In the last four years, spring has become my favorite season. Why? Because I have the pleasure of spending a week with some of the most amazing children, parents/guardians, and staff in Jackson at our camp, the Literacy Achievement Bonanza (LAB). The LAB is a place of lively learning, magical moments, and nourishing narratives. I hope that I will have the pleasure of seeing you and your family this year!

Dave Miller
Director of Community Engagement

Winter Word Play

Why couldn’t the kid visit the library?  
Answer: It was overbooked!

Spotlight on Registration for the Literacy Achievement Bonanza 2020!

Join us at Jackson State University from March 9-13, 2020 for a week of fun-filled standard-aligned literacy activities with snacks, a meal, and a book provided each day for 180 students in first through sixth grade.

Open enrollment ends February 21, 2020. Once you receive a Letter of Acceptance, you will be required to submit a non-refundable $25 registration fee.

We are also excited to be able to offer After-Care this year for up to 50 participants. More information is included in the acceptance letter after you have registered your participant.
LAB Fundraiser this Saturday, February 8

Join us for an energetic Zumbathon event to raise money for the LAB!

- Win door prizes every hour!
- Dance with Certified Zumba® Instructor Rachel Glazer!
- Come ready to sweat!
- Stay for a song or the whole event!
- All ages and skill levels are welcome!
- Tickets are $12 in advance using this form or $15 at the door.
- All proceeds go to the LAB

**Read about the man who created Black History Month**

February marks Black History Month, a federally recognized, nationwide celebration that calls on all Americans to reflect on the significant roles that African-Americans have played in shaping US history. But how did this celebration come to be -- and why does it happen in February?

[Click here to read more.]

**Staff Picks**

Each quarter, our staff members highlight their favorite reads and listens. Literacy doesn’t just happen in the words on a page; it can be auditory, visual, and interactive, too. Many of these picks are great for students and family members to enjoy together!
Book Club for Kids is a free podcast in which young readers meet to talk about books. The show includes a celebrity reader and an interview with the author. The host is award-winning public radio journalist Kitty Felde. Book Club for Kids won the Literacy in Media Award.

Rachel says: Discussing literature shouldn’t be restricted to a Language Arts classroom! In this podcast, middle school students talk about the big questions that arise when you feed curious minds book goods! I also love hearing the celebrity readers and interviews with the authors.

The Undefeated, quoted as being "a love letter to black life in the United States," is a book that honors the story of African American heroes throughout the ages. The plight of African Americans is acknowledged, while offering historical context through lyrical poetry and beautiful illustrations.

Rianna says: This is a book that highlights the importance of historical context in a way that is engaging for all ages. The poetry and illustrations highlight African American heroes, while shedding light on the difficult path they had to take.

Dare to Lead is a free program to help create classrooms where students can "breathe, be curious, and [to] explore the world and be who they are without suffocation." Brené Brown’s Dare to Lead curriculum provides posters, articles, and videos to help create safe spaces at schools.

Ava says: I am a huge fan of Brené Brown and think that vulnerability and empathy are important traits to learn at a young age and where better to practice and learn them than in the classroom.

Stay in the loop via the ISJL Literacy Community Facebook group!

For more information contact us at 601.362.6357 or engagement@isjl.org.
LAB and Our Reading Family are programs of the ISJL.
THIS IS ISJL: www.isjl.org
Call Us: 601-362-6357
We’re social! Like us, follow us, and read our blog!