



# Southeast Signal

*News, Events, and Information from Around the System*

## From the Director



Best, Correct, and Only.

I sometimes hear those three words used when a library is talking about their policies, procedures, and practices. Nothing wrong

with those words, but sometimes thinking in those terms could be preventing growth at your library.

A practice that starts out as being the “best way to serve the community at this time” over the years gets shortened to simply the “best way.” From there it turns to the “right way” or the “correct way” to do things and eventually it becomes “the only way” to do that task.

This isn’t to suggest that this is something people do on purpose, but it can and does happen.

Programs that have been successful year after year become the best programs, practices that have always worked become almost like muscle memory, things go well so we think that we’ve found the way things “should always work”.

But times change. Staff & volunteers change.

Communities change. Eventually what used to be the best way to serve the community is no longer needed. Programs that used to fill rooms are now being held to half the audience as before, or ignored all together. The times you’ve had to use exceptions to an original policy now outnumber the times you’ve used the actual one.

You might even be preventing some amazing things from happening because you aren’t looking at what wonderful new skills or technologies or opportunities are now available to you.

Take the time to review what you do. Making smaller tweaks and changes throughout time is often much easier to manage than a major overhaul down the line.

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# Calendar

May 13, Mother's Day

May 17, [CASTL, "Destinations for Donated and Weeded Items," Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City](#)

May 18, National Endangered Species Day

May 20, National Take Your Parents to the Playground Day

May 22, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Birthday

May 25, [Golden Sower Reading Day](#), Seward, p. 9

May 28, Memorial Day, SELS Office Closed

May 29, Andrew Clement's Birthday

May 30, [NCompass Live: Library Innovation Studios - A Project Update and Review of the Application Process](#)

June 6, National Yo-Yo Day

June 7, Louise Erdrich's Birthday

June 8, [School Librarians in the Digital Age](#), p. 10

June 9, National Rhubarb Strawberry Pie Day

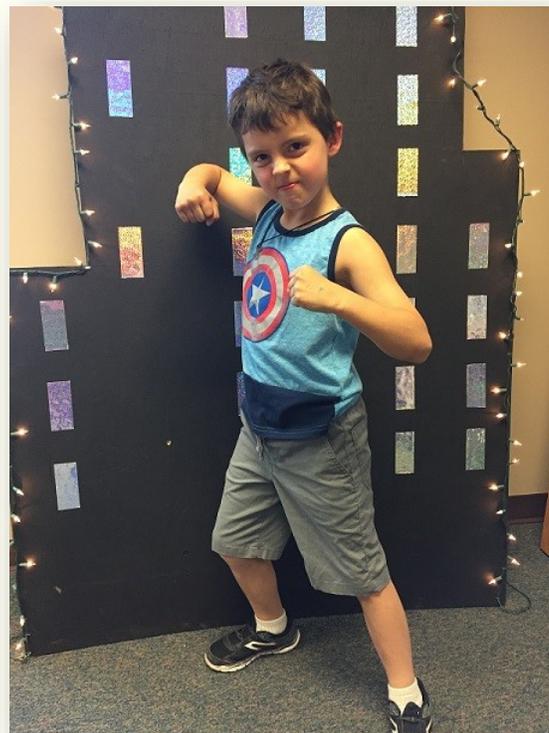
August 16, Information Security and Collection Development Workshop, Seward Memorial Library

September 6-7, Joint Youth Services Retreat, Camp Carol Joy Holling



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# Photo of the Month



*At a Superhero Party in Stromsburg. More on page 4!*

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

May 17

Morton-James Public Library  
Nebraska City  
“Destinations for Donated and Weeded Items”

June 29

Sutton Memorial Library  
Sutton  
“Interpreting State Statute”

July 26

Stromsburg Public Library  
“Open Meeting Law”

August 24

Falls City Library & Art Center

September 20

Nebraska Library Commission,  
Lincoln  
“Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the NLC”

October 19

Jennifer Reinke Public Library, Deshler

November 9

Alice M. Farr Library  
Aurora  
“Bibliostat”

The April 13th CASTL at Milford was devoted to the theme "Programming Hits." Several librarians shared some of the programs that have done well recently at their library.

Monica Tidyman reported that Stromsburg has had two particularly successful programs in the recent past. One was a “Princess Party” and the other was a “Jedi Training.” Both involved themed activities and snacks.

Sara Lee spoke about the Harry Potter 20th anniversary celebration at Central City Public Library. Another very successful program was the "On the Homefront" WWI era themed afternoon tea. Also, Pinterest craft parties are very popular programs.

Heather St. Clair mentioned that "Nerf Battle" was enthusiastically received at Ashland Public Library. Another successful program has been puzzle solving using a kit from Breakout.edu. Further, Ashland does “1000 books before Kindergarten” and sets out jigsaw puzzles for passive programming.

