

THE EXPLORER



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Winter Reading Program

Prepare for the cold weather with more than blankets and cocoa! The Westmont Library has a reading program to motivate your children to keep their heads in a good book for weeks!

From December 19, 2011 through January 16, 2012, WPL will supply each

reader in the program with an igloo game board. When ten tasks on the igloo are completed, the participant is eligible for a prize! Choose from Chicago Wolves gear, paperback books, and more. The final day to turn in your igloo for a prize is Monday, January 16, 2012.

The reading program is open to Westmont residents who read independently up through eighth grade. For more information about the program, ask a staff member in the Youth Services department or call: 630-969-5625 ext. 6.

Coming Soon: The Big Read 2012

The wait is almost over! The announcement of this year's book is set for December 1st. Check the Big Read website at: www.thebigread.org to find out which title was selected for our annual program series!

The Big Read is a cooperative effort of 10 local libraries now in its

eighth year. Resource guides containing all Big Read programs at various libraries will be available at Westmont Library beginning February 1st. Program registration begins the same day.

Mark your calendars now for a special visit from the author of the book on Thursday, May 3rd. Details

on the event and how to get tickets will be available in the Resource Guide. All special events at various library locations will be open to Westmont residents.

For more news and updates, follow the Twitter feed at [BigRead2012](https://twitter.com/BigRead2012) or visit facebook.com/TheBigRead.

A Musical Wonderland with Jim Gill!

How about some jumping, dancing, and singing to help keep you warm? We have just the thing for you and your family!

Come to the library on Monday, January 16 at 6:30pm and experience the music of Jim Gill, an award-winning musician and author. Each concert is an opportunity for family play!

In concert, Jim strums energetic rhythms

on his banjo while everyone claps, sings, dances and even sneezes along to the silly and inspiring musical games that he creates.

This year's Family Room Tour celebrates the release of Jim's new CD and DVD, *Music Play for Folks of All Stripes*. Each concert will feature a sampling of his new family play songs as well as old favorites.

What are you waiting

for? Reserve your spot by calling 630-969-5625 or register online at: www.westmontlibrary.org.



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You can now access over 4,000 Kindle eBooks by visiting mediaondemand.org or our website. Simply search for a book, select the Kindle edition, and have it delivered to your Kindle device with the click of a button!

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device as well as in your web browser with Kindle Cloud Reader. You can expect to see the same features in your borrowed library eBook as Kindle books, including Whispersync technology real page numbers, and more.

The best part about reading a library eBook on your Kindle? There are no

overdue fees! Your library eBook will automatically be returned to our digital collection on its due date.

Please note that an active Wi-Fi connection is required for wireless delivery to a Kindle device. Library books will not be delivered via your Kindle's 3G connection.

PROGRAMS

STORYTIMES

YOUTH

⊖♥ *Mr. Popper's Penguins* Movie PG

Monday, December 19

6:30-8:30pm, Ages 3 and up

Mr. Popper finds himself surrounded by penguins...in a New York City apartment! Relax and enjoy a family movie on the big screen in our meeting room! Free popcorn is provided.

📖♥ *Stuffed Animal Sleepover*

Wednesday, December 28

6:30-7:30pm, Ages 3-6

Put on your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal to the library to listen to stories. While you sleep at home, your stuffed animal will have fun at WPL! Then, when you come back to pick up your toy, we will give you a picture of your animal playing in the library overnight!

📖♥ *Make Your Own Graphic Novel*

Thursday, January 19

6:30-8:00pm, Ages 9-11

Are you into graphic novels? Do you like to draw? Do you have ideas for a story? WPL has a program for you! You will get to write your own story as a group and then illustrate it - graphic novel style! Everyone leaves with their very own individualized book.

📖♥ *Science Saturday: The Heart*

Saturday, February 4

1:00-2:30pm, Ages 6-11

Celebrate Black History Month as we honor Daniel Hale Williams, one of the first African-American surgeons to perform open heart surgery in the United States! We will learn all about the human heart and circulatory system with experiments and fun activities!

