Harvard Public Library Children's Programs February 2025

Children's Room direct line: (978) 456 - 2381
childrensroom@harvardpubliclibrary.org

Programs Sponsored by the Friends of the Harvard Public Library*

* Unless otherwise noted
95% of children's programs
at the HPL are supported by the
Friends of the Harvard Public Library!
Consider joining the Friends with a tax deductible
membership! Membership information
is on the library's website:
https://www.harvardpubliclibrary.org/about/friends-library

Children's Room Contact Information

Email:
childrensroom@harvardpubliclibrary.org

Website:
https://www.harvardpubliclibrary.org/children

Phone:
(978) 456 - 2381

Registration Information

Register for children's programs
by using the QR code or link below
to access our
online event calendar!

Individual program descriptions
also have registration information
and direct links for each event.

Link to online event calendar:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089

The Whalemobile
with Cynde McInnis

Wednesday, February 5

**4 half hour sessions at
12:30, 1:00, 1:30 and 2:00 PM**

Ages 5 and up

Meet Nile, a humpback whale, in this educational program for children ages 5 and up
(best for elementary to middle school aged kids!).
Please note, per the presenter's request, this is <u>not</u> a program for children under 5.

Just like humans, whales are individual, and you will find
there are more similarities between us that you think!

Step 1: Sign up for a half hour time slot. ***Registration is required!*** Limit of 20 attendees per time slot. Children do not need to be accompanied by an adult when they go inside the inflatable whale, but adults should be close by in the program room.
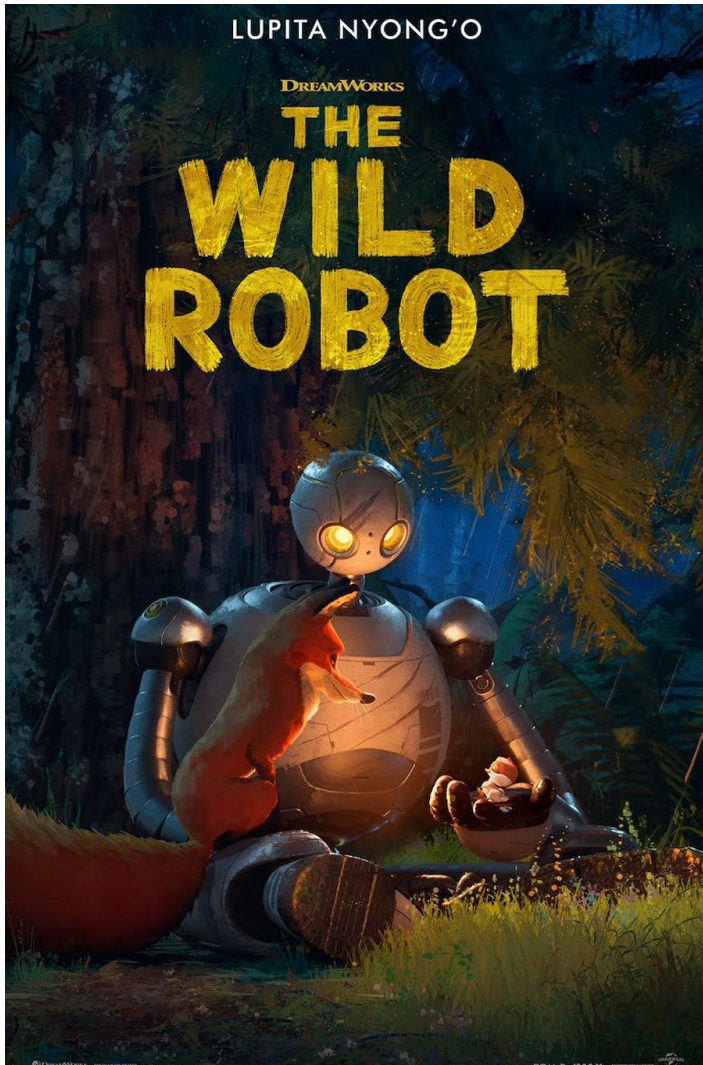
Step 2: Before you attend the program on 2/5, make sure to follow the link in your confirmation email to access an introductory video and other resources.

Step 3: Attend the program at your selected time slot! When you come to the library for your 30-minute selected time slot, you will go inside Nile, the life-sized inflatable humpback whale, and learn about how whales and humans are similar and different, and have a chance to touch baleen, teeth, and bones. There will also be another station set up that you can interact with, play games, or color pictures!

Registration is required!

Register here: https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089

Family Movie Night!