Becky Baker shared that at Seward Memorial Library they had some recent, relatively simple programs where they played DVDs received from PBS.org and then had activities surrounding the theme of the DVD. These included "The Cat in the Hat Knows a lot about Camping" and "Pinkalicious." Other successful programs include the tailgate party and a Harry Potter party.

Diane Odoski spoke about well-received dog programs at the Gilbert Memorial Library in Friend. The dog handler and therapy dog are available for programs at other local libraries.

# Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of 2018 classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
June 11—June 22	Library Finance	May 14—June 1
July 9—July 20	Reference	June 11—June 29
July 30—August 10	Collection Management	July 2—July 20

# News Around the System

## Superhero Party at Stromsburg Public Library

*Story and photos by Monica Tidyman,*

Friday, April 27, the Stromsburg Public Library held a Super Hero Day for the release of *Avengers: Infinity War*. Our little super heroes tested their super hero breath, had balloon battles, tested their aiming by trying to throw through the web, and created a super hero puppet to take home. Super refreshments were also enjoyed.



Apply today for



**LIBRARY  
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STUDIOS**

nebraska library commission

Apply by July 20th, 2018 at [nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios)

# News Around the System

## Beatrice Public Library Holds Dedication for Lower Level

*Provided by Joanne Neemann*

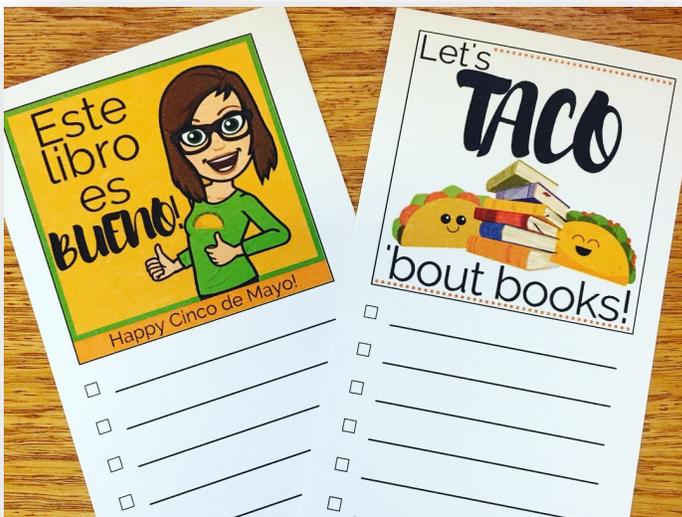
On April 29th Beatrice Public Library held the dedication of its lower level, including the Thomas Heritage Room and the Vette Cultural Arts Center. The pictures are of the ribbon cutting and a special program with Ted Kooser.



## More Fun Displays at the Aurora Middle/High School Media Center

*By Emmy Fiala*

Since May 5 was Cinco de Mayo, Emmy went with a Mexican theme this month!



# News from Around the System

## “When In Doubt” Exhibit at Morton-James Public Library

Sara McNeilly Ammon is a writer and visual artist who has been focusing her recent creative efforts on poetry, fiction, abstract painting, paper carving and ink sketching. For the month of May, her work is on display at the Kimmel Gallery of Morton-James Public Library

She says, “In our turbulent times, patterns and historical consistencies run under the constant waves of change; I want my art to reflect those competing forces. The stories of our collective human experiences and influences upon one another contain patterns; we live over them and among them, even as we try to change them. Some of my work features dramatic movement to explore these concepts while some is subdued, speaking to my search to find a stronger and braver personal voice. Identity and the concept of ‘home’ are recurring themes in both my art and my writing. I both vent my frustrations and celebrate my victories on paper and canvas.”



# News from Around the System

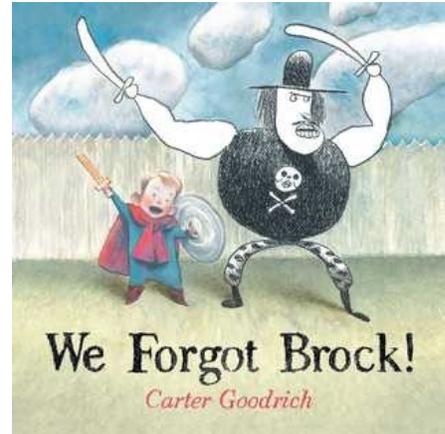
## 2018 Golden Sower Award Winners Announced!

