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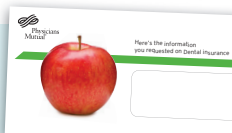
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'Zoom room'

Creswell Library creates online hub for kids, teens

BY GINI DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

CRESWELL — A live reading from Lemony Snicket's "The Bad Beginning" kicked off Creswell Library youth and community services librarian Nick Caum's new online chapter book reading and chat on April 1.

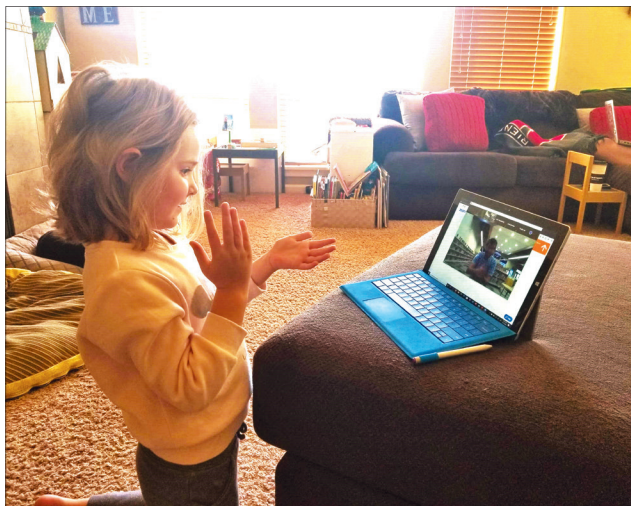
It's one of several activities for kids and teens the library has moved online via Zoom while the physical library remains closed.

"The Bad Beginning" follows the three Baudelaire siblings as they learn, following the sudden death of their parents, to depend on their wits and each other when the distant relative appointed to be their guardian attempts to steal their fortune — by any means necessary.

On April 1, "Nick read the first three chapters of the book and gave participants a chance to ask questions, provide feedback on the book and socialize with one another before and after the reading," described Megan Foote, whose children Landon, 10, and Ava, 8, participated.

Readings continue Mondays and Wednesdays at 5 p.m., targeted to elementary and early middle schoolers.

"Essentially, it's a 'Storytime' for older kids," Caum said. "We read a chap-



Creswell's Lily Dumas engages with youth librarian Nick Caum during the first online Storytime.
KATHRYN DUMAS/PHOTO

ter or two, depending on length. All ages are welcome, but we keep the discussion to the elementary-aged group."

Virtual Storytimes using Zoom began March 19 and will continue "for the foreseeable future," Caum said.

The free, online events are structured similarly to the library's in-person Storytimes and are held at the same days and times.

Babytime, focusing on babies and toddlers ages up to 3, is held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, offering 20 minutes of fun books, songs, lap bounces, and fingerplays.

When you logging in, "Be sure you are ready to participate with your kiddo," Caum said. If you have an older child joining, "it would

be good for them to have a stuffed animal to use during our lap bounces," he added.

Storytime, designed for preschoolers ages 3-5, is at 10 a.m. on Thursdays, featuring longer books and songs.

Caum encourages adults to show enthusiasm with their child. "Shout out answers, get into the books and songs, and just have an all-around blast with your kids," he said.

Virtual Teen Book Club meetings (Tuesdays at 7 p.m.) began last week using Zoom, with another held April 7. The book under discussion is Bram Stoker's "Dracula."

"We have also been able to move our Teen Tabletop program to an online format," Caum said. "I've had to make a few adjustments to make

that work, but groups are able to meet once a week to play games together."

Each week, each Zoom activity has its own "meeting" link. For now, patrons should email (nick@creswell-library.org), message or text Caum to get a password to access a link to "join" a specific activity.

Then, follow the link to join on any device. Users will be prompted by the link to download the Zoom plug-in for a computer or an app for a smartphone or tablet.

"It's very easy and it's all free to download," Caum said. He said applicants need to message him beforehand, "because only a limited number can join each time."

Response to the library's online offerings has been good, with five to 10 families joining each event.

"People seem to be enjoying our events so far," Caum said. "It is hard to 'read' a crowd through a computer screen, but I have received several positive comments, and teens have also been appreciative of our events online. I think most people are just happy to see and interact with other people."

More information about the library's online programs is available on the website (creswell-library.org) and on the "Creswell Library for Kids" Facebook page.

Feed your mind with library 'takeout'

BY GINI DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

CRESWELL — While picking up your Friday evening restaurant or grocery takeout order, why not feed your mind as well and pick up some weekend reading matter at curbside too?

Creswell Library's new "takeout" service for library materials began March 20 — and with about 40 families using the service each week, the public seems enthusiastic about the opportunity to pick up carefully handled items from the library parking lot.

"Quite a range of materials is being checked out — lots of children's books and homeschooling resources, but also lots of mysteries, best-sellers and movies," said library director Su Liudahl.

With the library closed to the public in response to COVID-19 guidelines, this curbside service is a way to continue delivering library materials to patrons.

"Since you can't come in and check the books out, we will bring them out to you," said youth and community librarian Nick Caum.

To place an order by each week's Tuesday deadline, log in to the library catalog from the library's website



Bags full of library materials ordered online or by phone await 'curbside' pick-up.
CRESWELL LIBRARY

(creswell-library.org) to place a hold on your desired items using your library barcode number and the PIN you chose when setting up your library card. If you have any problem logging in or using the catalog, call 541-895-3053.

Gloved library staff pull the requested materials and bag them for pick-up between 4 and 6 p.m. on Fridays.

"The deadline for requesting materials is Tuesday so materials can sit untouched for a full three days before pick-up," Liudahl said, noting that the library is also switching to paper bags "since the virus stays viable for a shorter period of time on paper than plastic."

When you arrive on Friday to pick up

your order, stay in your car and call the library. Gloved-and-masked staff will place your bag on a table where it can be retrieved before the next person's bag is brought out. Please wait until staff has left the table to retrieve your items.

Items are not due until the library reopens; if you want to return items before then, you may do so using the library book return.

Please do not pick up or return items if anyone in your household is unwell and wait at least a week after everyone has recovered.

If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to order materials, call the library and explain the circumstances. A limited number of deliveries may be possible.

Downloadable ebooks and audiobooks are also available using your library card through Library2Go. Liudahl said thousands of books are available.

Given the state of the pandemic, "it looks like we will be continuing this 'curbside' service for now," Liudahl said. "Everything is going smoothly during the two-hour-long window, and our patrons seem happy to have access to library materials," she added.

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