



Volume 3, Issue 10  
**December  
 2020**

**Whitehall Township  
 Public Library**  
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**Inside this Issue:**

Winter Story Time	2
Database Spotlight: LearningExpress Library	2
Toys for Tots	2
Amazon Smile	2
Basket Raffle	3
Book Nook	3
Christmas Fun	4-6

# Whitehall Township Public Library **Library Lines**

## The New Normal

As we leave autumn behind, the library is starting to get ready for the **Christmas season**. Our Teen Advisory Board will prepare a **Virtual Winter Story Time**, which you can watch starting on December 14 (see pg. 2). If you're looking for a stocking stuffer, you can pick up one (or more) of our **2021 Magnet Calendars** for \$1.00 each. Another way to support the library this season is this month's **Basket Raffle**, which runs from December 7-18. Then watch for the next raffle from January 11-22 (see pg. 3). You can support the library every time you use Amazon by shopping through **Amazon Smile** and selecting our library as your charity of choice for them to donate a percentage of your purchase to us (see pg. 2). If you want to give back to other parts of your community, you can drop off your **Toys for Tots** donations any time during our open hours (see pg. 2).

Besides our **winter holiday closings** (pg. 2), the **library is open** on Monday and Wednesday from 9 am - 3 pm, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am - 6 pm, and Friday from 9 am - 1 pm. We're open for **curbside pickup** only on Saturday from 9 am - 1 pm, though you can also get curbside pickup any time we're open to the public. If you put books on hold, when they come in for you, you can tell us whether you'd rather come inside for them or pick them up at our side door. You can also drop off new or gently-used **book donations** at the side door, up to three bags or boxes at a time, and not including any textbooks, magazines, encyclopedia, or tapes. When you **return library items**, you can drop them off in the yellow bins in our parking lot.

When you **come into the library**, you can do most of the same things you used to, though everyone in the building now needs to follow state-mandated guidelines and CDC safety regulations. That means that you need to wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth, use hand sanitizer when you first come in, and maintain social distancing as much as possible. Once you're in, you can **browse and check out books**. You can use the **computers, printer, microfilm, and copy machine**. Anyone on a computer can have up to two hours, and every one else can be in here for up to an hour.

We can't hold any in-person events, but the **Programs & Events** section of our website (www.whitehallpl.org) has pages for Kids, Teens, and Adults. These pages all have a selection of virtual activities for you to enjoy. The Kids page even has some recordings of virtual story times and programs.

You can find other online resources on our **Research & Learn** page. Some of the databases we offer include Heritage Quest (genealogy), Overdrive (eBooks), Law Depot (legal forms & resources), and Rosetta Stone (language learning).

**Happy Holidays!**



### Library Winter Closures



The library will be **CLOSED ALL DAY** on **December 24, 25, & 26** for Christmas.

We'll **CLOSE AT 1:00 P.M.** on **December 31** for New Year's Eve, and then we'll be **CLOSED ALL DAY** on **January 1 & 2, 2021** for New Year's Day.

If we're **CLOSED FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER**, you can find that on WFMZ-TV (Channel 69) and their online Storm Center. Stay safe!

### Winter Story Time

Our Teen Advisory Board will record a **Virtual Winter Story Time** session for our younger patrons. You can find it on the Kids page of our website ([www.whitehallpl.org](http://www.whitehallpl.org)) starting on **December 14**. We've already posted a selection of story times with our children's librarian, so you can check those out, along with some of the other virtual programs we've hosted since the quarantine.



### Database Spotlight: LearningExpress Library

Whether you're getting ready for an important test or a new career, you're going to face some extra challenges this year. One of those challenges is finding reliable **study resources** that you can access from home. Our library has several resources that can help you, which you can find under the Research & Learn section of our website ([www.whitehallpl.org](http://www.whitehallpl.org)), and you can access most of them online outside the library as long as you have a valid library card number and password.

LearningExpress Library can help you prepare for success. This database has sections for children and adults alike to build skills and study for tests. One of the most popular features is the collection of **practice tests and study aids** for important exams including ACT, SAT, GED, LSAT, MCAT, NCLEX, TOEFL, AP tests, and many more! These are available to you at any time of day, and as long as you can access your library account, you don't even need to set foot in our building. If you've been away for a while and forgot your password, you can call us, and we'll reset it for you.



The library will accept **Toys for Tots donations** from Mon., **November 2** – Tues., **December 15**. Please donate new, unopened toys. They won't not distribute any gifts that look like realistic weapons or anything with food. See their website ([www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)) for more information.

