

Ransom District Library NEWS

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament **REGISTER** Thursday, April 3 • 7-8 p.m.

The fastest team of four people to complete the 500-piece puzzle (or get the closest to completion) will win a prize. Other participants may be added to your team as space allows.

Ukrainian Pysanky Eggs **REGISTER** Saturday, April 5 • 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Create Ukrainian Easter eggs and learn about the meaning and history of this traditional method from local artist, Loraine Fedorchak-Kraker. All supplies included.

Adult Craft & Company: **REGISTER** Twine Wrapped Egg Decoration Thursday, April 10 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, April 11 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Transform plastic eggs into a fun and festive decoration for spring using this simple wrapping technique. All supplies included.

Titanic: Michigan Connections Wednesday, April 16 • 7-8 p.m.

Researcher and museum professional Jay Follis will present little-known stories of Michigan residents aboard the doomed liner Titanic.

Plainwell High School Tri-M Music Performance • Thursday, April 17 • 5-6 p.m.

Enjoy a musical concert composed of small acts performed by the members of the Plainwell Tri-M Music Honors Society.

Lifelong Learners Senior Fiesta Luncheon Tuesday, May 6 • 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Senior Citizens are invited to enjoy free lunch, games, prizes, and community updates with the Plainwell & Otsego Community Lifelong Learners.

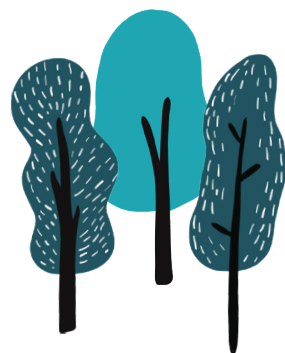
Adult Craft & Company: Tea Cup Candles Thursday, May 8 • 7-8 p.m. **REGISTER**

OR Friday, May 9 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
These adorable teacup candles are easy to create. Make one for yourself or as a gift for Mother's Day! All supplies included.

Homebuyer Workshop Thursday, May 29 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Is buying a home something that has been on your mind, but you are not sure where to start? Come on out to get your questions answered. There will be a local Realtor, Loan Officer, Home Insurance Agent, and Inspection Company to

give a brief presentation discussing the ins and outs of the home-buying process with a question and answer session.



Arbor Day Celebration Friday, April 25 • 3 p.m.

Come to the Library on Arbor Day to celebrate the beauty and importance of trees, and this year's Plainwell Arbor Day Honoree, EJ Hart. The ceremony begins at 3:00 p.m. and, in addition to honoring the beloved Mr. Hart, the City of Plainwell will be handing out seedlings to the first 50 attendees who would like to plant their own tree!

Adult Craft & Company: Colorful Acrylic Finger Painting **REGISTER** Thursday, June 12 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, June 13 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Finger painting isn't just for kids. Paint an easy, yet gorgeous, acrylic design with just your fingers! All supplies included.

Live Clue **REGISTER** Friday, June 27 • 7-8 p.m.

Bring a team of sleuths to experience the Clue board game live and in person! Work together to find the criminal, the room where the crime took place, and which weapon was used. Costumes are encouraged!



Ongoing Programs

Ransom Running/Walking Group Mondays, begins May 5 • 7-8 p.m.

Meet new people and stay motivated in Ransom Library's seasonal walking group. Train for the library's first Color Our World Fun Run/Walk on June 7 or just come to socialize and stay healthy. Meet at the library for check-in before tackling the route for the week. All speeds and experience levels are welcome.

Sew What? Stitching Group Wednesdays and Saturdays • 1-3 p.m.

Knit, crochet, needlepoint, or sew -- whatever your stitch, you're welcome to come and work on your project with other crafters in this weekly program. Please bring your own project.

Weekly Euchre Club – Fridays • 1-3 p.m.

Come to the library every week to play! Bring a partner or come alone for a self-guided game.

Dungeons & Dragons 5e for Adults **REGISTER** Monday • 4/21, 5/19, 6/16 • 6-8:45 p.m.

Are you ready for adventure? Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or completely new to the world of tabletop role-playing games, this is your chance to join an epic tale! Your library card is your "ticket" to either start at 2nd level or gain a free point of inspiration at each session.

