



NOTTOWAY COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

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September: A Celebration Literacy and (Banned) Books

(Nottoway County, Virginia – September 15, 2016)

Every year, libraries celebrate Literacy Month in September, and 2016 is no exception. Information has been sent home with students of the Nottoway County School District, informing them that anyone six years of age or above is eligible for a free library card and describing some of the resources available to them. In addition to the traditional print materials, libraries provide equity of access to digital tools and media, and this has become increasingly important in areas where students are less likely to have a computer or internet access in the home.

"Our library's goal is to provide access and programs for students of all ages," says Library Director Jackie Zataweski. "For preschool age children we offer early literacy and story times to encourage school readiness, and for older children, we are planning programs to supplement education with hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) programs. For nontraditional students we offer one-on-one literacy tutoring and GED Exam preparation resources. There's really something for everyone, and it's all free with a library card."

In addition to being National Literacy Month, September is also the time of Banned Books Week. Each year, the American Library Association encourages people everywhere to exercise their freedom of choice, pick up a book that others may have challenged for one reason or another, and celebrate having this opportunity to choose.

The Blackstone, Crewe, and Burkeville branches of the Nottoway County Public Library System will offer displays of frequently challenged books during this week (September 25-October 1) and will provide lists of frequently challenged book titles, among them *A Farewell to Arms*, *1984*, *Gone with the Wind*, and *Of Mice and Men*.

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