

The Review

A Quarterly Publication of READ La Porte County, Inc.
Summer 2015 Edition

What's New with READ?

First READ Spell Bowl a S – U – C – C – E – S – S

Does your vocabulary include “cytophilic,” “bouillabaisse” and “fauteuil?” Participants at READ La Porte County, Inc.’s 2015 Community Spell Bowl had to spell these challenging words along with many others. 18 teams joined in the fun at the March 25th event, which was held at the VFW Hall in La Porte. Mary Fridh, READ’s current board president, acted as scorekeeper.

First place honors went to New Prairie High School’s team, with team members Jim Groendyke, Sandy Murray, Jeff Suttor and Patrick Tekyl. The team representing the La Porte County Public Library placed second, with team members Jan Ebsch, Stephanie Ebsch, Elizabeth Johnson and Stephanie Murphy. The spirit award went to the team from Kingsford Heights Elementary School.

READ thanks corporate sponsors IU Health La Porte Hospital (\$1000 sponsorship) and United Way of LaPorte County (\$250 sponsorship) for helping make this exciting event possible.

Big News from Dollar General Literacy Foundation

READ recently received word that the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded us grant funding in the amount of \$12,528.00 to go towards our tutoring program at the Community Corrections Center.

Past topics of study have included parenting, resume writing and TASC preparation. We are very pleased we will be able to continue to serve this group of clients!

Bethany Continues Support of READ’s Programming

Bethany Lutheran Church of La Porte Foundation, Inc. has once again awarded READ a \$2,000 grant for marketing and training. These monies are very important in helping us find and equip new tutors to assist in our mission. We thank Bethany for partnering with us to increase literacy in our community.



**Photos provided by Kristi Chadderdon of Leadership LaPorte County.*

Friends, Fun and Free Pizza

Thanks to a grant from the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association, we were able to host our second annual Community Open House on May 13th at the La Porte County Public Library. In addition to a menu of pizza, cookies and beverages, our event featured door prize drawings, a jewelry-making activity for children and free books obtained from Boston Middle School and the La Porte County Public Library. In addition, some students from our

Adult English Language Class at Handley received certificates of recognition for their efforts this school year.

Approximately 40 children and adults attended, including tutors, students, board members and members of the general public. The consensus was that this year's event was even more lively and enjoyable than last year's. We hope to host a similar event in the spring of 2016.

Coming Soon

Set out on a Summer Learning Adventure

Want to make reading a priority this summer? Sign up for La Porte County Public Library's super hero-themed Summer Learning Adventure!

Between June 1st and July 31st, children and adults ages four and up can log their reads on the library's website to gain access to exciting prize drawings. Kids ages zero to three can complete a variety of early literacy activities with their parents.

Adult English Language Class Returns

Due to the success of our new Adult English Language Class at Handley Elementary School, our board has voted to bring this program back for the 2015-2016 school year. We expect classes to start again in mid-September and run through May.

These classes are open to adults who wish to learn English as a second language or improve their English language skills. Students learn through Rosetta Stone computer software as well as a variety of interactive activities. Learners from all different language backgrounds are welcome!

If you or someone you know is interested in registering for next year's class, keep an eye out for complete schedule information and details on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ReadLaPorteCountyInc.

See You at the Sunflower Fair!

Will you be at the 17th annual Sunflower Fair on September 19, 2015? READ will!

Look for us in the middle of Harrison Street, across from the rib cook-off and just north of the car show on Michigan Avenue. Our table will feature information about READ along with pop, water and juice for purchase. If you're in the neighborhood, we'd love for you to stop by and say hello!

Scrabble 2015 Details and Sign-Up

This year's Scrabble Tournament will be a "Spellabration!" Please join us on September 24, 2015 for a night of gaming fun. As in previous years, two-person teams will compete in a two-round tournament. Your registration fee includes complimentary appetizers, and a cash bar will also be available.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the tournament commencing at 7:00 p.m. Arrive by 6:50 p.m. to participate in our popular "Lightning Round!"

Use the attached registration form to sign up by September 14th and receive our "early registration" rate of \$25.00 per player. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at readlaportecounty@gmail.com.

