



WINTER 2023-24

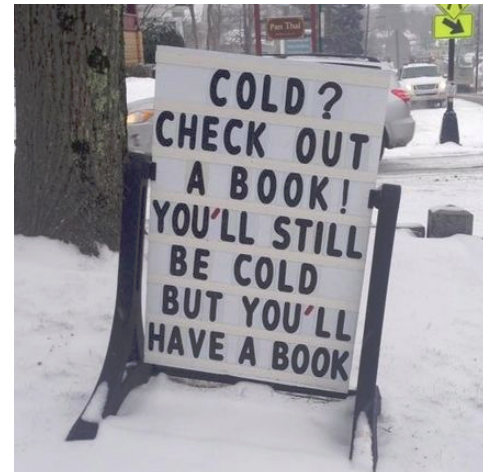
The Cromwell Belden Public Library



CHILLY CHICKS!

That's right - we're hatching chicks in the Library this WINTER!

- **January 23rd:** Eggs arrive at the library. Grab a countdown card at the front desk and follow along for 21 days as we await hatching!
- **February 12th-14th:** Eggs hatch! Baby chicks are born! Plan your visit to the library and/or watch the live feed on our Facebook page.
- **February 14th-26th:** Come visit the chicks during their first two weeks of life!



CONTACT US:

Cromwell Belden Public Library
39 West Street
Cromwell, CT 06416
(860) 632-3460
www.cromwellct.com/library

Our Hours:
Mon - Thurs: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Fri & Sat: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sun: Closed

- Please note that events are subject to change or cancellation. -

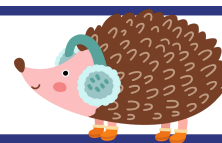
HOLIDAY CLOSINGS AND SPECIAL HOURS:

Monday, December 25th: CLOSED
Monday, January 1st: CLOSED

Monday, January 15th: CLOSED
Monday, February 19th: CLOSED



CHILDREN



ONGOING PROGRAMS



BABY RHYME TIME

WEDNESDAYS | 10:30 AM

SONG SET 1: NOV. 29 - DEC. 20

SONG SET 2: JAN 10 - 31

SONG SET 3: FEB. 21 - MAR. 13

AGES 0-18 MONTHS | DROP-IN

ARCH ROOM



Babies, babies, babies! You'll learn rhymes, fingerplays, and songs at this new program. Enjoy tickles, snuggles, and lap bounces while bonding with your little one. We'll do the same songs for 4 weeks so you can learn all the words.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

THURSDAYS | 11:15 AM | DEC. 7 - FEB. 22

AGES 0-5 | DROP-IN

THE BELDEN

Come wiggle, sing, dance, and get silly with Ms. Emily!



STORY TIME

FRIDAYS | 10:30 AM | DEC. 8 - FEB. 23

AGES 3-5 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

THE BELDEN

Join Ms. Stephanie & Miss Emily for some fun stories, songs, and finger plays, followed by an activity or craft.

LIBRARY PLAY DATE

MONDAYS | 10:30 AM | JAN. 29, FEB. 12

AGES 0-5 | DROP-IN

THE BELDEN

You and your little one will both enjoy this chance to make new friends, play, and socialize!



SPECIAL STORY TIMES

AGES 3-7 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

CANINE CUDDLES

SATURDAY, FEB. 3 | 2:00 PM

THE BELDEN

Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day AND National Golden Retriever Day with a story time all about our furry canine friends. We'll finish off our time together with a visit from our favorite therapy dogs, NAMES HERE!



FIRE-BREATHING FRIENDS

MONDAY, FEB. 26 | 6:30 PM

THE BELDEN

Join Ms. Stephanie for a night of dragon lore and stuffing your own stuffed cloud dragon to take home!



LITERACY SNOW DAY

SATURDAY, JAN. 20 | 11:00 AM

AGES 3-5 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

THE BELDEN

Grow your child's reading skills by participating in snowy, winter-themed literacy activities your preschooler will love.



1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

This free program promotes literacy in the home, helping you to establish reading routines with your child and helping your child to grow their vocabulary, early literacy skills, empathy skills, and so much more!

See us at the front desk to register your child!



CHILDREN



NO SCHOOL, NO PROBLEM!

Winter is coming which means that kids will be out of school for not one, but two winter breaks in December and February! Looking for something to entertain your children? We have several exciting programs scheduled while school is out for them to enjoy.



