

# The Librarian

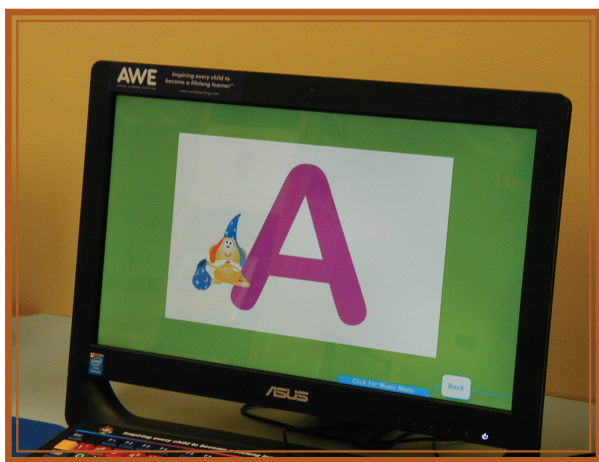
Newspaper of the Stonington Free Library

Fall/Winter 2014-2015 Issue

## THE STONINGTON FREE LIBRARY HAS MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

By Margaret Victoria, Director

The Stonington Free Library was awarded \$1000 from a Pfizer Community Vibrancy Grant toward the purchase of a new AWE Early Literacy Station in July. The goal of this grant is to improve school readiness in our community.



*The new AWE Early Literacy Station is designed for children ages 2-9. Its programs meet all State Education Standard requirements.*

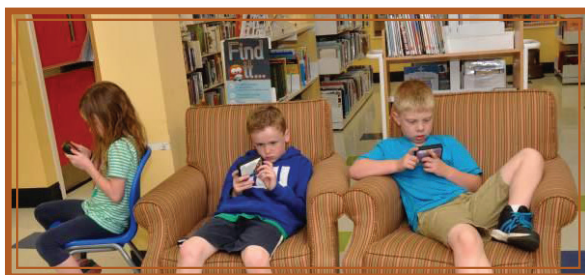
The AWE family of self-contained, turn-key computer systems offers a complete digital learning experience with over 60 program options. The programs are correlated with all State Education Standard requirements. The Early Literacy Station is designed for use by children ages 2 – 9 with over 1,000 different activities designed to instantly engage children. The Station covers the seven curriculum areas of reading, writing, phonics, math and problem solving, science, social studies and the arts. The Early Literacy Station provides a safe and fun learning environment for young children who may or may not have access to a home computer. The Library was an early adopter of this technology and is proud to introduce the latest



*The AWE Early Literacy Station with enhanced programs will cut waiting times and enable more children access to a safe and fun learning tool.*

addition to the AWE family. We already have 2 Early Literacy stations in the Children's Room, in addition to an After School Edge computer from the AWE line. The new station, with enhanced programs, will help to eliminate waiting times and allow more children access to these very popular learning tools. The Stonington Free Library is most grateful to Pfizer, Inc. and Groton Laboratories for their generous donation and their leadership role in forging corporate and community collaboration.

### Gift to Purchase New Playaway View Technology for Children's Room



*The Playaway View is a portable video player, which is only available in public libraries. It's evident kids love them.*

The Leslie Family has generously contributed money for the purchase of a very popular technology for the Children's Room, Playaway Views. In honor of Archie Leslie's birthday, his wife and children donated funds allowing the Library to buy 18 Playaway Views containing 96 different stories in video. The Playaway View is a portable, self-contained video player which is only available in public libraries. It can be used as a stepping stone in early literacy development, exposing children to various books, rhymes and music. Some are available in both English and Spanish.