📖♥ *Reader's Theatre*

Monday, February 20, Ages 8-12

4:00-6:15pm (Kids Only)

7:00-8:00pm-Performance for All Ages

Want a little drama in your life? Join us for an introduction to Reader's Theatre! We will be practicing and performing several smaller selections- no memorization is required. Dinner will be provided for the kids at 6:15 and seating for the performance will begin at 6:45pm. A reception with refreshments will follow the performance.

⊖ *Winter Read-In*

Wednesday, December 28, 1-4pm

Chill out with a good book, your slippers, and your favorite blanket in the Youth Services Department. What better way to spend a chilly afternoon than with the adventures found within the pages of your book? We'll provide the treats and can even suggest a great book if you need one.



⊖ Pre-Reader Storytimes (Ages 4 & 5)

Tuesdays at 10:15am

December 1-15, January 17-February 29

Letter recognition, crafts, stories, and songs make this storytime for preschool age children a great way to build early literacy skills!

⊖ *Baby & Toddler Storytimes (Ages 0-3)*

Wednesdays & Thursdays at 10:15am

December 1-15, January 17-February 29

Get ready for stories, songs, and interactive play! Young children and a caregiver will enjoy this special weekly time together while nurturing a love of reading.

⊖ *Toddler & Me Playgroup*

*Wednesdays & Thursdays

10:45-11:30am, Ages 0-3 with a caregiver

Bring your young children to a morning playtime in the library meeting room. Interact with other moms and caregivers while the kids play and eat snacks.

*Playgroup takes place only on storytime days.

⊖ *Bilingual Storytime*

Mondays, 12/12, 1/9, 1/23, 2/13, 2/27

11:30am, Ages 0-5

Take this perfect opportunity for families that speak different languages to interact! This storytime is conducted in English and Spanish with an emphasis on basic vocabulary and phrasing.

NOTE ON PROGRAMMING:

Staff ask all parents to be prompt when bringing children to library events. Any late arrivals may find their spot forfeited. No child will be admitted to a program more than 15 minutes after the event's start time.



Winter Art Contest

Calling all creative kids! WPL is running a contest from November 25th-December 19th for kids ages 3-12. Anyone who submits their original snowman artwork on an official entry form will be entered into a drawing! Entries will be displayed from December 19th-January 16th.

One winner from each of the three age groups (preschool-kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade) will receive a winter themed gift basket. Winners will be contacted December 20th. All entries will be kept until January 23rd, 2012 so claim yours before that time! See a staff member for more information and to pick up your official entry form!

Registration Key: 📖 Registration is required

⊖ No registration required

♥ Sponsored by the Friends of WPL

Staff may refuse entrance for a library program to any person who is not within the required age range.

Dates and programs are subject to change. Please check the library website for updated information at: www.westmontlibrary.org.

♿ Please note: Individuals requiring accommodation for a disability for any library program should contact the library at least five days before the program.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

HEALTHY LIVING

ADULTS

4th Monday Book Group

Mondays: 1/23 & 2/27, 7pm

Join in the discussion of popular titles and share your thoughts and opinions! This group is led by a different member each month. Books are available for checkout at the Main Desk one month in advance.

No registration is necessary.

Knit Clique

Tuesdays: 12/6, 1/3, 2/7, 6:30-8:30pm

Grab your yarn and needles and we'll sit, knit, and compare projects. If you have never knitted before, there is room for you too! We will teach you the basics!

No registration is necessary.

Knit Clique: Open Knit Session

Wednesdays: 12/21, 1/18, 2/15, 11:30-1:30pm

For the independent knitter looking for a group, we are opening our conference room to knitters not in need of basic instruction. Bring your projects and socialize with other advanced knitters.

No registration is necessary.

Writers' Group

Thursdays: 12/8, 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 7pm

This interactive group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month and is for adults interested in venturing into the world of publishing. Members bring in original writing for feedback from the group. Writers in all genres are welcome! *No registration is necessary.*

English Conversation Group

**Saturdays: 12/10, 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25
10am-12pm**

This informal and friendly conversation group is for all adult English learners. Join us on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month as we improve our verbal English skills! Co-sponsored by Literacy DuPage.

