

## Oshkosh Public Library Highlights January 2021

1. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland talked about Gale Courses and other library services during lunch and learn session for City of Oshkosh employees. The wellness committee has also been featuring links to the library's streaming service Hoopla in its regular email updates, offering easy access to fitness videos via the library website.
2. Oshkosh Public Library has several new services that make it easy for families to fit reading and literacy into their lives whenever it's convenient for them.
  - **Dial-A-Story** offers a break from screen time to listen to a short story, selected and recorded by a member of our children's staff. Dial-A-Story helps children with vocabulary, listening skills and reading comprehension. Stories are changed weekly. Callers can listen to a story as often as they like by dialing (920) 770-2760.
  - **Stories and Stretches** is a new storytime experience sure to help beat winter boredom. Kids get the wiggles out and expand their imaginations in fun, new ways. Each short video combines creative movement and deep breathing with a picture book for a unique, whole body reading experience. Full seasons will be posted on the library's YouTube channel and will air on oshkoshmedia.org. Special thanks to Oshkosh Media for producing and airing the videos.
  - **Storytime in a Bag** brings storytime to home or classroom with a themed collection of books and activities in a convenient to go bag. Sample themes include: Things that Go, All about Wisconsin, Unicorns/Mermaids, Construction, Ninjas/Zombies and more. Available for checkout with a library card: Search "storytime in a bag" in the online catalog. *Sponsored by a grant from the Mildred and Edward Baar Youth and Education Fund through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.*
3. Winter Reading for all ages is underway. Participants read and log minutes; complete activities and unlock badges to earn prizes on the fun and easy Beanstack app. The program runs through Feb. 27. To cap off the winter reading experience, OPL will host a visit with award-winning children's book author and educator Kate Messner on Sat., Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. via Zoom.
4. The library is now offering board games and puzzles for checkout and the response has been enthusiastic! The idea was shared during a brainstorming session about community needs, where social isolation was prioritized as one of the top community concerns that the library could potentially address with services, collections or programs. These discussions will become a regular part of OPL Management Team meetings as the library works to respond to community needs.