

spark

Bringing Community Together



spark

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Spark is what's created when Anythink customers walk into our libraries – it's a spark of creativity, of imagination and interest. Anythinkers offer the fuel.

Published quarterly, *SPARK* is available at any Anythink library.

On the cover: David Shannon reads *Duck on a Bike* to customers at Anythink Wright Farms.

HOW TO REACH US

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Anythink Perl Mack
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303.428.3576

Anythink Wright Farms
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303.405.3200

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Visit us at anythinklibraries.org.

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A Letter from the Director

“Anythink is not a warehouse for books. It is a place that sparks imagination, fuels enthusiasm for activity and increases appetite for knowledge.”

Summer reading at Anythink is about reading, but it is also about inventing and experiencing and creating and thinking about the world in new ways. mySummer is all about creating your summer. Read something, do something, think about it, and then start all over again. That’s what Anythink is all about – connect with an idea, play with it, do something, learn something, make something happen. More than 8,000 people have already registered this summer. That’s four times the total number of people who participated in 2008. From babies to seniors, Anythinkers are having a great summer.

Anythink is about exploring, enjoying art and discovering inspiration throughout the library, with the hope that it will spark something extraordinary or unexpected. Our programs are designed to spark this sense of discovery. Makin’ Paper is all about the art of papermaking. Stiltwalking reminds me of the first time I saw someone on stilts. I loved the idea so much that we found some wood and made our own stilts, and then spent the summer mastering the art of walking around the neighborhood with our roughly crafted gems. Or maybe consider



Not a Box, one of the simplest of activities on the schedule. Whether you attend the program or experiment at home, you can make almost anything you can imagine with a box, no matter the size.

One of my favorite programs is the Rube Goldberg Machines, during which teens create a working machine from found parts. It’s imagination in motion. At yet another program, one of Denver’s premier rappers, Molina Speaks, takes you through a lyrical journey.

Of course food is always a hit. We have DIY Food: Scrumptious Summer Slushy, where you can blend your own delicious concoctions. Summer is such a great time to make smoothies. One of our favorite molecular gastronomists, Chef Ian, helps us create magical food that Willy Wonka would appreciate. This is a catalyst to invent interesting snacks or meals using local fruits and vegetables. At Anythink, we are encouraging all staff to eat our fruits and vegetables, and to get moving this summer to stay healthy.

If you are feeling like chilling out on a Friday night, consider bringing a blanket or a lawn chair to the Backyard Concert Series at Anythink Wright Farms on July 12 or August 9. The Backyard Concert Series is summer at its best – children dancing like fireflies, toe-tapping music, some delicious Dickey’s Barbecue and something deliciously cold to drink. Get to know your neighbors, spend time with your friends and family, listen to great music and experience the best of summer at Anythink.

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Anythink staff cut the ribbon during the Anythink York Street grand opening. L-R: Erin Lamouria, Kathy Totten, Laci Wright, Julie Bennigsdorf, Michelle Hawkins, Heather McCuiston, Rebekah Luthye, Antonio Rodriguez, Tanya Reither and Alfredo Montalban

New Partnerships, New Beginnings

On June 1, 2013, Thornton, Colo., was introduced to its newest public library, Anythink York Street.

The new library, located on the corner of 88th Avenue and York Street in east Thornton, is part of a unique collaboration between Mapleton Public Schools and Anythink. It's a public library housed on a school campus. It's something new and unprecedented in the library community, and it's already being met with a warm welcome from new and loyal customers alike.

The library, designed and constructed by The Neenan Company, will be recognizable to all Anythinkers: a sleek design, playful architecture and, of course, a cozy fireplace, perfect for winter reading. So what makes this library different?

"It's unusual to have a public library on a school campus," says Anythink Director Pam Sandlian Smith. "This partnership is all about supporting the idea of a public library and how it can serve both the broader community, as well as the students on campus.

"I would have to say, this is a bold experiment. And that's what makes it so exciting," she continues.

But it's an experiment that is rooted in careful planning and thoughtful concept.

The move to the Mapleton Skyview Campus was an opportunity for Anythink to lease a brand new and beautifully designed facility at the most minimal cost to taxpayers. Additionally, when the opportunity to partner with an innovative school district in Adams County presented itself, the decision became clear.

"When Mapleton approached us years ago with an idea to run an Anythink library on their Skyview Campus, we approached it cautiously," says Sandlian Smith. "Up until now, shared school public libraries have been challenging."

But there was something different about this potential collaboration. In fact, Mapleton Public Schools Superintendent Charlotte Ciancio told Sandlian Smith that she envisioned a library that operated like the iconic Tattered Cover bookstore. This type of vision aligned with the model that Anythink already puts forth – a library that embraces hospitality, easy accessibility and a creative, participatory approach to learning. It also aligned with Mapleton's own vision.

Mapleton Public Schools is not your ordi-

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Anythink York Street opened June 1, 2013.

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nary school district. Nationally recognized for their pioneering approach to education, Mapleton students are offered a wide variety of schools and creative programs that cater to a variety of focuses and learning styles. The implementation of their “small-by-design” schools, based on substantial research and community feedback, allows for students and parents to choose from a variety of collaborative learning opportunities that best suit an individual’s particular needs. It’s an approach that aligns well with Anythink.