No registration is necessary.

Lit & Film Club featuring:

The Secret Life of Bees

Tuesday, January 31, 5:30-8:30pm

The second meeting of our new literature and film group will focus on the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. The film will be shown from 5:30-7:30pm with discussion immediately following. A copy of the book will be available for check out at the Main Desk on January 1. *To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org*

Revolutionary 9-Day Cleanse

Tuesday, January 10, 7:00pm

Dr. Anthony Surrusco will present information on Nutritional Whole Body Cleansing that can rid your body of excess fat and reduce the amount of stored toxins. If you are serious about your health and want to lose weight and remove toxins with no digestive side effects, please join us to learn more. *To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org*

Healthy Cooking Demo

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30pm

Don't miss Chef Dave Esau of Dave's Specialty Foods as he demonstrates how to cook Quinoa with corn and tomatoes, lentil salad with goat cheese, and double baked apples. Dave will also discuss healthy eating habits, purchasing healthy ingredients, and reading nutrition labels. Samples of the dishes Dave creates will be served! *To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org*

Zumba!

Tuesday, January 24, 7:00pm

Experience why Zumba has become a fitness craze in the U.S. as we learn and have fun with instructor Gabriela Cruz. This Latin-inspired dance fitness class will help you burn a few extra calories and will teach you about the origins of the exercise. Be sure to wear comfortable, loose clothing and gym shoes. *To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org*

The Health Benefits of Tea

Monday, February 6, 7:00pm

Warm up with a cup of hot tea and learn how it can help improve your health! Tea expert Sarine from SereneTeaz (shops in Elmhurst and Wheaton) will discuss the various types of tea, brewing instructions, health benefits of each, and a free sampling of the teas for everyone in the audience. Whether you are a tea connoisseur or a beginner, this is an event you won't want to miss.

To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org



PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Don't Pay the College Sticker Price

Thursday, December 1, 7:00pm

Joe Orsolini from College Aid Planners, Inc. will be giving his presentation for high schoolers and adults. Learn about need and merit aid and exploiting tax breaks for families of all income levels! *To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org*

Preserving Holiday Recipes

Tuesday, December 6, 6:30-8:00pm

Looking for a fun and relaxing way to let your creativity out? Join Amy Alessio as we combine food and scrapbooking to make holiday themed scrap-cookbooks to help preserve those cherished family recipes! Audience members will sample treats and leave with mini albums and recipes. *To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org*

Bel Sonore Ensemble Concert

Sunday, December 18, 2:00pm

Hear the beautiful music of the Bel Sonore Chamber Ensemble fill the Library. Bel Sonore is a woodwind trio composed of a flute, oboe, and bassoon with the addition of a soprano singer. Bel Sonore performs a repertoire ranging from the Baroque music of Telemann and Bach to the jazz standards of Duke Ellington. The woodwind trio plus voice has performed at countless social functions as well as recitals at such venues as CAMI Hall and Brooklyn Museum in New York, and Chicago's Harold Washington Library Concert Series. *To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org*

Ruthless Editing

Thursday, February 2, 7:00pm

Learn about parenting your story so it grows into a book! Parents have to make difficult choices to help their children grown into adults. A writer also must make those kinds of tough choices and mystery author, Joelle Charbonneau is here to help you do it. From chapter one, discover how to objectively slash those lovely passages you slaved over and create a work that will keep the reader awake and turning the pages through the night. *To register, call 630-969-5625 or visit: www.westmontlibrary.org*

eReaders, eBooks & Your Library

Call 630-969-5625 for an appointment!



Check out eBooks for free with your library card! Book a one-on-one appointment with a librarian to learn the basics on downloading, eBook and eReader features, and how to get the most out of Media on Demand's eBook collection.

