

*Registration begins on **September 28th** for all programs

Guitar Workshop
Playing Music with My Friends **REGISTER**
(10/5 - 12/14)
& Beginning Lesson Preview **REGISTER**
(1/25 – 5/10)
Mondays • 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Our “song playing” sessions began on September 21, and we will continue playing together through Monday, December 7. On January 25, we will begin our annual Beginner Lessons. We will emphasize basic guitar technique and music reading, and if more advanced players attend, we’ll include more intermediate-level elements. This year’s beginner lessons will end on May 10. If you would like to participate in the beginner lessons but need a guitar, please contact the Library about the possibility of borrowing one! Please register for this program.

Sourdough Starter 101 Mini Class **REGISTER**
with Angela Smith of Punk Rustic Farms
Wednesday, October 7 • 7-8 p.m

Fall means soup and bread! This class will cover sourdough starter from scratch including how to care for your starter and where to find great recipes to use it. Samples will be available too, so make plans to start your sourdough journey with us.

Adult Craft & Company: Autumn Epoxy Necklace or Keychain **REGISTER**

Thursday, October 8 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, October 9 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Mix and match different leaves in Epoxy resin to create an enchanting fall themed pendant that you can use as a necklace or keychain. All supplies included.

How to Make Your Garden Thrive
(Chula Vista Garden Club)

Thursday, October 15 • 6-7 p.m.

Have you been curious on how compost can make your garden thrive? A representative from Dairy Doo, a national brand of sustainable, organic compost, will present on how.

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament **REGISTER**

Thursday, November 5 • 7-8 p.m.

The fastest team of four people to complete the 500-piece puzzle (or get the closest to completion) will win a prize. Other participants may be added to your team as a space allows.

Plainwell Fall Photography Exhibition

Monday, November 9 • 7-8 p.m.

This exhibition will highlight the entries from the talented participants of the Fall Amateur Photography contest. We will announce the winners of each category at 7:30p.m. Light refreshments included.

Adult Craft & Company: Fall Harvest Corn Craft **REGISTER**

Thursday, November 12 • 7-8 p.m.

OR Friday, November 13 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

This beaded corn craft is an easy and beautiful way to decorate for autumn all the way through Thanksgiving. All supplies included.

Designing Abundance with Permaculture

(Chula Vista Garden Club)

Thursday, November 19 • 6-7 p.m.

Learn how to design with permaculture from the COO of Permaculture Canada, Graham Towerton. Towerton spent 11 years applying natural method principles on his farm to boost both food production and biodiversity.

BINGO with the Lifelong Learners

Thursday, December 3 • 2-3 p.m.

Get ready to join the festivities as Library Director, Joe Gross calls for BINGO. This event is brought to you in partnership with the Plainwell & Otsego Community Senior Citizen Lifelong Learners.

DIY Craft Extravaganza **REGISTER**

Thursday, December 10 • 6-8 p.m.

Kick off the gift-giving season with our adult drop-in craft-making event. Multiple holiday-themed craft stations will be available to make your art independently and at your own pace.

Plainwell Fall Photography Contest

October 1st – 31st

Compose your best shots in of one of these three categories – Landscape/Nature, Portrait (people & animals), Black & White – and enter them for a chance to win a Visa gift card starting Oct 1. You may enter one photo per category throughout the month of October.

Contest rules and forms will be available at the Library, the website or the QR code to the right.

Ongoing Programs

Weekly Card Sharks • Tuesdays • 1-3 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of playing cards each week. The last meeting of the month, Bailee will instruct you on how to play a new game, but if you already know it or would like to play something else, feel free! Official cards drop at 5 minutes before 1 pm but feel free to come between 12:30-1 to settle in.

Sew What? Stitching Group

Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m.

Knit, crochet, needlepoint, or sew -- whatever your craft, you’re welcome to come and work on your project with other crafters in this weekly program. Please bring your own project.

Weekly Euchre Club • Fridays • 1-3 p.m.

No Euchre on 11/27, 12/25, and 1/1

Come to the Library every week to play Euchre. Bring a partner or come alone for a self-guided game. Official cards drop at 5 minutes before 1 pm but feel free to come between 12:30-1 to settle in.