Each Playaway View is about the size of a GPS navigation device and weighs less than 6 ounces. When parents check one out of the Library, they will receive the device along with a charger in a case. There is an external speaker in the View and a universal headphone jack for private use, if desired. Each View contains multiple videos, with a total running time of approximately an hour. There are stories for all tastes, both classics, fairy tales and newer titles. This new vehicle for delivering stories is proving to be

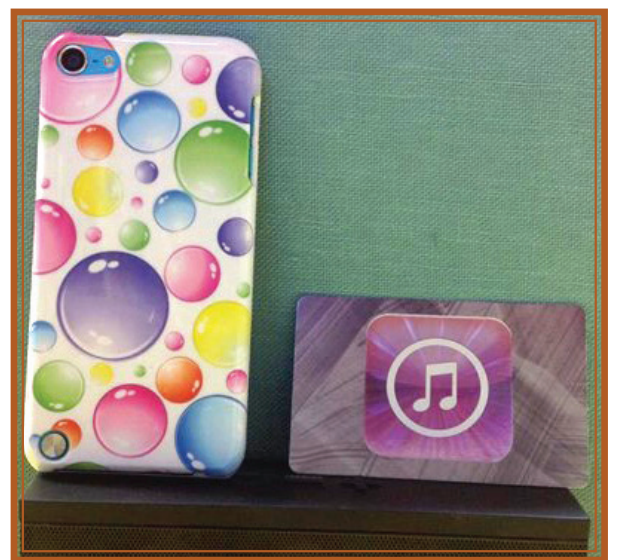
immensely popular. Our 18 Views have circulated over 75 times since we purchased them! The Stonington Free Library is thankful to the Leslie family for their very generous and thoughtful donation.

### Chelsea Groton Foundation Awards \$500 Grant for Teen Room Furnishing

A grant from the Chelsea Groton Bank will allow the Library to make some much-needed updates to the Teen Room. This \$500 award will be applied toward the purchase of a rug and new furniture. Thank you to the Chelsea Groton Foundation for your generous donation – our young adults will be so happy!

### Technology Grants from the Rotary of the Stoningtons

There will be a new all-in-one PC in the Teen Room, thanks to a grant from the Rotary of the Stoningtons to upgrade our older computer. This new hardware will be utilizing newer software and will have improved speed and memory. In addition, as an all-in-one, it will take up less space in our small Teen Room.



*The iPod Touch player, wireless speakers, and program card will consolidate music, photography and social media needs.*

The Rotary also awarded a grant to purchase an iPod Touch and wireless speaker system for the Children's Room. We will be able to consolidate our music, photography and social media needs in one device. Dance parties for story time! We are very thankful to the Rotary of the Stoningtons for awarding the Library such wonderful grants.



**Bold** = Adult Activities      📞 = Pre-registration Required. Please call.

OCTOBER

- 21 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2)
- 11:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
- 22 10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 25 10:30 am **NEW** Saturday in Stonington – Duct Tape Workshop (Ages 8 and older) Registration opens October 7 📞
- 28 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2)
- 11:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
- 29 10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 31 *Happy Trick or Treating*

NOVEMBER

- 1 10:30 am-3 pmLego Saturday
- 4 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2)
- 11:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
- 5 10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 8 10 am-12 pm Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan Revision Workshop - Free, Open, Participation Encouraged
- 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Painting Day
- 10 5:00 pm Sunday Evening Lecture Series @ The La Grua Center Allegra di Bonaventura discusses her book For Adam’s Sake**
- 11 VETERAN’S DAY - - Library Closed**
- 12 10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 13 5:30 pm NEW Thoughtful Thursdays – Managing Your Digital Life, Part 2: Bruce Carpenter will present How To Protect Your Personal Information in the Digital Age**
- 15 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Make a Thanksgiving Sticker Scene
- 17-22 12-5 pm Make A Plate Week (All ages) Cost \$7.50 +1 canned or dry good for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center – let’s remember our neighbors in need at this time of year!
- 18 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2)
- 11:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
- 19 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 22 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Make a Plate
- 26 Library Closing @ 5:00 pm**
- 27 THANKSGIVING DAY - - LIBRARY CLOSED**
- 29 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Coloring Day