NovelTEA Book Club Tuesdays, 4/22, 5/13, 6/17 • 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a pot of tea and homemade scones that match the book being discussed each month. Multiple copies of the book will be available at the desk a month before the event.

BOOK GROUP PICKS

April: *Funny Story* by Emily Henry
May: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks
June: *Choose Your Own Book to Discuss!*

With a Twist Book Club Thursdays • 4/24, 5/15, 6/19 • 7-8 p.m.

This book group pairs the Book of the Month with an adult beverage recipe picked specifically to match. Multiple copies of the book will be available at the desk a month before the event.

Weekly Card Sharks Tuesdays • 1-3 p.m.

Come for an afternoon of playing cards at the library. The game will be decided amongst the group on the day of the program. The last week of the month will have special guest, Bailee, leading the group in a new game.

Adult Summer Reading Color Our World Friday, June 6 – Friday, August 8

Start your summer with a colorful library reading challenge. Pick up a journal from the circulation desk and start reading! Every book you read (or listen to) will earn you a color. After five books you will receive a Ransom Library Tote Bag! Every additional book you read will earn you an entry into the Grand Prize drawing.

Community Garden Applications

Tuesday, April 1 – Sunday, May 4

The library will be accepting community garden applications for the 2025 garden season through May 4th. You can find the application, important dates, and requirements at the library or on our website. Thank you to The Home Depot and the Friends of Ransom District Library for funding the construction of the Garden last year.

Director's Note

March was a great month of community for the Library, with our Winter Concert Series, Dr. Seuss Night, and the opportunity to host all of the Plainwell Community Schools art at the annual Art Hop. Once again, donations from the Friends of Ransom Library made these important cultural and community events possible. Thank you, Friends! And thank you so much to the PCS art teachers for their great work and dedication to their students. To the students themselves whose artwork was featured at the Library: BRAVO! We are amazed.

Now we're gearing up for a welcome Spring, and along with the usual array of new books and great programming, we're excited to see the Seed Library fill up again (thank you, Chula Vista Garden Club!) and the Community Garden come back to life (see the article in this newsletter for sign-up info). Thanks again to The Home Depot and the Friends of Ransom District Library for funding the construction of the Garden last year!

See you at the Library,

— Joe



Color Our World Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, June 7 • 10:00 a.m. **REGISTER**

Celebrate building a healthy community this summer with a blast of color at the library's first 5k fun run through Plainwell. There will be shorter runs available for little runners as well. More details to come on our website. Partnered with the city of Plainwell. Sponsorship Opportunities available. Please contact amattson@ransomlibrary.org on how your business can support this event.

Beginning Guitar Workshop Continued

Mondays - April 7-May 19 • 4:00 p.m.

We've been having a lot of fun with introductory lessons on a wide variety of guitar technique and basic music theory, so we're going to keep going! Join Director Joe Gross in the Hill Performance Room for more of the same on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. It doesn't matter if you haven't been with us before or if you've taken Beginning Guitar already: there is always something new to learn and friendly musical friendships to create. This program is intended for ages 9 and up.



Spring into the library for great times!

Spring Break Activities

Spring Break is at the beginning of April this year. We have a variety of activities for you to enjoy.

Build-o-Rama

Wednesday, April 2 • 4-4:45 p.m.

Use our bricks to make amazing creations. When you are done, display them in the library for all of Plainwell to see!

Princess (and Friends) Concert with Sara Emerson

Tuesday, April 8 • 2:00-2:45 p.m.

Calling all princesses, princes, and characters of all shapes and sizes! Enjoy singing along to songs from your all-time favorite animated movies. Come dressed up as your favorite character, and get ready to move & groove to a magical music experience! Babies and children can experience great music, and parents can relax and not feel pressured to keep their kids still and quiet.

*NO TEEN TUESDAY, AFTER SCHOOL SPECIALS or DUNGEONS & DRAGONS DURING SPRING BREAK

Story Time

Wednesday, April 9 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Youngsters can listen to great tales, sing songs, dance with shakers and complete a themed craft in this fun-filled hour.