Dungeons & Dragons 5e for Adults **REGISTER**

Sundays • 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6, 12/20 1-4 p.m.

Are you ready for adventure? Whether you’re a seasoned adventurer or completely new to the world of tabletop role-playing games, this is your chance to join an epic tale! Your library card is your “ticket” to either start at 2nd level or gain a free point of inspiration at each session.

NovelTEA Book Club

Tuesdays • 10/27, 11/17, 12/15 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a pot of tea and homemade scones that matches the book being discussed each month. Multiple copies of the book will be available at the desk a month before the event.

Book Club Picks:

October: *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman

November: *Sandwich* by Catherine Newman

December:

White Elephant Book Exchange **REGISTER**
Instead of book club, we will host a festive, book-related game of White Elephant. No need to bring a book, the library will have plenty to play the game. Please register.

With a Twist Book Club

Thursdays • 10/29, 11/19, 12/17 • 7-8 p.m.

This book group pairs the Book of the Month with an adult beverage recipe picked specifically to match. Multiple copies of the book will be available at the desk a month before the event.



Fall 2026

ransom district library

Special Event for Everyone!

Author Gary Schmidt

Free Book Give-Away!

Monday, October 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

This special event is part of the Big Read Lakeshore, a community-wide celebration of reading taking place throughout West Michigan this fall. This year’s Big Read features Grand Rapids author Gary Schmidt and his Newbery Honor book for youth, *The Wednesday Wars*.

Set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War and family pressures, main character Holling must suffer through Wednesday afternoons alone with his seemingly hostile teacher, Mrs. Baker, who eventually has him read and perform Shakespeare. As the year progresses, Holling experiences unexpected challenges and deepens his bond with Mrs. Baker.

To enhance the community experience of the Big Read, we are offering FREE copies of *The Wednesday Wars* to people of all ages interested in reading it. You do not have to be a kid to take a book! These are available now at the cafe counter in the library while supplies last. Thank you to the Friends of Ransom Library for helping to fund the purchase of these books.

We are honored to welcome Gary Schmidt to Plainwell on **Monday, October 19 at 6:30 pm.** After reading the book, please join us for this conversation with the author in which members of the audience will engage in a discussion about themes found in *The Wednesday Wars* and his other works, stories which explore the experience of being an adolescent.

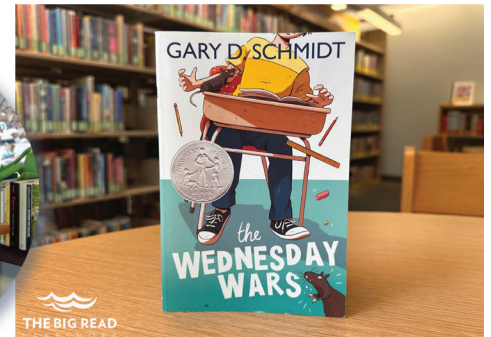
The Library will host a fun book-related program called Teen Shakespearean Insults on **Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 p.m.**, and we will host a book group to discuss *The Wednesday Wars* before the author event. Plan to join us on **Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m.** All ages are welcome to both of these events as well.

Director's Report:

After a busy dinosaur-themed summer, the Library heads into an exciting fall of engagement. We look forward to hosting important civic engagement with our City Council Candidate Forum, literary engagement (book clubs, a book release ball, a visit from Gary D. Schmidt!), and of course, community engagement (card playing, stitching group, games, puzzles, crafts, bingo, music). The different ways we come together make up a big part of our own stories. And for when you’ve engaged enough, consider spending some time in our beautiful quiet room overlooking the river.

See you at the Library,

Joe



Plainwell City Council Forum

Tuesday, October 6 • 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Come to the Library for an opportunity to hear from the candidates for Plainwell’s City Council election, which will take place on November 3rd as part of the general election. We will livestream the event on our Facebook page and then post it to YouTube so that anyone can watch.

A Night of Roses & Starlight Ball

Saturday, October 24 • 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

In celebration of the release of *A Court of Splintered Harmony*, book 6 in the *Court of Thorns and Roses* series, the Library invites you to a night of dancing, photo areas, trivia, prizes, themed refreshments, and more! The Ball is an immersive, formal event so feel free to dress in ballroom attire to match the theme. There will also be prizes awarded for best dressed. Thank you to the Friends of Ransom Library for sponsoring this event.

