take & Make Crafts for Adults

A new craft kit for adults will be available on the 15th of each month.

Book a Librarian

Need a computer lesson or one-on-one tech help? Itasca cardholders can make a one-hour appointment with a librarian to get the help they need at their convenience. It's like having a personalized session just for you! Call the library or email adultservices@itascalibrary.org to make an appointment.

Book Club Assistance

Are you part of a book club and need multiple copies for your next discussion? We've got you covered! We can provide the books you need, along with personalized recommendations and helpful tips to make your club meetings even better. Ask for more details at the Adult Desk.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Beyond the Library

7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month at Fox & Turtle Restaurant, Itasca Country Club

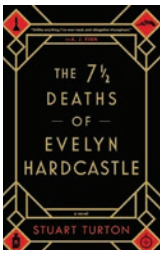
December 14: *One Summer: America, 1927* by Bill Bryson
January: No meeting. Happy New Year!
February 8: *Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury

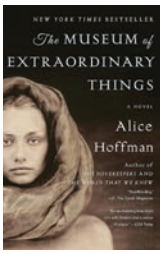




Evening

7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month
December 29: NO MEETING
January 26: *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton
February 23: *The Museum of Extraordinary Things* by Alice Hoffman





Friends of the Library

Love the library like we do? Join the Friends of the Itasca Community Library! All you need to do is check out the sign-up form found on the library's website. It's that easy. We'll keep you updated with what we're doing along with volunteer opportunities. What a perfect time to become a member!

The Friends of the Itasca Community Library is a non-profit that helps support the library's work. The group meets on the first Tuesday of every other month, and the next meeting is on January 5 at 7:00 p.m.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Registration is required for the following programs, except where noted. A separate registration is needed for programs with multiple sessions. Please call 630-773-1699 or visit itascalibrary.org for additional information and registration.

FOR AGES 6 AND YOUNGER

Doodlebugs (Geared to ages 2-5 with a caregiver)
Wednesdays, December 2, January 6, and February 3
10:00-10:30 a.m.
Little fingers will experiment with painting, gluing, sticking, cutting, and creating. Dress for a mess!

Drop-In Baby Time (Geared to ages 0-18 months with a caregiver)
Thursdays, December 3 & 17, January 7 & 21, and February 4 & 18
9:30-10:00 a.m.
We'll share stories and songs perfect for little ones! No registration is needed.

Drop-In Family Storytime (Geared to ages 6 & under)
Mondays, December 7-21 & January 4-February 1, 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Join us for stories, songs, and more. No registration is needed.

Baby Mozart (0-18 months with a caregiver)
Tuesday, December 8, 6:30-7:00 p.m.
Explore all types of music including classical, folk, and traditional nursery rhymes. We'll read a book and make a keepsake craft using your baby's handprints, all while enjoying music to inspire movement and captivate joyful little minds.

Little Builders (Geared to ages 2-6 with a caregiver)
Tuesday, January 19, 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Build with MAGNA-TILES, KEVA planks, Mega Bloks, and other blocks we have in the library. Make new friends and have a build-tastic time!

STEAM Stories (Ages 4-8 with a caregiver)
Thursdays, January 28 and February 25, 4:15-5:00 p.m.
It's STEM with art! Come listen to a story on a STEM topic and complete a simple art project and activities all around the theme of the day.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Geared to ages 3-Grade 4)
Friday, February 12, 2:00-2:30 p.m.
Pick up your stuffies on Saturday, February 13 after 10 a.m.
You can't spend the night at the library, but your stuffed animal can! Bring your stuffed friend to a special storytime on Friday, then leave your stuffie at the library for an overnight sleepover full of fun and hijinks. In the morning, you can pick up your stuffy starting at 10 a.m. and see photos of their adventures!

Music and Movement Storytime (Geared to ages 1-5 with a caregiver)
Friday, February 19, 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Get ready to move and groove to the music at this active storytime.





