A new season means a new edition of PRISM, the Portage Lake District Library’s quarterly newsletter. In this issue, we’re celebrating Spring, but I’m already dreaming of summer over here! I can’t wait for some of our upcoming summer programming and I’m thrilled to give you a preview of what we’ve been working on.

This year’s Summer Reading Program theme is A Universe of Stories, and we’re kicking off 8 weeks worth of engaging space-focused programming on Saturday, June 22. Star gazing, rocket launches, visiting astrophysicists, inflatable Star Labs, movie nights, moonwalk and telescope storytime events, and more!

New to our Summer Reading Program this year will be an online registration option where you can also log and track all of your reading. Keep an eye out for an early registration option made possible through the online application.

On June 18, the Downtown Houghton Farmer’s Market returns to the parking lot just outside of the library. We’re adding some new market programs this year, including Biblio Bistro, a monthly cooking demonstration using only market goods and produce.

As we wind down our Pre School Storytime events in June, we’ll kick-off a weekly yoga session for kids on Thursday mornings in partnership with Fresh Coast Yoga. In July, we’ll make the same weekly sessions available for adults, too. We can’t wait to see you at the library soon!

Dillon Geshel, Library Director
Recurring Library Programs

MAY AND JUNE

**Baby & Me Storytime**  
**Mondays, 10:15am**  
For ages 1-18 months and a loving adult. Songs, stories, fingerplays and socializing. Older siblings are welcome as well.

**Storytime for Preschoolers**  
**Until May 30**  
**Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:15am**  
Storytime for 2-5 year olds. Older and younger siblings may also attend. Join us for stories, crafts and a really good time.

**Knitting Nights**  
**Mondays, 6:30pm**  
The public is invited to knit, crochet, spin, or bring a hand craft and enjoy good company and conversations. All levels of skill are welcome.

**Adult Book Group**  
**First Wednesday, 5:30pm**  
This June, join the adult book group to discuss *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. New members are always welcome.

**Young Adult Book Group**  
**2nd and 4th Monday, 6:30pm**  
This book group is for young adults who love to read. Stop by any regular meeting to join the group.

**Tween Book Group**  
**1st and 3rd Thursday, 6:30pm**  
This book group is for ages 10-13. Attendees discuss their current reads. Stop by any regular meeting to join the group.

**Downtown Houghton Farmer’s Market**  
**Beginning June 18**  
**Tuesdays, 4pm**  
Join us for a weekly Farmer’s Market in the parking lot between Suomi Restaurant and the library.

**Kid’s Yoga**  
**Beginning June 13**  
**Thursdays, 10:15am**  
Join us for free kid’s yoga sessions this summer with Fresh Coast Yoga! Please bring your own yoga mat; a limited number will be available for public use.
SPRING READS
Find these children’s books and more in the library’s online catalog at www.pldl.org
Sometimes, it’s fun to be a tourist in our own backyard. With the Michigan Activity Pass program, you can do just that with discounted and free access to dozens of local State Parks, recreational areas, campgrounds and more, and all you need is a library card. Discover Michigan’s premier cultural & natural attractions this summer using your Portage Lake District Library card!

The Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) presented by The Library Network program is a partnership between Michigan’s nearly 400 public libraries and hundreds of Michigan’s state parks, historic sites, cultural attractions, campgrounds and recreational areas. The program is designed to enhance the learning experience for people of all ages through books and other library materials, and to provide reduced cost or complimentary access to arts, cultural, and outdoor organizations across the state of Michigan, from St. Joseph to Saline to Saginaw to Sault Ste. Marie to South Range, and all points in between.

Beginning May 24, 2019, library patrons can print a pass, either from home or at the library, to one of hundreds of participating institutions at the Michigan Activity Pass website. Some partners offer complimentary or reduced price admission; others, discounts in their gift shop or other exclusive offers for MAP pass holders only. Each Michigan Activity Pass expires one week from the date it is printed.