Ransom Garden Announcement

We want to give a giant thank you to all of our gardeners this year in our community garden. Our basket for fresh produce for the community really filled up and we have you to thank. Please remember that the garden beds need to be cleared by November 1st. Feel free to use the wooden compost bin next to the shed in the back of the parking lot.

Weekly Programs for Youngsters

Story Time
Wednesdays 10:30–11:15 a.m. • Hill Room
September 30 - December 16
Preschoolers and homeschoolers are welcome to come hear stories, sing songs, and make a craft. It is fun community time for parents and children alike!

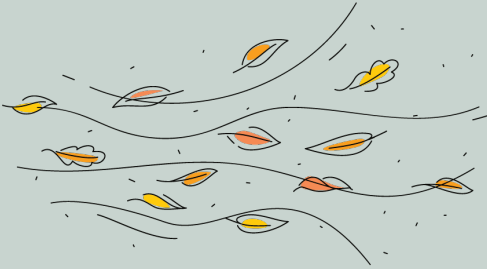
Preschool Thursdays begin again in October! You and your child can look forward to something different and fun every week:

Yoga Adventures for Kids
Thursdays, October 1, November 5, and December 3 • 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Hill Room
Preschoolers and homeschoolers can come for a child-centered yoga practice with the marvelous Ms. Sarah Plucinski. Mats are provided, but you can also bring your own.

Children’s Room Adventure Days
Thursdays, October 8, November 12, and December 10 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Children’s Room
Ms. Erin will get out some of the special equipment hidden in the storage room for your children to enjoy.

Library Play Group with Help Me Grow Allegan
Thursdays, October 15, November 19, and December 17 • 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Hill Room
Hosted by Help Me Grow’s own Dolores Benincasa, this play group will feature learning activities similar to those provided by our beloved Ms. Kelli. Children can learn new skills, interact with other children and have fun. Parents can connect with other parents.

Special activity: Block Party
Thursday, October 22 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Come to the Children’s Room to enjoy a morning of building with several different kinds of blocks. Your little construction crew will love it!



Weekly Programs for Kids + Teens

After School Special
Wednesdays starting September 9 4-4:45 p.m. • Hill Room
Elementary school-age kids can enjoy a different type of fun each week (art, games, science and Legos). An after-school snack is provided.

Teen Tuesdays
Starting September 8 • 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Hill Room
Come after school for games, crafts, laughter and snacks! Drinks and munchies will be provided.

Monthly Programs for Teens

Manga Night REGISTER
Wednesdays: October 14, November 11, and December 9 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Burchfield Room
Those interested in manga, anime, or Japanese culture can join Youth Assistant Devin for an hour of Japanese themed games and snacks. Different activities each month.

Table Top Role Playing Games (TTRPGs)
Play games where a roll of the dice and your imagination are all that is needed to have a great time! People who are in middle school through college age are invited to register. Registration is limited.

WAKE REGISTER
Saturday, October 17 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.
History Room
Welcome to the Ward – a stitched together nightmare of hospital corridors and hungry spectres, the ghosts of the sick. When people fall into a coma, they come here. They stay until they wake...or they die. Which will you do?

Big Bang Superstars REGISTER
Saturday, November 21 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.
History Room
You are one of only a handful of people alive at the end of the universe, and you all hate each other. You are also massive diva warlocks trapped in a once-in-a-millennium contest to see who will become the next King of Space – be ready for drama, drip, and death drops!

Once Upon A Crime REGISTER
Saturday, December 19 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.
History Room
Happily Ever After only works for the people actually in the fairy tale. You, however, are a terrible little creature in debt that sneaked into this story through an interdimensional portal...and are trying to see how much you can steal before the Author catches you!

Halloween Costumes Available October 1 - 31!

Gently used costumes are available for you to select for your child during the month of October, while supplies last. There is no charge, but monetary donations for the costumes are greatly appreciated. This great idea was conceived by and benefits the Friends of Ransom Library. Costumes can be found in the Friends’ Book Sale Room.