DUPAGE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM EXHIBITS-TO-GO

All ages

February 1-28

We're bringing the magic of the DuPage Children's Museum to the library! Come play with fun exhibits provided by the museum that will spark curiosity, creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration through hands-on experience. We will have a different exhibit each week of the month, and no registration is needed. Exhibits will close 15 minutes before the library closes each day. This program is sponsored by a generous donation from the Friends of the Library.

February 1-7: Grippies (Geared to ages 18 months+)
February 8-14: Giant Tinker Toys (Geared to ages 3+)
February 15-21: Wind Tube (Geared to ages 4+)
February 22-28: Glow Rods (Geared to all ages)





FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Stories and Sketches (Grades 1-5)
Thursdays, December 10, January 14, and February 11
4:15-5:00 p.m.
Listen to part of a graphic novel and then learn how to draw something creative or cute!

STEM Explorers with Lake Park's WiSTEM (Grades 3-7)
Mondays, December 14, January 11, and February 8, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Come learn about a different STEM concept each month with engaging hands-on activities that both demonstrate the concept and build important critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Provided by a partnership between Lake Park's Women in STEM and the Library.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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LEGO Winter Wonderland (All Ages)
Tuesday, December 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Are you a LEGO master? Come spin our theme wheel to receive a wintry challenge and show off your brick building skills. Finished LEGO creations get to be displayed in the library.

Snowed In Escape Room (For families)
Monday, December 28, Choose one session: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., or 2:00 p.m.
Show off your puzzle-solving skills to open a series of locks and beat the winter-themed escape room in time. Sign up for one half-hour time slot for up to 6 people.

Minecraft Club (Grades 2-6)
Tuesdays, December 29, January 19, and February 23, 4:15-5:30 p.m.
Join our Minecraft Club to make friends, collaborate, and complete challenges together in the library's shared world. Bring your own device or play on one of our laptops! If you're new to Minecraft, we'll help you get started.

We will have a limited number of laptops available on a first-come, first-served basis. To make sure everyone gets to play, please bring your own laptop, tablet, or handheld console, along with your Minecraft login information. If you're playing on your Switch, you'll also need a membership to Nintendo Switch Online.

Paper Airplane Tournament (Grades K-5)
Wednesday, December 30, 10:00-10:45 a.m.
Let your creativity take flight! Learn the art of folding different paper airplanes and test your airplane creations in a series of exciting challenges. No experience needed!

Kid Inventors' Day (Grades K-5)
Saturday, January 2, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Did you know popsicles and Braille were invented by kids? What could you dream up? Join us for a brainstorming session and time to draw out your ideas. Take a snack break and come back to work on a prototype of your invention.

Rock Painting: Culinary Edition (Grades K-5)
Tuesday, January 12, 4:15-5:00 p.m.
Paint smooth river rocks to look like different foods! Painted rocks are perfect for imaginative play or in a mud kitchen.

WINTER CARNIVAL

For families

Saturday, January 16, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Drop by the library for some cozy indoor fun at our fourth annual Winter Carnival! Enjoy games, crafts, and prize drawings, along with an Elephant & Piggie Meet & Greet from 1:30-2:45 p.m. and a family concert featuring Istvan & His Imaginary Band from 3:00-3:45 p.m. Registration is not required, but you can register if you'd like a reminder email.





YOUTH PROGRAMS

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Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Geared to ages 3-Grade 4)
Friday, February 12, 2:00-2:30 p.m
Pick up your stuffies on Saturday, February 13 after 10 a.m.
You can't spend the night at the library, but your stuffed animal can! Bring your stuffed friend to a special storytime on Friday, then leave your stuffie at the library for an overnight sleepover full of fun and hijinks. In the morning, you can pick up your stuffy starting at 10 a.m. and see photos of their adventures!

Family BINGO (All Ages)
Tuesday, February 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Join us for a lively night of BINGO! The rules change each round, and there are plenty of opportunities to win fun prizes.