Michigan Activity Pass is presented by The Library Network and supported in part by the Library of Michigan with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Learning Express Library is a digital resource made available to library patrons that offers support for students and professionals in skill-building, test prep, and career certification. Visit our Resources A-Z page at www.pldl.org to start using Learning Express Library today!
In this issue, we’re featuring books recommended by Mia and Anna. Read on below to find out what your library staff are reading!

An Absolutely Remarkable Thing by Hank Green
When 22-year-old April May becomes the first person to discover a mysterious robot statue, she turns into a celebrity overnight. It turns out the statue was a much bigger deal than she thought. As a fascinating mystery ensues, April has to deal with her newfound celebrity and the media frenzy. It’s captivating to watch her evolve, while she works to solve the puzzle. The ending leaves you wanting more, which is perfect, because a sequel is in the works!

-Mia Brodeur, Circulation Services

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
You may know him as host of The Daily Show, but Trevor Noah’s not just a comedian, he’s an author too. Born a Crime tells stories from his childhood in South Africa, where he was born to a Xhosa mother and a Swiss-German father. This was during apartheid, making his birth illegal. Not only were times exceptionally difficult for Noah due to his race, but he also came from a poor home. He did everything he could to save money, from selling pirated CDs to starting a D.J. business. Despite the truly harrowing nature of his childhood, Noah manages to shine a humorous light on his story, making it a wonderful read.

-Mia Brodeur, Circulation Services

Skink—No Surrender by Carl Hiaasen
Although it’s one of his lesser known books, Skink—No Surrender still remains a charming example of Hiaasen’s gift for writing. He manages to make even the most eccentric of characters seem real, which is evident in Skink, the one-eyed ex-governor turned poacher-hunter, who befriends Richard, a teen searching for his missing cousin. Their resulting adventure is a wonderful blend of humor and heart. If you’re a fan of Hiaasen’s other novels, or just looking for a quick and fun read, this is the perfect book for you.

-Mia Brodeur, Circulation Services
**Educated by Tara Westover**

In her memoir, Tara Westover writes about growing up in a family where the parents see the government as an enemy. The children don’t have a birth certificate, they don’t get educated or visit the doctor. Herbal remedies are the only acceptable way to treat even the most severe injuries. When Tara wants to go to school at the age of 17 her parents try to do anything in their power to change her mind. Can Tara escape the manipulation and violence that occurs in her family and start a new life or will she be pulled back? The reader cannot stop turning the pages to find out.

-Anna Leppanen, Circulation Services

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**Becoming by Michelle Obama**

Michelle Obama writes about her close-knit family and community warmly and honestly. Her parents believed in hard work and good education, which are both important aspects of this book. Readers learn why she left a high-powered corporate job for a more fulfilling career, her struggles of family-work balance with two children and a husband with his own career. Michelle Obama openly lays out ups and downs of the family’s life and the White House years. Readers see what she has become but also learn that becoming something or someone is a perpetual process.

-Anna Leppanen, Circulation Services

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**Zucked by Roger McNamee**

This well-researched book is about the dark side of social media and how some internet platforms are not held accountable for collecting user data and selling it to third parties. It explains why fake news and disinformation spread so fast and how groups and filter bubbles contribute to it. McNamee writes how internet monopolies and their business models work, what is the decision making process and why there is a lack of responsibility. McNamee argues that social media is a threat for democracy and public health and gives suggestions of what should be done to protect user data.

-Anna Leppanen, Circulation Services
THE 2019 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

This summer, the Portage Lake District Library’s Summer Reading Program will celebrate all things astronomical! This year’s theme, A Universe of Stories, will include 8 weeks of all-ages reading challenges, space related events, author talks, new recurring summer programs, and lots of prizes along the way. The library will kick-off Summer Reading with a registration party on Saturday, June 22nd at 10AM. Join us for ice cream, live music, face painting, and space themed crafts and activities!

For the first time, the library will also host a party to bring Summer Reading to a close on August 10th. We’re excited to include a raffle for Summer Reading Program participants at this event, and lots of other hands on activities to celebrate a great summer of reading and learning.