COMPUTER CLASSES

Computer classes are offered for a variety of skill levels. There is a **non-refundable \$5 fee per person, per class** which is due at the Main Desk upon registration. Online registration is **not** available for computer classes. Please direct further questions to the Adult Help Desk at 630.969.5625 ext. 5.

Beginner Classes

For those with little or no previous computer knowledge.

Intro to Computers

Wednesday, January 4, 6:30-8:30pm

Learn about the main parts of a computer, common devices, storage, and software.

Internet Basics

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30-8:30pm

Find out about web pages, hyperlinks, searching online and printing from a website.

Email for Beginners

Wednesday, February 1, 6:30-8:30pm

Use email to confidently communicate after taking this introductory course that uses Yahoo Mail as an example.

Microsoft Word 2010 for Beginners

Wednesday, February 8, 6:30-8:30pm

Practice creating and saving documents, moving text, plus several useful keyboard shortcuts.

Excel 2010 for Beginners

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30-8:30pm

Learn basic formatting and editing in Excel along with keyboard shortcuts, formulas, and charts.

Intermediate Classes

For those with previous computer experience.

If you are not familiar with computer applications and programs, try a beginner class first.

Intermediate Computers

Wednesday, January 11, 6:30-8:30pm

Intermediate Internet

Wednesday, January 25, 6:30-8:30pm

Intermediate Excel 2010

Wednesday, February 22, 6:30-8:30pm

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Dates and programs are subject to change. Please check the library website for updated information at: www.westmontlibrary.org.

♻ Please note: Individuals requiring accommodation for a disability for any library program should contact the library at least five days before the program.

-5- Events & Volunteer Opportunities

TEENS

All teen events are open to anyone in junior high and high school. Register by calling 630.969.5625 or online at: www.westmontlibrary.org

Teen Focus Group:

Tell us what you think!

Saturday, December 3, 12:00-1:30pm

Stop by for FREE lunch and chat with a librarian about what the library could do better and how you would change things if you were in charge!

Wacky Gingerbread Houses

Thursday, December 15, 6:30-7:30pm

Play with your food! WPL will provide all the materials to make your very own crazy looking gingerbread house! Come on by, get messy, and eat! Everyone takes home their creation.

Teen Decoration Days

Saturday, 12/3 @ 1:30pm & 2/4 @ 12pm

Looking for a way to tap in to your creative side? Join TeenTeam as we decorate for the winter season.

Accepted: Get into Your Top College Choice Tuesday, February 28, 6:30-7:30pm

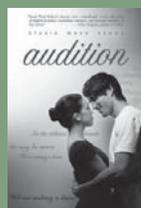
Will you be wearing blue & orange, red & black, or some other combination? Those new school colors are on the horizon as you get closer to becoming a college student! Listen to a representative from KAPLAN discuss how to get into the school of your choice and what you can do to make it happen.

TeenTeam Volunteer Group

Are you looking for a way to earn some volunteer hours? Interested in giving back to the community? The library needs your help! Join our group of teen volunteers who help us with kids programs, decorating for the holidays, and more! Visit the Employment page on our website to download an application or pick one up at the Main Desk. Anyone over the age of 12 may volunteer with a parent's permission.

NEW Young Adult & High School Titles

Place a hold on one of these future favorites today! Go to www.westmontlibrary.org and sign in to your SWAN account where you can manage your holds, renew items, and more. Using an eReader? Head to our website and follow the link for Media on Demand to reserve a title.



Audition

by Stasia Ward Kehoe
Sara moves to a new city and finds love after winning a ballet scholarship.



Justin Thyme

by Panama Oxridge
Billionaire Justin is an inventor destined for greatness and living in an old castle on the banks of Loch Ness.



A Scary Scene in a Scary Movie

by Matt Blackstone
Rene's OCD causes him to think everyone around him is going to die a horrible death.



Chime

by Franny Billingsley
A death sentence awaits Briony if anyone finds out she is a witch.



Legend

by Marie Lu
The future of America hangs in the balance and two 15-year-olds become legends.