DECEMBER

- 1 First day to sign up for our Winter Reading Challenge (Ages 7 and under) - 50 To Grow On
- 6 11 am-1 pm A Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus (Ages 8 and under) Registration opens November 18 📞
- 7 5:00 pm Sunday Evening Lecture Series @ The La Grua Center Vanessa Gezari speaking about her book The Tender Soldier**
- 10 5-7:30 pm **NEW** Get Fired Up Make a Holiday Ornament - sign up for ½ hour time slots, cost varies with ornament chosen Registration opens December 1 📞
- 13 10:30 am-1 pm**NEW** Saturday in Stonington – Get Fired Up Make a Holiday Ornament - sign up for ½ hour time slots, cost varies with ornament chosen. Registration opens December 1 📞
- 20 10:30 am **NEW** Saturday in Stonington – Reindeer Story Time and make Magic Reindeer Food!
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE - - Library Closes @ 1 PM**
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY - - Library Closed**
- 27 10:30 am **NEW** Saturday in Stonington – Lego Bingo
- 31 NEW YEAR’S EVE - - Library Closes @ 1 PM**

JANUARY

- 1 NEW YEAR’S DAY - - Library Closed**
- 3 10:30 am-3 pmLego Saturday
- 6 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2)
- 11:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
- 7 10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 10 10:30 am Dad and Me Story Time (Ages 8 and under)
- 13 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2)
- 11:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
- 14 10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 17 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Martin Luther King story time and make *I Have a Dream* illustration
- 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY - - Library Closed**
- 20 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2)
- 11:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
- 21 10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 24 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Painting Day
- 11 am Annual Children’s Opera, *The Three Little Pigs* at the Mystic Stage. Registration opens January 2
- 12:45 pm Annual Children’s Opera, *The Three Little Pigs* at the Mystic Stage. Registration opens January 2 📞
- 27 10:30 am Drop In Story Time (Babies – 2)
- 11:30 am Drop In Story Time (Ages 3 – 6)
- 28 10:30 am Drop in Story Time (Ages 2 – 6)
- 31 10:30 am **NEW** Sharpie Tie Dye Tee Shirts – Bring a white tee shirt and make your own design statement (wear old clothes!) (Ages 8 and older) Registration opens January 19 📞



Bookworms

By Maris Frey, Children’s Librarian

As another school year begins, we are ready for an exciting season of new programs and the return of perennial favorites. We will continue our Drop In Read and Play story times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These story times are designed to introduce and reinforce early literacy skills. Reading, talking, singing, writing and playing are the five practices that form the building blocks of early literacy skills. The Family Literacy Enrichment Program continues to offer four free outreach story times to local preschools and daycare centers along with a rotating library of print and audio books.

Our Saturday in Stonington on Saturday mornings will vary weekly. Lego Saturday will remain the first Saturday of the month and the other weeks will be stories, activities or crafts. Check out our Facebook page to see what is coming up each week. Some highlights are listed below.



Our first Family Craft Workshop, Make a Haunted Gingerbread House on Saturday, Oct 18 is filled. A Duct Tape Workshop run by some of our Teen Volunteers on October 25 is very popular. Make a Plate Week will be the week before Thanksgiving and we will continue our partnership with the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center by asking for a food donation for their holiday baskets. Get Fired Up will run a Make a Holiday Ornament at the Library on Wednesday evening, December 10, and Saturday, December 13. Please sign up for a half hour time slot and have some painting fun. Prices vary with the ornament chosen. And finally, to ward off the January doldrums, there will be a Sharpie Tie Dye Tee Shirt for ages 8 and older on January 31. Please check the calendar for times, ages and registration requirements.



Returning program favorites will be A Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Dad and Me Story time and the fabulous Children’s Opera. This year’s production is *The Three Little Pigs*. We are very happy that the Lollipop Opera Company will be back at the Mystic Stage for two shows on January 24 at 11 am and 12:45 pm. We will be taking reservations by phone or in person beginning on January 2 at the Library. The opera company will be supplying a template so the children can make their own pig puppet to confuse the Big Bad Wolf. Be sure to make yours and bring it to the performance! Seats go quickly for this annual musical treat.