DECEMBER BREAK

PAPER BAG VILLAGES

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27 | 3:00 PM

GRADES K-4 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Turn the Belden Room into a huge winter wonderland as we design and create our own village out of paper lunch bags.



LET'S DRAW ANIMALS: CARTOON WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, DEC. 28 | 6:30 PM

AGES 6-12 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN



Learn to draw cartoon animals with award winning cartoonist, Rick Stromoski. Kids will learn to draw a variety of furry, hoofed, and feathered friends in this fun, interactive, and popular program!

FEBRUARY BREAK

COOL-OLGY: BUBBLES

FRIDAY, FEB. 16 | 1:00 PM

AGES 4-6 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

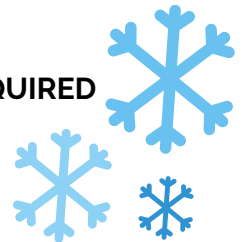
What could be more fun than learning about bubbles? Children measure, experiment and explore the science behind making and blowing the best soap bubbles.

COOL-OLGY: SNOW & ICE STEAM LAB

FRIDAY, FEB. 16 | 3:00 PM

AGES 6-11 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Since we have to live with snow & ice, we might as well play with it! We'll make our own (fake) snow, create and test a snow volcano, investigate the magical world of snow and ice crystals, and more!



FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS

TUESDAY, FEB. 20 | 3:00 PM

GRADES K-3 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Come learn how to make two different types of friendship bracelets!



CHILDREN



GIVE A GIFT: COOKIES IN A JAR

TUESDAY, DEC. 5 | 6:30 PM
AGES 0-12 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
BELDEN ROOM



Come to the library to make Rainbow Cookies in a jar - perfect for holiday gifts! We'll scoop dry ingredients into a jar, decorate gift tags, and wrap it up for you to give to a friend or family member.

Please see event registration for allergen information.

GRAPHIC NOVEL CLUB

TUESDAYS | 6:30 PM
GRADES 3-6 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Graphic novel fans unite! Come to the library once a month to get together with fellow comic lovers and enjoy some fun activities that are all about your favorite series and authors. We'll make our own comics, play games, and more.



DECEMBER 19 - CARDBOARD KINGDOM
JANUARY 30 - AMULET
FEBRUARY 27 - SUPER TURBO

JINGLE BELL RECORDERS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13 | 3:00 PM
GRADES 3-5 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Celebrate the season by learning "Jingle Bells" on the recorder! We'll provide the recorders and music, you provide the fun winter cheer!



WHO WOULD WIN?

MONDAY, FEB. 5 | 6:30 PM
GRADES 3-6 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

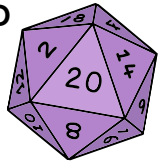
Celebrate the latest Who Would Win release! We'll create our own W/WW-inspired books and use fun facts to duke it out over which animal would win!



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SATURDAY, FEB. 24 | 1:00 PM OR 3:00 PM
AGES 6-11 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
STORY TIME ROOM

Calling all adventurers! Join Rosie for a game of Dungeons and Dragons - no prior experience required. Fight monsters alongside your party through a streamlined version of this popular tabletop role playing game! Premade characters, dice, and other supplies will be provided - just bring your imagination!



Please only register your child for one of the two sessions.

PAWS TO READ

FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
DEC. 6, JAN. 3 & 17, FEB. 7 & 21
AGES 5+ | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
STORYTIME ROOM & THE BELDEN



This popular program is back with more space than ever! Who better to practice your reading skills with than our therapy dog friends, Phoenix, Maple, & Dodger? **Reserve a 20 minute time slot** to pet and read to a furry companion. Make sure to come early to pick out your book!

Best suited for children who are reading independently.



TEENS



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

TUESDAY, DEC. 12 | 5:30 PM
GRADES 7-12 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Looking for volunteer opportunities? Sign up to become a Teen Volunteer and attend orientation to get started. You'll learn exactly what you can do in order to earn volunteer hours.



EXTENDED STUDY HOURS

TUESDAY, JAN. 16 & WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17
UNTIL 9:00 PM | GRADES 9-12 | DROP-IN
LIBRARY

It's that time of year again! High school students are invited to stay late at the library to study for exams and work on midyear projects. Enjoy delicious pizza, cuddle with some therapy dogs, and more.