***The Wild Robot* (PG)**

**Friday, February 7
at 6:30 PM**

Come watch a movie on the big screen at the library!
Please register so that we can inform you of weather
cancellations or other last minute schedule changes.

*Note that the library will not be providing snacks, but
you are welcome to bring your own snacks.
(But please limit snacks to things like popcorn,
chips, etc. - i.e., no pizza...☺)*

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13622252

Paws and Read

Wednesdays, February 12 & 26

Appointments at 3:45, 4:05 & 4:25 PM

Grades K through 6

Reading to Rhia or Chase, the library's
Therapy Dogs, is a fantastic way to bolster
a child's reading confidence!

Children who are independent readers can
make a 20 minute appointment to read
to one of these wonderful therapy dogs;
on each date, six children total will get a chance
to have either Rhia or Chase's
undivided canine attention.

Registration for an appointment will guarantee your
reservation to read to one of the dogs.
Drop-ins are also welcome on a first-come,
first-served basis for unreserved appointments.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21089

Pumpernickel Puppets presents
Sir George and the Dragon

**Wednesday, February 19
at 3:00 PM**

Ages 3 and up

For over forty years the Pumpernickel Puppets have captivated audiences of all ages
with humorous and colorful adaptations of classic folk and fairy tales.

Pumpernickel Puppet shows are presented with a cast of colorful puppet characters,
audience participation, live voices and sound effects and fast paced scripts
that not only entertain, but stimulate children's imagination and creativity.

This program is sponsored by a grant.

Register here: https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13937051

Edible Books Contest

**Tuesday, February 18
from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

All Ages

Get creative with food and literature!
Create something with food to represent a book:
you could create a broccoli forest for *Where the Wild Things Are*, or bake an Elephant and Piggie cake for the Elephant and Piggie books. Or perhaps you're a fan of *Moby Dick* and decorate a whale-shaped cookie.

The only two guidelines are that your entry be made of food and related somehow to books.

Entries will be displayed in the story room
for the day of February 18; drop off your entry when the library opens at 10:00, and pick your entry up when the contest ends at 6:00 (or by 8:00 at the latest, which is when the library closes).
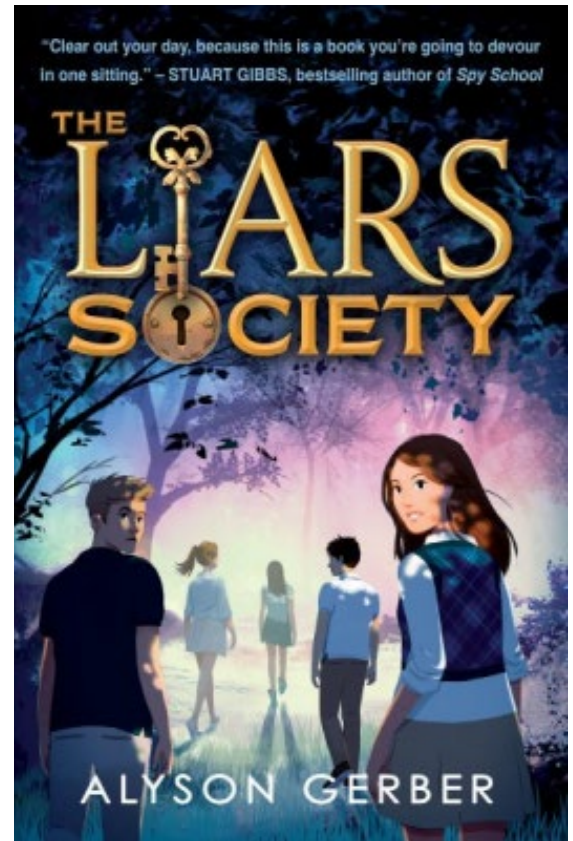
There will be in-person paper ballots for voting in the library, and there will be polls (with photos of the entries) for off-site voting via Google Forms.

Online voting will stay open for a week! Voting will decide the winner for each age category – winners get bragging rights and an awesome 1st place ribbon!

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13566000

Children's Literature Book Discussion Group for Grownups

**Thursday, February 27
at 7:00 PM**

Are you a grownup who loves to read children's books? You're not alone!

Join this monthly book group for grownups
and discuss children's literature with
an awesome group of like-minded readers.

We usually read and discuss recently published novels
for elementary and middle school aged readers,
and we always have terrific, broad-ranging discussions. We'd love to have you join us!