Also new to Summer Reading this year will be the ability to register you and your family online! We’re thrilled to reveal an online Summer Reading Program portal that will allow you to track your summer reading and follow your progress from your PC, laptop or other mobile device. Look for more information about early, online registration on the library’s website in the near future.

Try Libby.
The one-tap reading app from your local library.

Brought to you by your local library and built with ❤️ by OverDrive.
The Portage Lake District Library began work on the 2019-2021 strategic plan in March 2018. A committee was formed, made up of members of the PLDL Board, staff, Friends of the Library, and community members. A community survey that asked users to rate current services and submit ideas for future programs and resources was filled out by nearly 200 community members. Focus groups hosted by strategic planning committee members collected additional insight into library services from senior citizens, teens, teachers, families, and adults without children.

Over the next several months, the committee worked to identify common themes from the survey results and focus group conversations. Those commonalities laid the groundwork for three strategic initiatives identified in this plan: Discover, Imagine, and Connect. Each initiative details a number of goals that are meant to improve our collections, enhance the user’s experience, and increase opportunities for community connection and engagement.

This plan is an ambitious set of improvements and innovations that represent a renewed commitment to exceptional service at the library. Many of the goals listed ask the library to commit further to patron-and data-driven decision making. These commitments will ensure that services and resources at PLDL represent the diverse wants and needs of our community. PLDL has long been a community anchor for educational and recreational materials and engagement, and we’re thrilled to have a community-informed strategic plan to drive this necessary work. Visit pldl.org to download a PDF version of the full plan, or stop by the library for a print copy.

-Dillon Geshel, Library Director

Strategic Initiatives
1. Discover
Through virtual and physical collections, PLDL will provide patrons with the materials needed for engagement, education and inspiration

2. Imagine
PLDL will facilitate experiences that engage, educate, and inspire individuals of all ages and backgrounds, and create flexible spaces that are welcoming, easy to navigate, and appropriate for a wide range of activities and community interactions

3. Connect
PLDL will engage community partners, volunteers, and staff to maximize the library’s impact as a community resource, information center, and meeting place
**Keyclub Storytime**  
**Saturday, May 25 @ 11am**  
Young children are invited for stories, crafts and a really good time! This event is presented by the Houghton High School Key Club.

**Fire Hall Storytime for Pre-Schoolers**  
**Wednesday, May 29 @ 10:15am**  
**Thursday, May 30 @ 10:15am**  
Join us on May 29 and May 30 at the Houghton Fire Department for a special Firefighter storytime! Stories, crafts, and a fire hall tour!

**Super Smash Brothers Video Game Tournament**  
**Friday, May 31 @ 5pm**  
Join us for a Super Smash Bros. Tournament! For ages 13—18. The library is asking all participants to donate one gently used video game to help us kick-start a new collection of games for checkout. Food and snacks will be provided.

**Downtown Houghton Farmer’s Market Kickoff**  
**Tuesday, June 18 @ 4pm**  
The Downtown Houghton Farmer’s Market opens for the season on June 18 @ 4pm. In addition to fresh, local foods, opening day will also feature live music and a ‘build your own Mr. Potato head’ activity for children.

**The Russian Five Author Visit**  
**Thursday, June 20 @ 6pm**  
Keith Gave, author of the 2019 Michigan Notable Book *The Russian Five* (now a feature film), will visit the library to discuss his book about the Detroit Red Wings famous line-up of Russian players in the 1990s.

**Music on The Menu**  
**Friday, June 21 @ 12pm**  
We’re kicking off our seasonal Music on the Menu series with local favorite Bob Hiltunen! Join Bob for music and bring a bagged lunch to enjoy on the dock outside.

**Summer Reading Program Kick-Off**  
**Saturday, June 22, 10am—3pm**  
Join us to celebrate the start of our Summer Reading Program! We’ll be introducing our online Summer Reading website and assisting patrons in online registration so they can log and track their reading throughout the summer. There will be an ice cream social, face painting, several space themed activities and craft sessions, and live music from the Pine Mountain Music Festival.