DOODLE ART MONOGRAMS

MONDAY, JAN. 8 | 6:30 PM
GRADES 7-12 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Grab some friends and come get crafty at the library! We'll use Zentangle-inspired doodles to decorate our initials. Participants will go home with some wall art for their room!



ANIME CLUB

LISTED WEDNESDAYS | 6:00 PM
DEC. 27, JAN. 31, & FEB. 28
GRADES 7-12 | DROP-IN
THE BELDEN



Open to all teens in grades 7-12! New to anime? A seasoned pro? Join us to watch anime on the big screen and eat Japanese snacks or make crafts!

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

THURSDAY, FEB. 15 | 3:00 PM -4:30 PM
GRADES 7-12 | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
STORY TIME ROOM



Calling all adventurers! Join Rosie for a game of Dungeons and Dragons - no prior experience required. Fight monsters alongside your party through a streamlined version of this popular tabletop role playing game! Premade characters, dice, and other supplies will be provided - just bring your imagination!



ALL AGES



NOON YEAR'S EVE

SATURDAY, DEC. 30 @ 11:30 AM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Ring in the New Year early at the Cromwell Library! We'll celebrate by dressing in our fancy clothes and having a dance party. When the clock strikes noon the balloons will drop and we will all toast the arrival of the "noon year" with some fancy sparkling juice.



TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY

SATURDAY, FEB. 3 | ALL DAY
ALL AGES | DROP-IN
LIBRARY

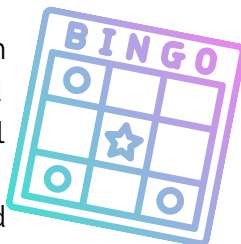


Join us in celebrating Take Your Child to the Library Day here at CBPL! We'll have scavenger hunts set up for families to enjoy, giveaways, and some free dog snuggles from our beloved library therapy dogs. Grab your favorite kiddos and celebrate this national holiday with us.

MUSIC BINGO

SATURDAY, JAN. 13 | 1:30 PM
ALL AGES | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
THE BELDEN

Grab your family and friends and join us for Music Bingo, a fun, fast-paced take on traditional bingo. Players will receive a bingo card where the numbers are replaced by a song and we'll turn the music up for a bingo dance party.



ALL ABOUT OPOSSUMS: BACKYARD WILDLIFE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 2:00 PM
ALL AGES | THE BELDEN ROOM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join the Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue to meet their opossum ambassadors and learn about wildlife rehabilitation and winter survival!



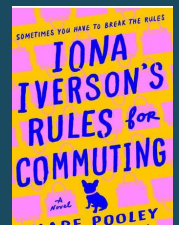
Adults and kids alike will learn about supporting wildlife during the winter, preparing emergency roadside kits, and how to help save wildlife. There is time at the end of the presentation for questions and a meet and greet so attendees can take a photo with the opossums!

CROMWELL DEI COMMITTEE WINTER BOOK PICKS

The Cromwell Public Library in collaboration with the Cromwell Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee brings you a variety of books that explore a selected topic each quarter. We hope you enjoy our picks!

Come to the library to see our titles selected for readers of all ages on this season's topic of

community & inclusion





ADULTS



BOOK ORNAMENT CRAFT NIGHT WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 | DROP-IN
5:00 - 7:30 PM | THE BELDEN**

The Friends of the Library Group, aka "the Friends," would love to have you stop by and learn more about the organization and how they support the library.

Drop in to visit with the friends, craft a book-related ornament, and enjoy hot cocoa, tea, and light refreshments!

CUPCAKE DECORATING!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
OR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
6:30 PM | THE BELDEN ROOM
ADULTS ONLY | REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Join professional caterer Hope Butler of **A Little Imagination Cakes** to decorate a perfectly crafted cupcake. Learn tips & tricks that the pros use, and enjoy the satisfaction of eating your own creation! Please sign up for only one date, to give others a chance.



KNITTING CLUB

**THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM
DECEMBER 7, DECEMBER 28
JANUARY 11, JANUARY 25,
FEBRUARY 5 & FEBRUARY 22
IN THE BELDEN ROOM OR ARCH ROOM
REGISTRATION OPTIONAL**

Join us for our twice-monthly knitting club - now back in-person! This club also meets via Zoom on Fridays; email cromwellknitclub@gmail.com for more information on how to join in virtually.