To **donate cash**, you can go to the Find a Local Campaign area on the website menu and bring up Pennsylvania's "Lehigh North" campaign, which is the Allentown-based section that covers Lehigh and Northampton counties.



Do you shop online at Amazon? If so, you can generate donations to a charity of your choice every time you shop, and our library is one of the charities on their list! All you have to do is sign up for **Amazon Smile** and choose us as your charity, and we get a percentage of your total purchase whenever you buy anything. Find the link to our page on Amazon Smile through the Support Us page on our website, or you can type it in to go there directly ([smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1652607](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1652607)). In addition to shopping through this link on your desktop or mobile web browser, you can also go through the AmazonSmile Charity Lists in the Amazon Shopping app.

## Basket Raffle



### Dates

We're running our annual **Winter Basket Raffle** a little differently this year by breaking it up into three smaller raffles with different baskets each month. That means that you'll have three opportunities to see new prizes: **November 9-20, 2020**; **December 7-18, 2020**; and **January 11-22, 2021**. Each raffle will start on a Monday and end on the Friday of the next week. We'll draw our winners the next day and call them to let them know. If you win, you'll have a week to pick up your baskets.

### Tickets

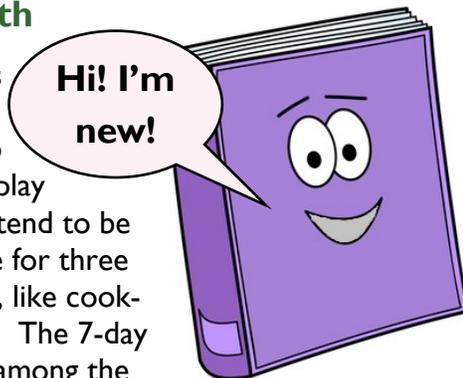
Our prices have stayed the same, and you can buy a sheet of **25 tickets for \$5**, or you can buy **5 sheets for \$20**. That's 125 tickets, and that's a bargain! You can use a sheet of raffle tickets for any or all of the three raffles. If you buy a sheet of tickets, you can use as many of the tickets as you want that month and hold onto the rest of your tickets for other months in this Basket Raffle. You can also buy extra sheets later months.

## Book Nook: Read a New Book Month

The Whitehall Township Public Library gets new books almost every day. Most of our new adult books start as "14 Day" or "New" and go on display on the book cases behind the big display case opposite our front door. "14 Day" books tend to be those on bestseller lists. "New" books circulate for three weeks and are usually more of the how-to sort, like cookbooks, sewing, health, or in-depth travel books. The 7-day quarantine for books and the sharing of books among the Lehigh Carbon Library Cooperative libraries makes our section look a little sparse, but if you look at our monthly New Book Lists, you will be quite surprised how much we purchase every month.

"New" children's books are displayed in a few places. The majority are on an A-shaped book case in the middle of the U-shaped juvenile picture books section and on top of the U itself. New juvenile fiction books are displayed on a wall bookcase between the juvenile magazines and where juvenile fiction books begin alphabetically. Both adult and juvenile books stay on display for about six months when the stickers are removed and re-catalogued to be shelved in their permanent locations.

Personally, I love these new book sections because I know I will be reading the newest in a fiction series, or getting the most up-to-date information in a nonfiction book. Here's a secret: non-fiction children's books can provide a topic's overview in fewer pages than an adult book, which tend to be more in-depth and repetitious. I'm thinking of adding an extra twist and read just new authors with new books in December to observe the theme. Make reading an adventure!



~ Chris Andrews

## Did You Know?

December has a lot of unofficial dessert-related holidays, which are in keeping with the season. December 4 is **National Cookie Day**, December 8 is **National Brownie Day**, December 9 is **National Pastry Day**, December 15 is **National Cupcake Day**, and December 27 is **National Fruitcake Day**.

If you want some dessert recipes, you can find dessert **cookbooks** in our library under the call number **641.86** in the adult and kids' areas.

We also have two food-related **databases: AtoZ Food America** and **AtoZ World Food**, which you can find under the Research & Learn section of our website ([whitehallpl.org](http://whitehallpl.org)).



# Christmas Fun

## Coloring Page



## Mad Libs, Part I

Working alone or taking turns with a group, choose a word for each part of speech or category listed below. After you've picked your words, **turn to page 6** and use them to fill in the passage.

