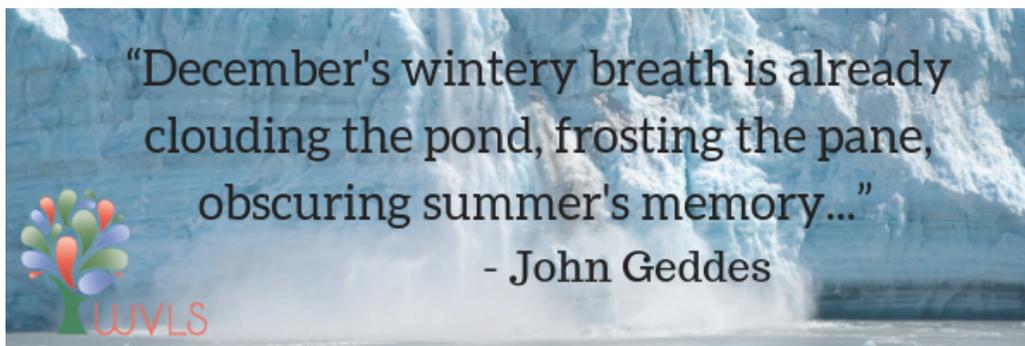


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## Wisconsin Valley Library Service



**December 2018, Issue 11**

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### Wild Wisconsin Conference Set for January 23-24



The Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference will take place on January 23-24, 2019.

Fourteen sessions will be available in 4 different tracks, including Library Leadership, Marketing, Small and Mighty, and Youth Services. Planning has been underway since April to give you and your staff an excellent conference experience. All

16 public library systems in Wisconsin, along with the Department of Public Instruction, are providing support for this conference.

[Registration is now open](#) on the conference website.

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### WVLS Offering I & C Literacy Grant



To support literacy for all library users of Wisconsin Valley Library Service member libraries, a \$20,000 grant will be provided to partnering WVLS libraries to create a space in their libraries where families can talk, read, sing, write, and play together. Libraries are literacy centers in communities. Libraries fight the 30 million word gap and the summer slide with storytimes, summer programs, educational programs, activities, guest speakers, special programming, reader's advisory, robust collections and more. Family spaces filled with fun, literacy-based activities and quality information under the leadership of librarians, will enhance library offerings as a major literacy resource in the community.

#### **What might this grant create in your library?**

- Vibrant space that attracts the eye: vibrant signage and space design.
- Prominent conversation prompts with content from: Talking is Teaching, Growing Wisconsin Readers, Babies Need Words Everyday, Reach Out & Read, U.S. Department of Education and more.
- Equipment for all ages and needs: sensory friendly, various heights, textures, firmness, and styles such as bench, chair, rocking chair, stool and more.
- Activity tables, educational games, intriguing manipulatives and activities, physical activity prompts, board books, easy readers and more.
- Rotating information sources such as handouts, brochures, rack cards to encourage and help parents talk, read, sing, write, and play with their children.

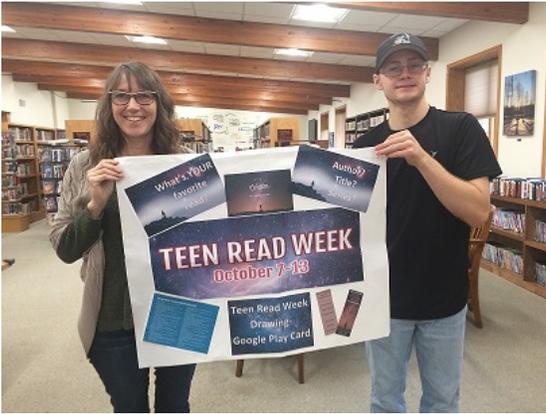
[Please visit the WVLS Scholarships and Grants web page](#), for more information, and to download a grant application. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 1, 2019.

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### **Rib Lake Reaches Out to Teens**

This year, for Teen Read Week, we decided to “go where the teens are.” Our goal was to receive input from our local teens regarding what books they want to see in their library. We created a bookmark survey using Canva.

I took our new teen intern, Kiernan Peterson, along on our outreach to provide him with the experience. We set up a table during the two public high school lunch hours to encourage survey participation. Teens who filled out a survey received a small treat and got entered into a drawing. In addition, I put to use his suggestion and began a relationship with our Rural Virtual Academy by inviting their teen students



to participate as well. I was happy with our results. Fifty-two out of 130 students returned a survey with their suggestions for items they would like to see added to their library. That comes to a 40% participation rate. Our goal for this outreach was to connect a "face" with the local library in the minds of our local teens. I feel this was a great success, and it will help us choose relevant new materials for the teens in our community.

As a follow-up to the event, I visited the Rib Lake High School during morning announcements on Friday, Oct. 26, to thank them for participating and announce the winner. I also filled out a survey on the Teen Read Week website sharing our experience with them.

*Submitted by: Krista Blomberg, Assistant Director, Rib Lake Public Library*

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## Hart Featured in WISL Newsletter

Cara Hart, the Director of the Neillsville Public Library, was recently featured as the November WISL Librarian of the Month.

WISL, Wisconsin Small Libraries, is a section of the Wisconsin Library Association. WISL's purpose is to promote the common interests, activities, administration and services of all small libraries.



To read the feature on Cara Hart, [check out the WISL Facebook page](#).

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## New "Book Eater" at the Colby Library

Colby Community Library recently featured its new "book eater."

The idea behind this is that sometimes children in the library pick out books that parents might not want to check out. Or, they pull books off the shelves, and parents might not know where to reshelve.

To help, the library created this convenient book eater for parents and children to put unwanted items. This way, parents don't have to worry about finding the right spot, and library staff can put them in the correct place.

Contact library director Vicky Calmes at 715-223-2000 for more information.



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**Want something featured in the January newsletter,  
or are you doing something in your library that you want to share?  
Contact Jamie @ [jmatczak@wvls.org](mailto:jmatczak@wvls.org).**

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