Our second annual Halloween Costume Swap or Drop had great participation this year. Patrons brought in clean Halloween costumes on a hanger with the size marked and we had free shopping available October 1 – October 10. The hope was that people would find an outlet for outgrown Halloween costumes and be able to choose something new for their child without digging into their wallets. All unclaimed costumes were donated.

50 To Grow On, our early literacy initiative for children 7 and younger, will run December 1 – March 31. The Library will be collaborating with the schools in promoting this enormously popular Winter Reading Challenge, which focuses on developing a family “read aloud” habit.

On the subject of collaboration, we are continuing our Middle School No Stress Book Club at the afterschool IMPACT program at the COMO. We piloted a weekly Library Read Aloud at the COMO’s afterschool elementary school groups in October and are considering repeating this program in the new year.

The Library will be hosting the third graders for the annual Look It Up project, which is a partnership between the Rotaries of both of Mystic and the Stoningtons, the Lesley Buck Memorial Fund, and the Library. All the third graders tour the building, listen to a story, and participate in a scavenger hunt. They each receive their own dictionary and library card. This will require closing the Children’s Room briefly for a few mornings in the fall; please check our webpage for days and times.

Happy Autumn!



Stonington Free Library

Service to All – Young And Old, River to River

Stonington Free Library

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PO Box 232, Stonington, CT 06378

Hours

10am-5pm M, T, Th and F

10am-8pm Wed • 10am-3pm Sat

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Layout CMB Creative Group



# Move over Thanksgiving, Black Friday, And Cyber Monday, Here Comes Giving Tuesday

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On **Tuesday, December 2, 2014**, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. #GivingTuesday™ is a campaign to create a national day of giving at the start of the annual holiday season. It celebrates and encourages charitable activities that support nonprofit organizations.

This year, a very generous Library supporter has offered up a matching gift challenge for #GivingTuesday. **The way it works:** On Tuesday December 2, 2014, either donate online or send a donation by check with the phrase “Giving Tuesday” in the memo line, and your gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$1500 dollars for that day! Our goal is to raise a total of \$3000 to support Library programs and services.

We will be posting Giving Tuesday reminders on our website and facebook page periodically prior to the event. Visit us at [www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org) or [www.facebook.com/StoningtonFreeLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/StoningtonFreeLibrary)

SAVETHE DATE

BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

DECEMBER 2, 2014

[www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org)

## Something Delicious Is Coming

Be on the lookout in the coming months for our first ever Mystery Dinner Cookbook!! We are compiling pictures, memories, and recipes from the first six years of our popular annual event. It will make a wonderful holiday gift for fans of the Mystery Dinner. We anticipate it will be available for sale near the end of November. Stay tuned!!

Stay posted! Visit us at [www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org) or [www.facebook.com/StoningtonFreeLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/StoningtonFreeLibrary)

## An Apology

Our deep appreciation for everyone who contributed to last year's Annual Appeal which was our most successful to date! We raised over \$182,000 to support Library operations. Take a look at our Annual Report for details and a list of all our dedicated supporters throughout the year.

Our sincere apologies for a number of omissions in the Report:

The Pediment Society should have included Charles and Janet Hatton who contributed at the \$1000-\$2,499 level. Sibby Lynch and Michael Schefers were omitted from the list of Mystery Dinner attendees.

Annual Appeal donors in the \$250-\$400 category:  
Richard and Kathleen Daniele

Annual Appeal donors in the \$100-\$249 category:  
Elizabeth Tobin Brown  
Meredith and Sylvia Brown  
Joan Burchenal  
James and Jacqueline Burgess  
Robert and Carole Callahan  
Lori Calobrisi  
Austin and Susan Chambers  
Sylvia Christiansen  
Coastal Dermatology  
Frank and Virginia Colassano  
Anne C. Connerton  
Rich and Dee Constantine  
Kurt Cramer and Lynne Lawrence  
Anna T. Crandall  
Deborah Dear  
Cornelia Dickenson  
David and Sherry Dresback  
Judith duPont  
David and Donna Elks  
G.W. Elks

Our thanks to them for their support!!