1. Plural noun: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Verb ending in -ing: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Adjective: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
(real or fictional)
5. Body part: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Adjective: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Group of people: \_\_\_\_\_  
(like "students" or "Jedi")
8. Animal: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Plural noun: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Adjective: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Plural living thing: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Plural body part: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Present verb: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tea Light Snowman Ornaments

### Supplies:

- \* Tea lights
- \* Black sharpie
- \* Orange sharpie
- \* Hot glue
- \* Ribbon for hanging
- \* Other decorations (examples below)



### Directions:

Use a sharpie to draw a simple face on each tea light, using the light for a nose. Color the nose with an orange sharpie. Hot glue a thin ribbon to the top in a loop so that it can hang from a tree. Use other decorations as you wish. To make the left snowman, you need black felt and a bit of ribbon for the hat and a fat ribbon for the scarf. The right snowman has the same scarf but pom poms and a pipe cleaner for ear muffs.

## Pretzel M&M Bites

Are you looking for fun snacks to make for a family movie night or game time? This is one that's quick and easy to make, and you can use different color variations for different holidays.

### Ingredients:

- \* Square pretzels (not butter flavored)
- \* M&M's (red & green for Christmas)
- \* Hershey's Hugs candies

### Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 200° F. and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.
2. Line up your pretzels on the sheet and place one Hugs candy on top of each.
3. Bake the pretzels in the preheated oven until the chocolate is soft but not melted (about 5 minutes).
4. Remove the sheet from the oven and put one M&M in the center of each Hug. Press down carefully so that the chocolate spreads across most of the pretzel.
5. Put the pretzels in the refrigerator or freezer until the chocolate has set (about 5-15 minutes, with the freezer being faster). Store in an airtight container or eat them immediately!



## Mad Libs, Part 2

Use the words you chose on **page 5** to fill in the blanks!

### “The Christmas Song”

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on a/an  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ fire, (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
nipping at your (5) \_\_\_\_\_.  
(6) \_\_\_\_\_ carols being sung by the choir and folks  
dressed up like (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Everybody knows a/an  
(8) \_\_\_\_\_ and some (9) \_\_\_\_\_  
help to make the season (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Tiny little  
(11) \_\_\_\_\_ with their (12) \_\_\_\_\_  
all aglow will find it hard to (13) \_\_\_\_\_ tonight.

## Zoom for the Holidays

If you're spending holidays away from your extended family but plan to hold a Zoom gathering, here are a few games you can play from a distance.

- \* **Alphabet Game:** Have everyone get a piece of paper and a pen. When you say “go”, everyone tries to write holiday-themed words beginning with the letters A-W (like “angels”, “boots”, “cards”, etc.). The first one to get all 23 wins. (You can try to do A-Z, but it'll be much harder.)
- \* **Classic Games:** A lot of popular party games still work over Zoom, like Hangman, Charades, Pictionary, Trivia, BINGO, and Scattergories (using the boxed game or making your own lists of categories).
- \* **Head Art:** Have everyone get a blank piece of paper and a pen. Give your group a scene to draw while keeping the paper on top of their heads. Paper plates can be easier than regular paper if everyone has some.
- \* **Scavenger Hunt:** Get a timer ready with a set time (like 1-2 minutes). Have everyone start with their hands on their computers. Announce the first item on your scavenger hunt and tell them “go” while starting the stopwatch. Everyone needs to bring back the item so you can see it on the screen before times up. Everyone who got the item gets a point, and the person with the most points by the time you go through all of the items wins. (If you're doing this with small children, you may need to set rules about walking quickly instead of running in the house.) This works best with a mixture of easy and hard words. If you need ideas for your items, you can pick a few from the lists below.
  - ◇ *Holiday:* bell, candle, candy, Christmas movie, pinecone, snowman, something red, winter clothing
  - ◇ *General:* clean sock, dirty dish, fire extinguisher, screwdriver, headphones, the item you've owned the longest, mask, tape

### Christmas Trivia Questions

1. Which reindeer shares a name with a Valentine's Day symbol?
2. What Bing Crosby song is the best-selling single ever?
3. What drink is also known as “milk punch”?
4. Where is stollen (fruit cake) from?
5. What's Scrooge's first name?
6. What was the original title of “Twas the Night Before Christmas”?
7. What traditional decoration is a parasitic plant?
8. What Christmas carol became the first song broadcast from space in 1965?
9. What horned figure in Austria & other countries punishes naughty children at Christmastime?

### Answers

1. Cupid
2. “White Christmas”
3. Eggnog
4. Germany
5. Ebenezer
6. “A Visit from St. Nicholas”
7. Mistletoe
8. “Jingle Bells”
9. Krampus