Teen Manga Club [REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, April 9 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Those interested in manga, anime, or Japanese culture join Youth Assistant Devin for an hour of Japanese themed games and snacks.

Yoga Adventures for Kids

NOTE DATE CHANGE

Thursday, April 10 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

This is our monthly preschool yoga class, but kids home from school for spring break are welcome to join in!

Teen Game Night [REGISTER](#)

For Grades 6 and up

Friday, April 11 • 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Get loud in the library after hours! A variety of games such as tag, hide and seek, and the always-popular "Murder in the Library" will be played. Pizza and pop will be provided.

Dr. Seuss Night was another great success! Thank you to the Friends of Ransom District Library for funding this always-enjoyable evening. Another big thank you goes out to our Design Lab team, who put together a magnificent "Star On/Star Off machine" based on the book *The Sneetches*. It was a fun addition to the Dr. Seuss Night lineup!

Weekly Programs

Caterpillar Play Group

Mondays, April 21 & May 19

10:30-11:30 a.m.

This play group is specifically designed for our littlest friends (ages birth to 35 months) and meets monthly during the school year.

Teen Tuesdays

Every Tuesday • 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Come after school for games, crafts, laughter and snacks! Drinks and munchies are provided. Last day for the school year is May 20.

Story Time

Wednesdays • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

April 2 - May 21

Youngsters can listen to great stories, sing songs, dance with shakers and complete a themed craft in this fun-filled hour. (*Summer Story Time will begin June 11.*)

After School Special:

Every Wednesday • 4-4:45 p.m. • Hill Room

Elementary school-age kids can enjoy a different type of fun each week. An after-school snack is provided. *Note: Program ends May 14; science week will return in the fall.*

4/16, 5/7: art

4/23, 5/14: games

4/30, 5/21: Build-o-Rama (Legos)

Preschool Thursdays

NOTE DATE CHANGES

10:30-11:30 a.m.

This play group is specifically designed for our littlest friends (ages birth to 35 months) and meets monthly during the school year.

4/3: Preschool Zip and Zoom

4/10, 5/1, 6/5: Yoga

4/17 & 5/15: Butterfly Play Group

4/24: Dance Party

5/8: Block Party: A selection of building blocks will be available in the children's room.

5/22: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* celebration: listen to this classic story, then experience several activities that deepen your child's connection with the book.

Monthly Programs

Teen Manga Club [REGISTER](#)

Wednesdays • April 9, May 14 & June 11

6:30-7:30 p.m. • Burchfield Room

Those interested in manga, anime, or Japanese culture can join Youth Assistant Devin for an hour of Japanese themed games and snacks. There will be different activities each month.

Teen Dungeons and Dragons [REGISTER](#)

is shifting to bi-monthly sessions starting in April!

4/26, 5/10, 5/24, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9

and 8/23 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Youth Assistant Dimitri will be hosting sessions on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from April through August.

TEEN TABLETOP ROLE PLAYING GAMES

These games, known as TTRPGs, are games that allow players to "choose" their own adventure with a roll of the dice. Players role-play as different characters and have to overcome challenges that are unique to each game.

All Outta Bubblegum [REGISTER](#)

Saturday, April 19 • 2-4 p.m.

Explosions, machine guns, and... bubblegum? The more you chew, the less you can do: but the better you are at kicking butt. Join for a 90's action movie style adventure! One thing's clear: when you're all outta bubblegum, nothing can stop you... except maybe opening doors.

The Beast [REGISTER](#)

Saturday, May 17 • 2-4 p.m. • Grades 6 and up

A terrifying beast is upon us! Play a mid-18th century mercenary hired by The Baron (who you hate) to capture and kill this ancient terror (who would love to eat you). Ready or not, The Beast is coming—are you strong enough to stop it?

Himbo Treasure Hunt [REGISTER](#)

Saturday, June 21 • 2-4 p.m.

The local gym is in danger, and you and your fellow super muscle-y, super cool gym-bros must put your admittedly few brain cells together to find the legendary town treasure and save it!