GIFT WRAPPING GETAWAY AT THE CROMWELL LIBRARY

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20
AND
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21
DROP-IN | 5:00 - 7:30 PM | THE BELDEN.**

Do you have gifts to wrap for your littles and loved ones - but no private space in which to do so? Join us at the library for an evening of gift-wrapping! We'll provide the tape and gift wrap (although you are welcome to bring your own!), as well as hot chocolate and a festive atmosphere - free from any peeking kids.

PAPER STAR GARLANDS

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 | 6:30 PM
THE BELDEN | REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Join us for our fun monthly craft. If this event is full you are still welcome - just bring your own project to work on while we all chat and craft together!



BULLET JOURNALING 101

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 | 11:00 AM
THE BELDEN | REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Does your to-do list stress you out? Learn a new way organize your life. Designed to be as flexible as you need, bullet journals combine the functions of a to-do list, a planner and a diary all in one mindful solution!



ADULTS



FLIRTY FICTION: ROMANCE BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 | 6:30 PM
THE BELDEN | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Do you like a story with a good Happily Ever After? Which romance tropes are your favorite? There are no "guilty secret" excuses here - if you like reading romance then this is the space for you! Come join Emily & Karlyn for the second meeting of our exciting new romance book club.

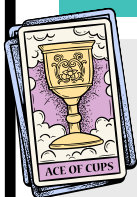
This winter, we will be reading and discussing **When In Rome** by Sarah Adams, as well as other similar authors, tropes, and titles. Copies of the book will be available at the desk



ORIGAMI BOXES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 | 6:30 PM
THE BELDEN | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join us for our fun monthly craft. If this event is full you are still welcome - just bring your own project to work on while we craft!



ALL CARDS ON THE TABLE TAROT FOR THE NEW YEAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 22 | 6:30 PM
THE BELDEN | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The bell has chimed and the new year stretches before you. Now is the time to explore what lies ahead — and what you might want to leave behind! Join Rosie to learn an overview of how Tarot works, and get started reading your own cards. You'll design a card, and work through a small tarot spread to help set big intentions for the new year.

CUPCAKE DECORATING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12
OR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13
6:30 PM | THE BELDEN

ADULTS ONLY | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join professional caterer Hope Butler of **A Little Imagination Cakes** to decorate a perfectly crafted cupcake. Learn tips & tricks that the pros use, and enjoy the satisfaction of eating your own creation! Please sign up for only one date, to give others a chance.



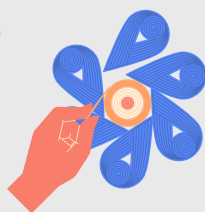
COOKBOOK CLUB

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 | 1:00 PM
IN-PERSON | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join us for the Library version of a potluck, where we'll each bring a dish to share from this season's chosen cookbook! This month we will be cooking and sharing dishes from **Easy Soups From Scratch With Quick Breads to Match** by Ivy Manning. Copies of the book will be available at the desk in December!

PAPER QUILLING CARDS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 | 6:30 PM
THE BELDEN | REGISTRATION REQ.



Join us for our fun monthly craft. If this event is full you are still welcome - just bring your own project to work on while we all chat and craft together!



ADULTS



THURSDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

IN-PERSON | 6:30 PM
REGISTRATION OPTIONAL

Copies are available at the library's desk.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 | 6:30 PMS

Small Things Like These
by Claire Keegan

It is 1985, in an small Irish town tightly controlled by the Church. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant, faces his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he can't help but feel the past rising up to meet him. This tender tale of hope and quiet heroism is both a celebration of compassion and a stern rebuke of the sins committed in the name of religion.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 | 6:30 PM
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

A short, piercing, deeply moving novel about the death of Shakespeare's 11 year old son Hamnet--a name interchangeable with Hamlet in 15th century Britain--and the years leading up to the production of his great play.

This is a luminous portrait of a marriage, a shattering evocation of a grieving family, and a hypnotic recreation of the story that inspired one of the greatest masterpieces of all time.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 | 6:30 PM
Miss Aldridge Regrets by Louise Hare

London, 1936. Club singer Lena is at a career dead-end until a stranger offers her the chance of a lifetime: a role on Broadway and a first-class ticket on the Queen Mary bound for New York. After a murder at her club Lena jumps at the chance to escape England. But death follows her onboard when an obscenely wealthy family draws her into their fold just as one of them is killed in a chillingly familiar way.