### Picture Book

Winner: *We Forgot Brock!* by Carter Goodrich

Honor: *Wolfie the Bunny* by Ame Dyckman, illus. by Zachariah O'Hora

*If You Plant a Seed* by Kadir Nelson

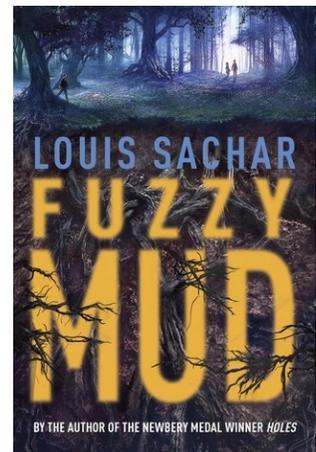


### Chapter Book

Winner: *Fuzzy Mud* by Louis Sachar

Honor: *Baker's Magic* by Diane Zahler

*The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall

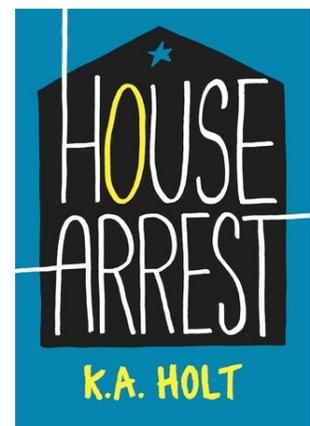


### Golden Sower Novel

Winner: *House Arrest* by K.A. Holt

Honor: *Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt

*Code of Honor* by Alan Gratz



# News from Around the System

## Partnership Launched to Help Close the Homework Gap for Rural Students

High-speed Internet access is essential to Nebraska schoolchildren and a partnership between schools and libraries in five Nebraska communities will demonstrate an innovative way to ensure that children can complete homework assignments and projects. The Nebraska Library Commission has been awarded a National Leadership Sparks Grant of \$25,000 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for a partnership project with the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and five local school districts and public libraries. The ***Nebraska Schools and Libraries—Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships*** grant is one of 26 projects out of 117 applications to receive funding.

Five Nebraska rural school districts and public libraries will work together as partners to increase Internet speeds at the public library using fixed wireless technology to provide additional Internet to the library. Up to one gigabit (1,000Mbps) of Internet speed will be provided for a designated homework hotspot for school district students and staff. This will help close the “homework gap” that rural students face when attempting to complete homework assignments and school projects without a reliable Internet source at home. Nebraska communities participating in this one-year project beginning June 1 include Bancroft, Genoa, Imperial, Verdigre, and Wymore.

“I am pleased to announce the recipients of IMLS’s highly competitive library grant programs,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “These grants leveraged over \$2.7 million in matching funds from local partners and community collaborators, helping to ensure the sustainability of these projects and to enhance their reach and impact.”

“As Nebraska students and teachers embrace digital learning, Nebraska public libraries look for new partnership models with schools to ensure equal access to digital learning resources for all students. Students need broadband services outside of school and after school hours. Libraries fill the gap and contribute to educational achievement. This project demonstrates the commitment of Nebraska’s public libraries to provide high-speed Internet service through innovative educational partnerships with schools. We thank the schools and libraries that have committed to demonstrating this innovative approach to school and public library collaboration,” said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.

“The State of Nebraska’s Office of the CIO is pleased to partner with the Nebraska Library Commission on this project to improve Internet access in small, rural public libraries and to leverage the investments made in the state education network, Network Nebraska,” said Ed Toner, the State Chief Information Officer. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.





# MAY 25 GOLDEN SOWER READING DAY

Get acquainted with 2019-2020 potential nominees

Come and join us! We will have all the picture books available for you to read during the morning. In the afternoon we plan to have book talks on Chapter Books and Golden Sower Novel titles.

## Schedule:

**9:00 am**

Kathy Schultz: Announcements about Golden Sower  
**Reading of Books from Primary List**

**12:00 pm**

**Lunch on your own**

**1:00 pm**

**Discussion of Titles from Chapter Book and Golden  
Sower Novel Lists**

READ ALL  
POTENTIAL PICTURE  
BOOK NOMINEES IN  
ONE LOCATION!

MAKE AN IMPACT!

NETWORK WITH  
YOUR COLLEAGUES

HAVE LUNCH AT ONE  
OF SEWARD'S  
RESTAURANTS

## SEWARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

233 South 5th Street  
Seward, NE 68434

Register at  
<http://bit.ly/GSower2018>

May 25  
9 AM – 3 PM

**School  
Librarians  
In the  
Digital Age**

**Sponsored by**



9 am Keegan Korf:  
**Maintaining Student Privacy: 5 Things Teachers and Librarians Can Do**

10 am Lynn Kleinmeyer  
**Leading the Charge: Teacher Librarians' Role in OER**

11 am Judy Henning  
**Strategies for Identifying Fake News**

**June 8**

**8:45 am – 12 pm**

Conference Room C  
Lincoln Public Schools District Office 5905 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510

**Register at <http://bit.ly/2018SchoolLib>**

## System Spotlight

# Need Help With Accreditation?

Sometimes the accreditation process can be a daunting task. But you don't have to figure it all out alone! SELS is more than happy to help you along in this process! Call or email the SELS office to arrange a time to speak with Scott, our executive director: [scott.childers.sels@gmail.com](mailto:scott.childers.sels@gmail.com).



## Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha • Nuckolls •  
Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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