Special Events TEENS

Teen Shakespearean Insults: a Big Read Lakeshore Activity
Thursday, October 1 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Hill Room
One of the most fun elements of *The Wednesday Wars* is main character Holling’s use of the insults he learns by reading the plays of William Shakespeare. At this event you will have the opportunity to create a few insults of your own, and also to draw your own interpretation of the put-downs you put together. This activity counts toward credit for Plainwell Middle School students. Homeschool students are also welcome, as are adults who cannot resist a creative tongue-lashing!

Haunted Hangout REGISTER
Friday, October 23 • 6:30-10:30 p.m.
Hill Room
Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. Bring your own pillow and blanket or sleeping bag.
Get “locked in” to the library after hours for an evening of spooky fun! Ghost stories, pumpkin painting and seasonal snacks will be included. Flashlights will be provided for games played in the dark - Mwahahaha!

Teen Game Night REGISTER
Friday, November 13 • 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Doors will open at 5:45 p.m.
Rotate between 3 parts of the library and play different games in each one. Whole group games will also be played. Expect both board game-like activities and running games. Snacks/drinks will be provided.

KIDS

Build-o-Rama
Monday, October 12 and Monday, November 23 • 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Hill Room
Need something to do when there is no school? Come use our bricks and build an amazing creation! We will keep it on display for a month.

Preschool Halloween Parade
Friday, October 30 • 10:30 a.m. -noon
Our littlest friends cannot always last long enough to trick or treat, so here is a fun alternative: dress up and parade around the Library! Costumes are encouraged for young and old. Parade through the building collecting treats, have a snack, listen to stories and make some crafts. There is lots of fun to be had in this event that has become a Library tradition.

Holiday Break Activities

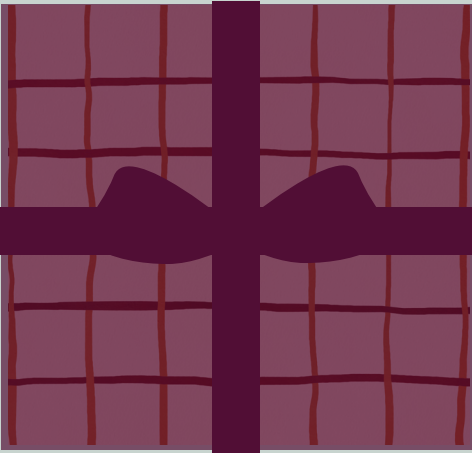
Parachute Playtime
Tuesday, November 24 • 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Hill Room
Bounce balls on (and off) the chute, run underneath, and play other games led by Ms. Erin. Best for children ages 4-8.

Holiday Luminaries
Monday, December 21 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Hill Room
Drop in to make a pyramid-shaped light to welcome in the holidays. Battery-powered tea lights will be provided.

Teen Ugly Holiday Sweater Tournament
Tuesday, December 22 • 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Hill Room
Use our crafting extras to make a hideous sweater, and then vote on whose is the most awful of them all. Trophies will go to the top (bottom?) three. Snacks provided.

Teen Vision Boards REGISTER
Monday, December 28, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Hill Room
In the spirit of the approaching New Year, take an afternoon to create a “vision board:” a visual representation of your future goals and dreams. There will be lots of different craft materials available to design a beautiful and inspiring display. Hot cocoa and snacks will sweeten the deal!

Preschool Zip & Zoom
Tuesday, December 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Help your preschooler get their wiggles out in this fun, open-gym-style activity hour.



Plainwell Christmas Project at RDL

The Library is proud to partner with the **Plainwell Christmas Project** to get the word out to families in need and those who want to help. Applications are available at the Library **October 2 - November 13**. If you wish to donate, you can utilize the drop box in the Library beginning in early November. You can find more information about getting help or getting involved on PVCP’s website at www.plainwellchristmas.org.



Santa Visits the Library

Saturday, December 12
10:00 a.m. - noon • Hill Room
Get into the Christmas spirit with a visit to Santa Claus!
Make crafts and enjoy tasty treats.
Drop in anytime between 10 and noon.

* *Note: There will be **no preschool activity on October 29** as we prepare for the annual Preschool Halloween Parade.*