VIRTUAL REALITY DEMOS

MON. DEC. 11 & TUES. JAN. 16 & FEB. 6
4:00-6:00 PM | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Try out the Library's Virtual Reality System!
Reserve a 20 minute time slot and try out Beat Saber, Waltz of the Wizard, and more!

THE SILENT READERS CLUB

MON. DEC 4, THURS. JAN. 4 & FEB. 1
6:00 - 8:00 PM | IN-PERSON | DROP-IN

You choose a book & we'll provide an evening with snacks, warm drinks... and some peace & quiet so you can finally finish that book! Cozy up by the "fireplace" or find a quiet spot throughout the library - it's your choice!

FRIDAY FLICKS

WITH THE SENIOR CENTER

FRIDAYS | 1:00 PM

ARCH ROOM | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Join the Cromwell Senior Center and the Library for this co-presented event - new movies on the big screen! Watch films that are new to DVD every Friday - we've shown features like **A Man Called Otto** and **80 For Brady** recently, and look forward to showing more fun & interesting films in the future!

Call the Senior Center to register or to find out more information: 860-632-3447



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

MONDAYS, DEC. 4, JAN. 8 & FEB. 5
6:30 PM | ALL WELCOME | DROP-IN

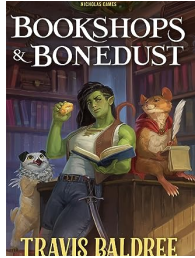
Join the Friends' monthly meeting & help brainstorm new ways to support your local library. The Friends fund museum passes, events & more!



STAFF PICKS

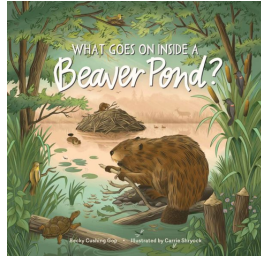


EMMA



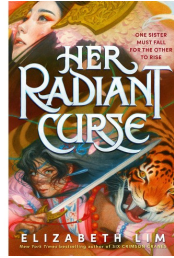
Bookshops & Bonedust
by Travis Baldree
Cozy Fantasy

EMILY



What Goes On Inside a Beaver Pond?
by Becky Cushing Gop
Juvenile Non-Fiction

FRANCES



Her Radiant Curse
by Elizabeth Lim
Fantasy/Mythology

KARLYN



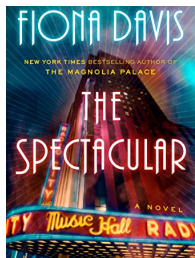
Come Fly the World
by Julia Cooke
Non-Fiction

STEPHANIE



The Spirit Glass
by Roshani Chokshi
Juvenile Mythology

LINDA



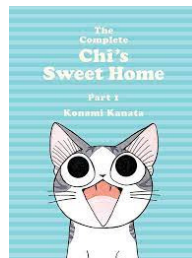
The Spectacular
by Fiona Davis
Historical Thriller

CINDY



Holly
by Stephen King
Horror

WINI



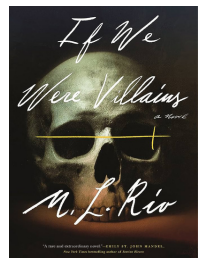
The Complete Chi's Sweet Home Part 1
by Konami Kanata
Juvenile Graphic Novel

ERICA



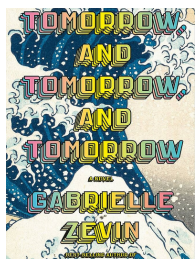
The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich
by Deya Muniz
Teen Graphic Novel

NATALIE



If We Were Villains
by M. L. Rio
Fiction

ROSIE



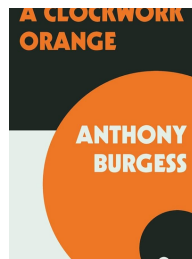
Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow
by Gabrielle Zevin
Contemporary

DAN



John Wick 4
Action Movie

ROBIN



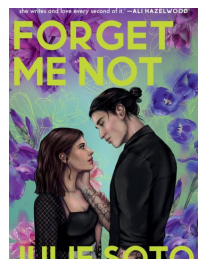
A Clockwork Orange
by Anthony Burgess
Dark Comedy

JULIA



Throne of the Fallen
by Kerri Maniscalco
Fantasy Romance

MCKENNA



Forget Me Not
by Julie Soto
Contemporary Romance

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLEMENT WEATHER: If the Cromwell Public Schools cancel school due to inclement weather, all children's and teen programs at the library will be cancelled that day.