Stolen Away

by Alyxandra Harvey
Eloise is abducted and trapped in the world of Faery, a place she never knew existed.



Fracture

by Megan Miranda
Delaney defies the odds and is resuscitated after spending eleven minutes underwater.



Ruthless

by Sara Shepherd
The latest book in the *Pretty Little Liars* series details "A's" attempts to torment the girls.



Tighter

by Adele Griffin
Jamie is an au pair in New England for the summer with the secrets of last summer haunting her.



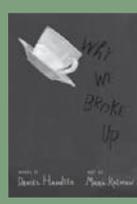
Graffiti Moon

by Cath Crowley
Lucy searches the city for a well-know but elusive graffiti artist whose work touches her.



Scarlet

by A.C. Gaughen
A young woman joins Robin Hood's band of thieves to escape an evil lord who will stop at nothing to end her.



Why We Broke Up

by Daniel Handler
A letter arrives with a box of objects that reveals the truth of a doomed relationship.

NEW FICTION



Westmont Public Library
 428 N. Cass Ave.
 Westmont, IL 60559
 www.westmontlibrary.org

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Library Closings:

Saturday, December 24th
 Sunday, December 25th
 Saturday, December 31st
 Sunday, January 1st

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The Explorer is a Westmont Public Library quarterly publication intended to offer current and updated library information to Westmont patrons.

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The Friends of the Westmont Public Library is a non-profit organization that supports the Library by raising money to help subsidize the cost of programs and special events. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Library, please email: friends@westmontlibrary.org or call 630.969.5625.

Library Hours:
 Monday-Thursday 10am-9pm
 Friday-Saturday 10am-5pm
 Sunday 1pm-5pm

For more information about the Westmont Public Library, please contact us at:
 630.969.5625
 630.969.6490 fax
 westmontlibrary@westmontlibrary.org

Don't forget!
 Program registration is online at:
 www.westmontlibrary.org

Library Garden

By Christine Kuhn, Library Director

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked on the Library's plaza project, our patrons who endured the project with great patience, and the many people who have complimented us on the outcome.

The repair of our front entrance plaza gave us an opportunity to break up the former sea of concrete and bring more green closer to the building.

The delightful garden of basil, marigolds, yarrow and coleuses was the work and gift of our facility project manager, David

Clark. The coleuses have been lifted to weather the winter months inside. The very successful basil and marigolds will make an appearance next year through the harvested seeds. The yarrow is a very successful Midwest perennial. To bring us color in the coming spring, one kind Westmont resident, Malgorzata Orszula, took the time to plant a couple hundred bulbs in the plaza beds.

In August, resident Pat Miller who is also a Master Gardener and a Monarch Sanctuary Specialist, offered plants from her butterfly garden for the planter box next

to the building's ramp. We took her up on the offer and spent a gorgeous September morning creating the beginnings of a butterfly sanctuary. Signage will be put up in the spring to help visitors plan their own butterfly gardens.

Please honor these wonderful efforts by enjoying their gift to the community and by respecting the beauty they have provided. If you are interested in putting your mark on the Westmont Public Library in a positive and lasting way, please contact Christine Kuhn at 630.969.5625

New and Future Adult Fiction

Another Piece of My Heart
 by Jane Green - General Fiction

Before I Go to Sleep
 by S. J. Watson, Mystery

The Boy in the Suitcase
 by Lene Kaaberbol, Thriller

Christmas in Sugar Creek
 by Shelley Shepard Gray,
 Christian Fiction

Fall From Grace
 by Richard North Patterson, Suspense

The Lady of the Rivers
 by Philippa Gregory, Historical Fiction

Lone Wolf
 by Jodi Picoult, General Fiction

No Mark Upon Her
 by Deborah Crombie, Thriller

Red Mist by Patricia Cornwell,
 Thriller

The Rose Garden
 by Susanna Kearsley, Romance

Scotched
 by Kaitlyn Dunnnett, Mystery

The Shadow Patrol
 by Alex Berenson, CIA Thriller