## A New Speaker Series: Thoughtful Thursdays



On Thursday, October 9th, the Library launched a new speaker series, “Thoughtful Thursdays.” The topic was *Managing Your Digital Life—Using Social Media for Life, Family, And Career Success*, and the speaker was Josh Jensen, Director of Marketing Communications at Connecticut College. It was an absolutely fascinating hour.

Mr. Jensen took his audience through 25 different social media from the well-known Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube to little-known Vine, Yo, and Yik Yak. In each case he explained who uses the medium, what its uses are, its defining features and what to beware of when using it.

He had some stunning statistics: nearly 2/3 of American adults use social media; 40% of cell phone owners use social networking on their phones; Facebook has **829 million daily active users** compared to The Wall Street Journal's 2.4 million daily readers and the New York Times's 1.9 million.

One favorite social network was Flickr with its defining feature being “Lots of storage space for high quality photos.” For his presentation, Mr. Jensen had gone into Flickr and searched for photos of Stonington, showing the audience a collection of lovely graphics.

Mr. Jensen emphasized the public nature of social networks and urged circumspection in what a user says and presents. “Make sure what you put on the network is something you’d be proud to show your boss, your spouse, your child,” he said. He also advised parents to “Keep tabs” on their children’s use of social networks:

- 70% of students see frequent bullying online, only 1 in 10 victims will inform a parent or adult, victims are 2-9 times more likely to consider suicide
- Ask questions, follow and friend, ask for passwords, encourage them to speak up, try out social networks
- Set guidelines: what sites they can visit, who they can friend, what they can say
- Understand school rules

The next in the “Thoughtful Thursdays” series will be Thursday, November 13, 5:30, at the Library. The topic will be *How to Protect Your Personal Information in The Digital Age*, and the speaker will be Bruce Carpenter, Director of Technical Support And Information Security Officer at Connecticut College.



# Summer Reading 2014

## Our best year ever!

Summer Reading 2014 was our BEST year for participation. We had 681 children and teens register for our Summer Reading Program. In all three age levels, more than 80% of the kids participated and read this summer! This is a big jump for an already very successful program, so we are definitely sticking with our model and will happily accept donations for our Library Store year round. Popular items are always handbags, tote bags, costume jewelry, anything Lego, small cars and trucks, dolls and their clothing, stuffed animals, Beanie Babies!!!!, and popular toys. Many of you have children and grandchildren who have outgrown these items and we would LOVE anything *gently* used for next year's inventory. We have teenage participants, so adult handbags, jewelry, wallets, makeup cases etc. in good condition are all much appreciated.

The Read and Feed program contributed 500 food items to our community food bank at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center this summer. Weekly specials helped ensure that the PNC received needed items, while the children enjoyed the chance to earn double rewards!

We are grateful to all the businesses and families who contributed to our program and especially to the Dog Watch Café, which sponsored all our special performers!



*Connor Hultgren topped off Summer Reading by winning a Lego set. 681 children and teens registered for our Summer Reading Program.*



*After the prizes were distributed, the group lined up for ice cream.*



*Natalie Perkins has it all: Guardian Crossbow Set and ice cream all over the place.*

# Inside:

## FALL/WINTER 2014-2015

### Summer Reading

Our BEST Year for Participation

### Thanks

Pfizer Grant, Leslie Family, Chelsea Groton Foundation, Rotary of The Stoningtons

### Bookmark

October through January Calendar of Library Activities

### Bookworms

A Busy Fall Coming Up

### Et Cetera

Giving Tuesday, Apology, Lecture, Cookbook



Stonington Free Library PO Box 232 Stonington CT 06378

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