Our director is currently compiling our annual report running from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. So far we have had 47 tutors and paid instructors report working with a total of 254 students during this time period. If you have tutored during this time period but haven't sent in your stats, please check in with Mary Hedge at mhedge8@comcast.net as soon as you get a chance.

What We're READING...

Summer Reading Selections by Lydia Daniels, Youth Services Librarian at the La Porte County Public Library

With more sun than clouds, more rain than snow, and more greenery than not, it's (finally) safe to say that summer is right around the corner. Besides grilling, fireflies, fireworks, and dripping ice cream cones, summer also brings to mind hot, lazy afternoons with a lemonade and a stack of good books. Why, then, should we limit a book review to just one book?

While these books are written for younger audiences that never means adults cannot enjoy them just as much.

"Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures" by Kate DiCamillo

It all started with a vacuum cleaner. Really. Flora was minding her own business, reading up on her favorite comics, when her neighbor's vacuum cleaner shots across her backyard and sucks up an unsuspecting squirrel. Thinking the squirrel is a goner, Flora is delighted to discover that not only is he fine, but his trip through the vacuum cleaner seems to have given him superhero abilities. She dubs him Ulysses and together they set out to defeat his nemesis—Flora's mother, who is less than thrilled that her daughter has taken in a pet squirrel.

Flora & Ulysses is the 2014 Newbery Award winner and Kate DiCamillo's second Newbery Award winning novel. DiCamillo is the prolific author of Tale of Despereaux, Because of Winn Dixie, Bink and Gollie, and many more novels.

"The Iron Trial" (Magisterium, #1) by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare

"Make your mind totally blank." That's the advice that Callum Hunt's father gives him before he goes to take his Iron Trial—a test to determine whether or not Call will attend school at the Magisterium and become a magician. While most people would desperately want to pass the Iron Trial, Call and his father are trying to keep Call away from magic at all costs. Magic is what destroyed his father's world twelve years ago; magic is what crippled one of Call's legs; magic is what killed his mother.

However, Call fails...at failing. Somehow he passes the trial and is now an apprentice. At the Magisterium, Call starts to learn how to control his magic, but also how he plays a key role in the mages' fight between the Magisterium and the Enemy of Death.

Holly Black and Cassandra Clare should be familiar names by now. Holly Black is the author of the best-selling series The Spiderwick Chronicles, while Cassandra Clare is the author of the best-selling series The Mortal Instruments and The Infernal Devices.

"Shadow and Bone" (The Grisha Trilogy Book One) by Leigh Bardugo

All Alina cares about is making it through her military service in one piece. However, the increasing attacks to Ravka's shores from the Fold's creatures seem to be conspiring against her. As her company travels across through the absolute blackness of the void, they are attacked and left for dead. Except this time, Alina somehow summons light to battle the darkness, and thus discovers she is one of the Grisha.

In a world where Grisha power is everything, Alina suddenly finds herself the pupil of the most powerful Grisha in the kingdom. Now she needs to understand what it means to be the Light Summoner before she becomes a pawn in the Grisha's fight to take over the kingdom.

Shadow and Bone is Leigh Bardugo's first book and is well worth the read. All three books from the trilogy are published and you might want to have the next book on hand before you finish the first.

Still looking for more book recommendations? Your friendly neighborhood librarians at La Porte County Public Library are always ready to help you find your next favorite book.

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Join us for our 12th Annual Scrabble Tournament!

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Best Western Plus La Porte Hotel & Conference Center

6:30 p.m. – Doors open

7:00 p.m. – Tournament begins

It's a “Spellabration!”

Come celebrate literacy with READ! Two-person teams will compete in a two-round tournament. Your registration fee includes a variety of delicious appetizers. A cash bar will also be available. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

Arrive by 6:50 p.m. to participate in our exciting “Lightning Round!” We will also have a Silent Auction with a variety of prizes for those who wish to participate. We hope to see you there!

**Questions? Please call 219-325-0875 or email us at
readlaportecounty@gmail.com.**

Early Registration (By September 14th) - \$25.00 per player
Late Registration (After September 14th) - \$30.00 per player

Team Member #1: _____

Email/Mailing Address: _____

Team Member #2: _____

Email/Mailing Address: _____

Sponsor (If applicable): _____

Please return this portion and your check to Mary Hedge, READ La Porte County, Inc., 904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350.