Special Events



Kid's Day

Friday, May 2

10:00 a.m.-noon

Ransom is partnering with Help Me Grow

Allegan to offer you another exciting Kid's Day event! Your child

(age 0 – 5) will enjoy a number of activities, including face painting, food tasting, a bounce house and a visit from Daniel Tiger! Parents will have the opportunity to talk with representatives from local agencies about healthy eating, pre-school opportunities, vision/hearing screenings and much more. There will be lots of giveaways and your child will go home with a new book or two. Don't miss it!

Nerf Night [REGISTER](#)

(For grades 4 – up)

Friday, May 23 • 6-8 p.m.

Bring your blasters and enjoy two high-powered hours of fun after hours at the Library! Several different games - chosen by participants - will be played. Pizza and sodas provided.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Color Your World

Begins Friday, June 6

Look forward to a summer full of colorful and varied activities for kids of all ages! Our reading program is back: kids who register will win a prize for every 5 books they read. Registration begins as soon as school ends!

Science Heroes

Monday, June 9 • 2-3 p.m.

Through hands-on experiments and fun, interactive stories, this performance will get kids excited about the science that's all around us as we celebrate the scientists who color our world with art!

Community Art Project

Tuesday, June 10 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

With just a paint stick, a set of simple instructions, and a wide palette of color, participants can paint a simple paint stir stick to be assembled into a piece of art to hang in the library. Best for children ages 5-up.

Colorful Snowman Craft

Thursday, June 12 • 1-3 p.m.

What if, instead of white, snow came down in colors? This is the basis for this fun craft activity that will be sure to brighten your day. A frozen treat will be offered as well.

Teen Flower Power

Monday, June 16 • 2-4 p.m.

Explore various art media by selecting a vase of flowers, finding color matches in library book covers, then assembling a still-life to both "shadow paint" and photograph.

William Shakespeare

Tuesday, June 17 • 2-3 p.m.

Paint a rock that will be part of Sir William "Shakespeare," a creature that will wind its way through the flower bed in front of the library this summer.

Exploding Watermelon Extravaganza

Thursday, June 19 • 2-3 p.m.

How many rubber bands does it take to blow up a watermelon? Make your predictions, then help put the squeeze on the mighty melon until it pops!

Teen Mario Kart Tournament [REGISTER](#)

Friday, June 20 • 2-4 p.m.

This tournament will be run from a Nintendo Switch. You may bring your own controllers. Be sure to register in advance!

Music at the Blissful

Monday, June 23 • 2-3 p.m.

Music at the Blissful is a fun and entertaining music performance that children of all ages will adore! The audience will be up on their feet moving + grooving with kid-friendly props like colorful egg shakers, bubbles, and animal puppets.

Messy Art Day!

Preschool: Tuesday, June 24 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Elementary: 1-3 p.m.

Stations will be set up outside the library for kids to create art with all the gooey paint you don't want them using at home! Be sure to wear paint clothes for this event.

Kalamazoo Book Art Center: [REGISTER](#)

Make a Circle Book

Wednesday, June 25 • 1-2:30 p.m.

Create a unique chromatic color wheel-inspired "circle book" integrating a variety of materials, including colorful papers and collage materials, stamps, markers, and pens. You will also make a cover sleeve to contain your folded circle. The back side of this book is perfect for writing or drawing.

Live Clue [REGISTER](#)

Friday, June 27 • 7-9 p.m.

Channel your inner sleuth as you play an after-hours, live version of the classic board game. Register with a team that will compete to be the first to determine the suspect, weapon, and room and use them to solve the mystery. Costumes are encouraged!

Picture Book Art featuring Pezzetino (Leo Lionni) and Elmer (David McKee)

Monday, June 30 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Create art using squares after hearing stories by authors who did the same.



Check our next newsletter for details about these exciting events!

Bluegrass and Tall Tales with the Bright Star Theatre: Tuesday, July 1 • 1-2 p.m.

Critchlow Alligator Rescue Presentation:

Tuesday, July 15 • 2-3 p.m.

Teen Game Night: Friday, July 25 • 6-9 p.m.

Harry Potter Birthday Trivia: Thursday, July 31 • 7-8 p.m.