



MPL NEWS

May 2021

Library CLOSED Sunday May 9th
in observance of Mother's Day
and Sunday May 30th & Monday
May 31st in observance of
Memorial Day

Events and Happenings at Middletown Public Library



From the Director's Laptop

Hello there -- Did you know that May, named for the Greek goddess, Maia, is a month of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere? In May we celebrate many great causes: Mental Health Awareness Month, National Teacher's Day, Cinco de Mayo, National Nurses Day, World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, plus... *DRUMROLL*... Get Caught Reading Month!

Get Caught Reading is a nationwide public service campaign launched by the Association of American Publishers to remind people of all ages how much fun it is to read. More importantly, what I really want to share with you is that reading has short and long term effects on the brain. It not only makes us more knowledgeable, but also functionally smarter. Reading strengthens our ability to visualize alternative paths, remember details, and think through complex problems. It nurtures empathy for others and will absolutely take us anywhere we aspire to go. Studies show the less we read the more these essential abilities wither.

Joseph Henrich, Harvard University professor of human evolutionary biology and author, writes that among other things, the invention of the printing press brought along the spread of literacy during the Middle Ages and altered the workings of our brains. (*THE WEIRDEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD: How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous*. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux. 2020.) Please note in this context, WEIRD is Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic.

So, here's my good deed recommendation to you for May: pass on the public library reading habit to your family and friends of all ages. You will be giving them a priceless gift of fun, adventure, empowerment, and brain health. Need more convincing? Here you go:

"What I love most about reading: It gives you the ability to reach higher ground. And keep climbing." Oprah Winfrey

"At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better. It's an enormous force for good." Barack Obama

"Every book teaches me something new or helps me see things differently." Bill Gates

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all." Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island and best of all, you can enjoy these riches every day of your life." Walt Disney

In closing I encourage you to enjoy the beautiful month of May. Celebrate **Get Caught Reading Month** at Middletown Public Library and make the celebration last throughout the year.

Theresa

Theresa Coish is the Director of Middletown Public Library

She is currently reading, *The Blue Zones Solutions: Eating and Living like the World's Healthiest People*, by Dan Buettner



Get Caught Reading

Children's Spotlight

A GIFT FOR YOUR CHILD



Presented by
the Bazarsky Family Foundation,
in partnership with
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Community Center

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides a hand-selected, age appropriate, **high-quality book each month** to registered children from birth to age five, **completely free of cost.**

Regardless of household income, any Newport County child from birth to their 5th birthday can be enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Parents and guardians: [Register Here](#)



The Summer Reading Program
is just around the corner!
More details coming soon
to our [website](#) and
June's newsletter.



Our Earth Day Tree Giveaway was a great success! 47 children received a white pine tree for planting!

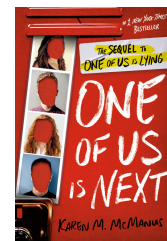
What's New at the Library



[New Adult Books](#)



[New Children's Books](#)



[New Teen Books](#)



PLAYAWAYS
coming soon to
MPL!

Mental Health
AWARENESS MONTH



NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Rhode Island

[VOTE NOW](#) for your favorite book for
Latino Books Month! Voting ENDS May 29th.

Grades
K-12

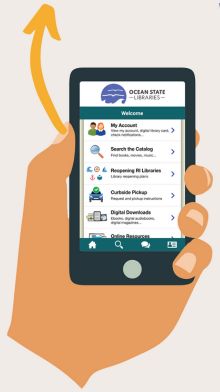
**LATINO
BOOKS
MONTH**
@RILA



Tech Talk

INTRODUCING ... the Ocean State Libraries mobile app!

Your library at your fingertips!



With Ocean State Libraries' new mobile app, you can ...

- Search the **library catalog**.
- Access your **library account**.
- Look up **library hours** and **contact info**.
- Link to **curbside pickup requests**.
- Access **AskRI.org** databases.
- Find information about **online programs**.
- And **so much MORE!**



Download for **FREE** today! [Android](#) [iOS](#)

This year's federal tax filing deadline for individuals has been extended to **May 17, 2021.**

Filing and paying your taxes should be as convenient as possible. That's why the IRS provides you with many helpful [online tools](#), such as:

[Free File](#) [Where's My Refund?](#)
[Your Online Account](#)
[Interactive Tax Assistant \(ITA\)](#)

Download the **IRS2Go** app to check the status of your IRS refund, find help, sign up for tax tips, and more.

IRS www.irs.gov/irs2go

The Friends Corner

Starting May 3rd, the FRIENDS BOOKSTORE will be open

Monday - Thursday 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM; Friday and Saturday 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Thanks to all the many book donations we received in April, the shelves are full of great reading material just waiting for you! COVID-19 restrictions apply so please be prepared to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and social distancing limits the number of patrons in the store at any one time.

The **BOOKSTORE**, which has been in operation for 13 years this month, is staffed by dedicated volunteers. If you would like to give some of your time to help in the **FRIENDS BOOKSTORE**, we need you! Volunteers work 2-hour shifts. Stop in the **BOOKSTORE** to get a volunteer application.

For general **FRIENDS** information and **FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP** applications, email FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com or pick up an application at the library.



Connect with us!



Middletown Public Library
700 West Main Road
Middletown, RI 02842
401-846-1573

middletownpubliclibrary@gmail.com
middletownpubliclibraryri.org

Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 7 pm
Friday - 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday - 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday* - 10 am - 5 pm

*Sunday hours begin on the Sunday following Labor Day and end on the Sunday before Memorial Day
Library closed on Sundays preceding Monday Holidays