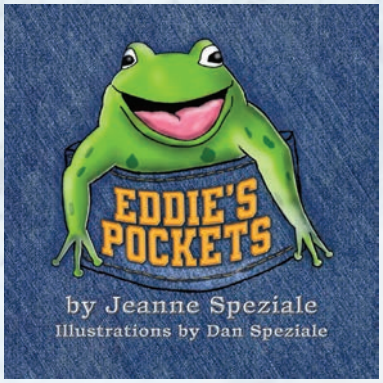
Painting Pop-In (All Ages)
Friday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Drop in anytime between 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to paint your own ceramic shark bank. No registration is needed, and while supplies last.

YOUTH NEWS

WINTER READING CHALLENGE: BEAR-Y YOURSELF IN A GOOD BOOK!

Monday, December 14 - Sunday, January 31
The library encourages you to read this winter by taking our Bear-y Yourself in a Good Book! Winter Reading Challenge. Kids and teens in preschool through 12th grade can pick up a challenge sheet at the Youth Desk beginning December 14 to earn cool prizes.

TAKE A STORYWALK® THIS WINTER!



The library has teamed up with the Itasca Park District to present a StoryWalk®, a fun way to combine reading and exercising. A StoryWalk® is a series of signs featuring spreads from a children's picture book. Those signs or pages are spread throughout indoor or outdoor spaces in all seasons allowing a reader to follow along with a story by walking.

The StoryWalk® this winter will feature Itasca author Jeanne Speziale's picture book, *Eddie's Pockets*, and it will be at the loop right next to the Springbrook Nature Center building starting in mid-January. This project is sponsored by the library, Itasca Park District, Friends of the Itasca Community Library, Friends of Springbrook Nature Center of Itasca, and the Village of Itasca. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

SCAVENGER HUNTS

Each month we'll put up a new scavenger hunt in the Youth Services Department. Complete it for a sticker prize or just for fun!

TEEN PROGRAMS

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STEM Explorers with Lake Park's WiSTEM

Grades 3-7

Mondays, December 14, January 11, and February 8
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Come learn about a different STEM concept each month with engaging hands-on activities that both demonstrate the concept and build important critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Provided by a partnership between Lake Park's Women in STEM and the Library.



Paper Flower Workshop for Teens

Grades 6-12

Tuesday, January 26, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Did you enjoy our floral decorations for summer reading? Learn how to craft your own colorful flowers using crepe paper and wire! Each participant will get to make and take home an oversized flower of their own. Please note there will be a separate session for adults.

VolunTeen Program (Grades 6-12)
Students in grades 6-12 may volunteer to work up to six hours in the Youth Department this winter as a VolunTeen. After you register, you'll receive instructions on how to choose the specific days during the session you'd like to volunteer. Please only sign up for one session.

Winter Session 1: December 21-January 10
Winter Session 2: February 1-February 21

Take & Make Crafts for Teens (Grades 6-12)
December 15, January 15, and February 15
Pick up a Take & Make craft just for teens! Crafts will be available at the Youth Desk beginning on the 15th of each month. While supplies last. No registration is required.

Yarn Star Ornaments (Grades 6-12)
Tuesday, December 22, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Create your own yarn star ornament for a holiday or just for fun!

Heartburst Painting (Grades 6-12)
Tuesday, February 9, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Just in time for Valentine's Day, create a painting on canvas with a heart at the center and colors bursting out of it for yourself or your loved one.



ITASCA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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Itasca, IL 60143
630-773-1699
itascalibrary.org

Library Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Dates of Closing:
December 24, 2026 – Christmas Eve: Closed all day
December 25, 2026 – Christmas Day: Closed all day
December 31, 2026 – New Year's Eve: Closed all day
January 1, 2027 – New Year's Day: Closed all day
January 8, 2027 – Staff Inservice Day: Closed all day

Library Board of Trustees:
Paul Nelson, President
Anja Tranter, Vice President
Michael S. Golden, Treasurer
Patricia Schumacher, Secretary
Renee Fitzgerald
Anne O. Boehne
Maureen Voypick
Ridgeway Burns, Library Director

The board meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Photo Policy:
Photographs will be taken during some library programs and may be used by the library for promotional purposes. If you do not want to be photographed, please be sure to inform the librarian.

Connect with us!

LIBRARY NEWS

WINTER CARNIVAL

For families

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