In February we will be discussing *The Liars Society* by Alyson Gerber.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541480

This book group meets in a hybrid model:
attend in person in the story room,
or attend virtually via Google Meet.

Hula Hooping
with Wild Kat Hoops

**Thursday, February 27
at 3:45 PM**

Ages 6 and up

Hooping promotes exercise, exploration, expression, movement, and dance while having fun!
We'll learn basic hooping moves while increasing hand-eye coordination,
strength, balance, and agility in an hour packed with silly fun.

Kat Suwalski is a yoga teacher, massage therapist, personal trainer, and sound bath instructor.
Her infectious passion for health and fun gives this 1960's pastime a thrilling face lift!

**This program is best for children ages 6+, but younger children may attend with their older
siblings. All children under the age of 6 must be directly supervised by an adult.**

Enrollment is limited to 50 children & adults.

Register here: https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13957067

LEGO Expo

**Saturday, March 15
from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**
(Snow date is Saturday, March 29)

All Ages

Don't miss the library's 15th annual LEGO Expo!

Participants bring a LEGO construction of their own design to the Expo to be displayed in Volunteers Hall.

Models can be dropped off a few days prior to the event or displayed on the day of the Expo.

We want to see how creative you are, so build a LEGO model from your own imagination.

In other words, create your own cool design – don't build a LEGO model exactly as it appears in the picture on the box. The more creative, the better!!!

The first part of the Expo will be judged age categories (kids, teen, and adult) for those who wish to have judges look at their work.

The second part of the Expo will feature a display of all LEGO models, including those who just want to display their models and not be judged.

Please pre-register so that we can create a guest book and attendance certificate for you!

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13551937

Kids Afterschool Movie in the Story Room

Despicable Me 4 **(PG)**

**Thursday, February 13
at 3:45 PM**

Join us for an afterschool movie for elementary age kids in the Story Room! Afterschool movies are supervised by teen volunteers; no refreshments are served (but it is ok to bring your own snack).

Parents are also welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

Registration is appreciated!

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13920120

StaCey 🎵 PeasLey

Concert for Young Children

Saturday, March 1
at 10:30 AM

All Ages

Stacey Peasley has entertained and engaged families for fifteen years. She delights and rivets audiences with her contagious energy and creativity while performing, writing and teaching! After the birth of her first child, Stacey began to write songs focused on the amazing things she observed as a new mom. Little did she know, this would develop into a brand new career combining both of her passions – music and working with children. Stacey Peasley has since written and recorded six critically acclaimed albums with awards from Creative Child Magazine, Parents' Choice Foundation, NAPPA, International Songwriting Competition, and the John Lennon Songwriting Competition. She has also appeared on NBC 10 Boston's the Hub!

This program is sponsored by a grant.

Register here: https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13622261

Sensory Playtime
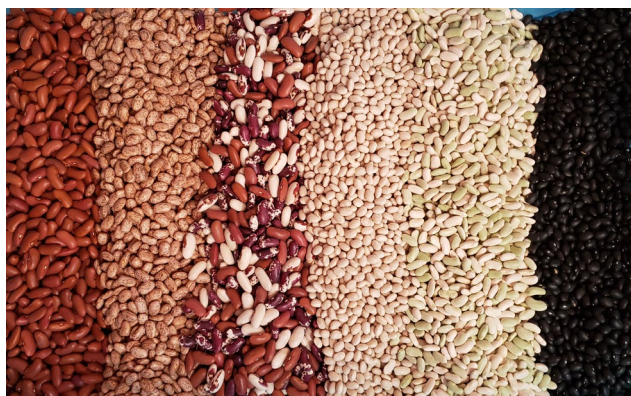

**Saturday, February 15
from 2:00 to 3:00 PM**

All Ages

We will have several sensory stations with things to smell, touch, see, and hear in this interactive program that is designed to encourage sensory exploration for young children and their caregivers.

Caregivers visit each sensory station with their children; we will have caregiver prompts at each station to help guide exploration and conversation between child and adult.

Sensory play sometimes gets a bit messy – it's a good idea to wear old clothes to this playtime!

Adult accompaniment required; drop-in, no registration.

LEGO Club

**Saturday, February 22
from 1:30 to 3:00 PM**

Grades K – 6

Come have fun building LEGO creations with other Harvard LEGO fans!

Participants can use the library-owned LEGO bricks to build creative models. Creative building is encouraged, and the library will have various LEGO books available for inspiration.

LEGO Club is supervised by the children's librarian – parents are also encouraged to stay and help supervise.

Registration is required – enrollment is limited to 12 children in grades K through 6.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13689219

BOOK GROUPS!

