

Early Literacy Matters!

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Monthly Newsletter | Winter 2020

The goal of the monthly newsletter is to provide information and resources that will help children in our region meet the critical benchmark of reading at grade level by the start of fourth grade. Please spread the word and share with anyone you know that is invested in helping children learn while developing a joy of reading.

In this issue, you will learn about, new ways families can connect with books in Hartford and New Britain. Happy 2020!



In **Hartford**: Families can access a world of new opportunities offered from home through Hartford Public Library's Pop Up Library.

Wish You Were Reading?

Get **FREE** eBooks on your smartphone or tablet from **Hartford Public Library** here!





3
EASY STEPS



- 1** Access the WiFi connections on your phone or tablet
- 2** Select **Pop Up Library**
- 3** Open your browser, enter **PopUpLib.com** and tap **Go** to start reading!



In its continuing effort to bring learning and knowledge to as many people as possible, Hartford Public Library (HPL) installed special Pop Up Libraries at three high-traffic Hartford locations: Union Station, 1 Union Place; Burgdorf Health Center, 131 Coventry Street; and, The Kitchen Café, located inside the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street. Utilizing advanced Wi-Fi technology, the new Pop Up Libraries are small network devices which will allow anyone to access HPL's digital content catalog through a phone or tablet. No library card is needed, no app has to be installed and no password is required. Books open instantly and can be read on a phone or tablet browser or downloaded to be read offline for as long as the item is checked out. For more information, please visit www.hplct.org.



In **New Britain**: The First Books partnership has allowed Literacy Volunteers of Central CT to distribute 100 books to 14 families participating in the New Britain Talk to-Tots program this fall. Parents/caregivers at the Central CT Family Literacy Center and THOCC's Family Enrichment Center used a "talking" pedometer to measure and increase the amount of conversation between them and their children. A corresponding curriculum emphasized techniques and tools, especially books, that they could use to increase that talk. Parents received new books provided by First Books at each of the 10 sessions to build their home libraries and to practice the techniques they learned. For more information, please visit www.literacycentral.org

The more a child reads, the more their mind grows. Explore the digital book world available at your local libraries and some of these websites below!



Free downloadable books and magazines are available with a library card:

<https://libraryconnection.overdrive.com/>

Unite for Literacy: <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>

Magic BLOX: www.magicblox.com

Library of Congress: <http://www.read.gov/kids/>

Project Gutenberg: <https://www.gutenberg.org/>

How will you make a difference this winter?

Promoting Good Attendance All Winter Long by keeping kids healthy and planning for children to attend school during bad weather. Learn more at www.attendanceworks.org/resources

Volunteer in 2020: See the many opportunities to volunteer at a variety of organizations through our Get Connected portal: <https://volunteer.unitedwayinc.org/>

Resources

- [Grade-Level Reading](#)
- [Hartford Public Library](#)
- [New Britain Public Library](#)
- [Reading Rockets](#)
- [United Way 2-1-1](#)

To learn more or share ideas for future newsletters, contact Latonia Tabb, Senior Manager, Education Initiatives, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut at 860-493-1128 or ltabb@unitedwayinc.org.

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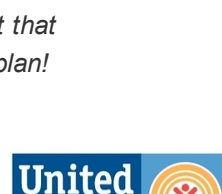
With support from individuals, workplaces and grants, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut has provided resources – including financial contributions and volunteers – to local community-based organizations since 1924. We mobilize the people and the resources needed to support programs and initiatives that create lasting solutions for the complex issues facing children and families in the region; such as the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR).

The Coalition for New Britain's Youth is a citywide collaborative committed to improving the lives of New Britain's youth, birth through age 24, and working to ensure they have what they need to be successful in school, career, and life.

Nationally the CGLR is a partnership between schools, municipalities, businesses and community organizations to rally behind a coordinated effort to ensure all youth are heading on grade level by the end of third grade, a critical milestone and predictor of on-time high school graduation.

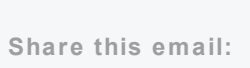


A special thanks to The Fund for Greater Hartford for their investment that supports the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's communications plan!



United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

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