



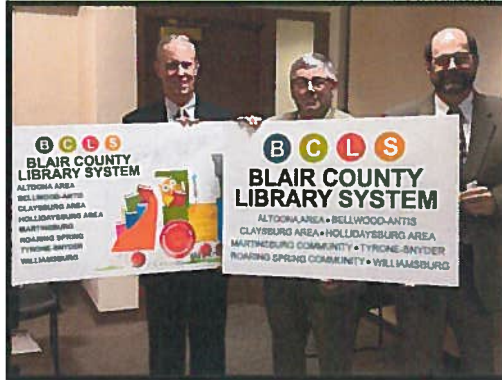
BCLS UPDATE

FALL 2016/WINTER 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- BCLS NEW CARD** 1
- BELLWOOD** 1
- MAKER KITS** 2
- PLAY K** 2

BCLS UNVEILS NEW CARD



Commissioners Bruce Erb, Ted Beam and Terry Tomasetti with the new cards designs.

eight Blair County Libraries have become one true library system with one library card for all eight libraries.

On September 20, 2016 at the Blair County Commissioners' meeting, the libraries unveiled

two new library card designs—one for adults and one for children. The children's card has been designed and signed by children's book author Will Hillenbrand. It has been decades since the area has had a new library card, and this one will allow patrons to borrow library materials from any of the eight Blair County Libraries.

The long term goal of the library system has always been to bring the collections of all eight libraries into one searchable database. That goal has now been reached. Patrons can search all Blair County libraries for materials at the same time. The new catalog also includes features such as an opt-in setting that allows patrons to keep a history of checked out materials and the ability to create customized lists of books and movies.

The Blair County Commissioners received the very first of the new library cards at their unveiling during the September meeting. It is because of the unwavering support of the Commissioners that this long-term goal is now a reality for Blair County.

One card, one community.

On January 13, 1965, the Blair County Library System was formed as a result of a decision by the Blair County Board of Commissioners. Now, fifty-one years later, the

BCLS LIBRARIES

- ALTOONA AREA PL**
TEL: 946-0417
- BELLWOOD-ANTIS PL**
TEL: 742-8234
- CLAYSBURG AREA PL**
TEL: 239-2782
- HOLLIDAYSBURG AREA PL**
TEL: 695-5961
- MARTINSBURG CL**
TEL: 793-3335
- ROARING SPRING CL**
TEL: 224-2994
- TYRONE-SNYDER TWP. PL**
TEL: 684-1133
- WILLIAMSBURG PL**
832-3367

WWII COMMEMORATION AT BELLWOOD



Above: Hazel Bilka (far right), Director of the Bellwood-Antis Public Library, examines documents from WWII.

Right: Betty Jacobus (far right), wife of First Lieutenant Robert Jacobus, talks to people about her husband's collection.

Bellwood-Antis Public Library held an open house to honor and commemorate those who served during World War II, with a display of photos, documents and memorabilia from First

Lieutenant Robert Jacobus. Betty Jacobus shared these historical objects that belonged to her husband from when

he served with the 2nd Air Division in England. The display, which was held in the Hostler History Room on December 7th and 10th, was greatly appreciated by all who attended.



LIBRARIES: A PLACE TO IMAGINE—DESIGN—CREATE WITH MAKER KITS

The Altoona District Libraries received a grant to buy toys and materials for a STEM “Maker Kit”. The 2016 District Maker Kit is freely available for all eight Blair County System Libraries to borrow for children’s programming. The kit features many different toys and materials to foster STEM education for children. The kit includes salt-powered robots, robotic rovers, microscopes, engineering/building toys for preschoolers, physics workshops, snap circuits, Little Bits Gadgets & Gizmos, various Hexbug playsets, and more. This project was made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, Governor.



Robotics and computer programming come to life at the Bellwood-Antis Public Library with the programmable ReCon 6.0 Rover.



Also in Bellwood, the Amusement Park Engineer Maker Kit provides an engaging way to teach simple engineering concepts to kids.



At the Roaring Spring Community Library, a child tests out the Hexbug Battle Spiders, remote-controlled battling robots.

PLAY K TO PROMOTE EARLY LEARNING



Play is vital to developing early learning skills. That’s why a few of our libraries are offering Play K – a free program for preschoolers that helps children develop the skills they need to be successful in kindergarten.

The new Play K program provides materials and a passive curriculum of activities for six different play and learn centers, or play-scapes. Each center is designed around an early childhood theme or topic to provide an interactive learning experience. Play K is aligned to Pennsylvania’s Learning Standards for Early Childhood with the goal of promoting early



Amazing Animals Playscape at HAPL.

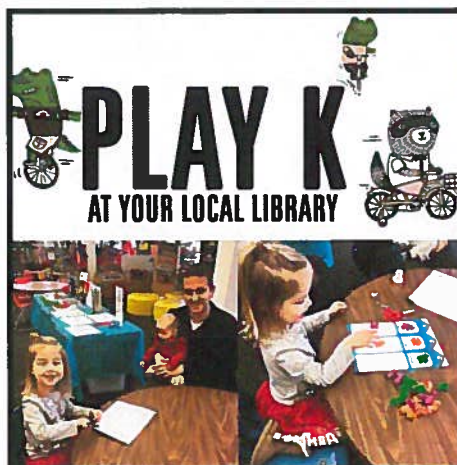


learning skills within the library setting.

Each library features a different playscape. Check out a new interactive playscape display each month.

- Playscape 1: All Aboard!
- Playscape 2: A Home for Me and a Home for You
- Playscape 3: Let’s Go Shopping!
- Playscape 4: All Around Town
- Playscape 5: Amazing Animals
- Playscape 6: My Colorful World

This program is brought to you by our Blair County Libraries and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.



Above: A child at the Claysburg Area Public Library plays with the “Let’s Go Shopping” playscape, located in their easy reading section.

Left: The Altoona Area Public Library unveiled the playscape “All Aboard!” to one very happy little girl and her father.