Want to join a book group? We'd love to have you – new members are always welcome!

Book group membership is limited to children who are Harvard/Devens residents/HES students, in order to keep the book groups small.

Maximum group size per grade is 12 children.

We will request for you a copy of the book we will be discussing. We can get you a copy of the book in print format and/or in audiobook format (either on CD, Playaway, or in e-audio format)! Packaged snacks will be served at the younger book groups, and bagels and cream cheese will be served at the 5th and 6th grade book groups.

Registration links for each book group are listed below that book group's description.

Book Gobblers Book Group for 1st & 2nd Graders
Monday, February 24 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
In this read-aloud book discussion group,
Lindsay reads a story aloud to the group,
then we discuss the book together.
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541406

3rd Grade Book Group
Monday, February 3 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
The 3rd Grade Book is:
Guinea Dog by Patrick Jennings
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541962

4th Grade Book Group
Monday, February 10 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
The 4th Grade Book is:
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541316

Bagels & Books Group for 5th Graders
Tuesday, February 11 from 4:00 to 4:45 PM
The 5th Grade Book is:
The Eyes & The Impossible by Dave Eggers
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541382

Bagels & Books Group for 6th Graders
Tuesday, February 25from 3:00 to 3:45 PM
The 6th Grade Book is:
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Geimenhart
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541428

Write Stuff

**Tuesday, February 4
from 3:35 to 4:20 PM**

4th through 6th Grade

This low-key, supportive, once-monthly writing group is for kids in grades 4 through 6 who love to write.

We talk books and writing, do some fun writing exercises, and share as much (or as little!) of our writing with each other as time allows. Writing group membership is limited to 12 children who are Harvard/Devens residents/HES students to keep the group size small.

Register here:
https://harvardpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/13541332

Puzzles

Borrow a jigsaw puzzle from the library!
Puzzles are on display in the children's room, and can be checked out at the circulation desk.

Loan period is three weeks plus one renewal. Puzzles are available on a walk-in basis (not holdable).

Board Games

Thanks to the generous support of the *Friends of the Harvard Public Library*, we have a fantastic collection of over 100 board games that can be borrowed.
We have games that are good for families, competitive games, strategy games, cooperative games, math games, and games focused on reading and storytelling.

Loan period is two weeks, no renewals. Games are available on a walk-in basis (not holdable).

Saturday Storytime: Dog Stories

Saturday, February 22
at 10:30 AM

Ages 3 to 7

Teen volunteers lead these fun drop-in, half-hour Saturday Storytimes for children ages 3 to 7 and their caregivers in the story room.

February's theme is Dog Stories!
*Just stories about dogs –
no actual dogs will be in attendance!* ☺

Drop-in – no registration required.

STORYTIMES

Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime
Ages 0 – 2+
Mondays & Thursdays at 10:30 AM

No storytime on 2/17 and 2/20
Mother Goose on the Loose is an early literacy program that uses rhymes and songs to help pre-reading children get ready for reading. It incorporates music, movement, ritual, repetition, positive reinforcement, developmental tips, nursery rhymes, puppets, musical instruments, colored scarves, and book reading into a fun-filled 30 minute session for infants to 2-year-olds and caregivers.
***Registration is not required** –
but if you register you will be added to the email list for last minute schedule changes through May 22.*
Register here.

Storytime for 2's & 3's ~ Ages 2 & 3
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

No storytime on 2/19
This 20 to 30 minute storytime includes songs and fingerplays, simple stories, feltboard stories, and phonemic awareness activities appropriate for children aged 2 & 3 years old and their caregivers (older siblings are also welcome). Our phonemic awareness activities will focus on learning and practicing the short vowel sounds and then some consonant sounds, and learning to put sounds together to make simple words.

Registration is required for the winter/spring session. *Enrollment is limited to 10 children and their caregivers.*
Register here.

Art & Stories for 4's & 5's
Ages 4 & 5 and up
Mondays at 1:30 PM

No storytime on 2/17
This 30 to 45 minute program, appropriate for children ages 4 to 7, begins with a few longer picturebook stories and phonemic awareness activities, then ends with a process art project that encourages preschoolers to explore art materials in an open-ended, creative manner. Make sure to wear clothes that can get messy!
Our phonemic awareness activities will focus on learning and practicing the short vowel sounds and then some consonant sounds, and learning to put sounds together to make simple words.

Registration is required for the winter/spring session.
*** *Minimum of 6 children for this storytime to run.* ***
Register here.