“Mapleton is an expert at designing schools that support excellent education, and Anythink is good at ‘opening doors for curious minds,’” says Sandlian Smith. “What could be a better partnership?”

And that’s just what’s happening.

In its first several weeks of operation, Anythink York Street is taking advantage of the new facilities to expand their programming and meet new community members.

“Program attendance has been fantastic!” says Kathy Totten, manager of Anythink York Street. “We have a small program room for our regular events. This works well for story times and most of our hands-on programs. We have access to a beautiful auditorium, which we are using this summer for several music performance programs.”

Totten also notes that because of Anythink York Street’s unique location, the library is in a very residential and walkable neighborhood, benefitting nearby community members and encouraging students to explore.

These community members, along with elected officials and longtime customers, came together for the June 1 grand opening of Anythink York Street. Throughout all of



mySummer members decorate messenger bags during the grand opening.



Teen Guide Michelle Hawkins channels her inner superhero.

the festivities, the crowd was able to get a glimpse of the new facility and interact with staff. They also heard opening remarks from both library and district officials, reflecting on the benefits of such a partnership.

“The comments from Mapleton Public Schools Board President Norma Frank reiterated how Anythink and Mapleton support learning for all members of our community,” says Sandlian Smith. “That’s one reason why we are such great partners. We have similar goals and learning philosophies.”

Students are venturing into the library to learn with fellow Anythinkers in an explorative environment. Meanwhile, adults and other community members are visiting the new campus to use their local library and by proximity gaining a better understanding of the public education in their neighborhood. On both sides of the equation, the response has been positive.

“The community gets a beautiful new library, complete with access to Anythink’s collections, programs and services,” Sandlian Smith says.

**JUST THE FACTS:
Anythink York Street**

Location: 8990 York Street, Thornton, CO 80229

Phone: 303-405-3234

Opened: June 1, 2013

Hours: Tues. and Thur., 11 am-7 pm; Wed., Fri. and Sat., 9:30 am-5:30 pm

Manager: Kathy Totten

Size: 9,388 square feet

Architect: The Neenan Company

Features: 25 public computers, high-speed Internet, program space, new amenities



Anythink York Street mascot Chester sunbathes and socializes at the grand opening festivities.



L-R: Breanna Speakman, Kenneday Dechant and Katie Schneider make seed balls at the grand opening.

It’s a sentiment echoed by Totten: “We love the people in the south Thornton community, and we are so happy that we can give them a bigger and better library right in their neighborhood.”

FACES OF ANYTHINK



John and Jennifer Fenske, local entrepreneurs and authors

Local Entrepreneurs Stay Connected in Adams County

Like many young families in Adams County, John and Jennifer Fenske have a pretty full plate. They're entrepreneurs and authors, parents and travelers. They run an online art business, Fat and Appy, that specializes in high-quality modern art for children's rooms. They also write children's books, novels and blogs. Not to mention spending time with their children and exploring new places.

The Fenskes are regulars at Anythink Wright Farms. You can find them attending special events or just dropping by to pick up new books.

As entrepreneurs that manage much of their business online, John and Jennifer have flexibility in terms of choosing where to live. But for the Fenskes, making the move to Thornton, Colo., was a no-brainer. After living in Atlanta, they made this community their home in 2006.

"We fell in love with the landscape, outdoor opportunities and that general Colorado 'vibe,' which is laid back and driven, all at the same time," says Jennifer.

The Fenskes believe they hit the "jackpot" with the area. Why?

"We're a bike ride from Anythink Wright Farms, a bike ride from Trail Winds Park, a few miles from our eldest girl's charter school, and two miles from our middle child's Montessori school," says Jennifer. "We're surrounded by parks, trails...even the pond in our neighborhood is teeming with beautiful waterfowl."

Now, when she describes Anythink to her friends and family, she uses phrases like "ridiculously beautiful," "awesome programs" and "you have to visit now."

But it's not just the beautiful landscape and outdoor recreation that keeps the

Fenskes in Adams County. They're also committed to their community. With ties to both Westgate Community School and Rocky Mountain Presbyterian Church in Westminster, John and Jennifer consider themselves "plugged in" to the people and organizations of the area. That, of course, includes Anythink.

They first discovered Anythink when they dropped in at Anythink Huron Street and immediately felt at home. Now, when she describes Anythink to her friends and family, she uses phrases like "ridiculously beautiful," "awesome programs" and "you have to visit now."

"I'm kind of an Anythink pusher," Jennifer admits.

The Fenskes are just one example of an Adams County family, loving what they do and where they live. They invite you to keep up with their community outings by visiting fatandappy.com and clicking "blog."

Libraries and Literacy: A look at the One Book 4 Colorado Initiative



On Thursday, May 9, Anythink was filled with the sounds of crowds, laughter and maybe even a farm animal or two. That day, renowned children's author and illustrator David Shannon paid a visit to Anythink Wright Farms to read *Duck on a Bike* as part of the One Book 4 Colorado initiative. The event was an opportunity for fun and exploration, but it also served as part of an important mission: to put a book in the hands of every 4-year-old in Colorado. To further explain, we recently caught up with Beth Crist, youth & family services consultant at the Colorado State Library. She took a few minutes to share her thoughts on One Book 4 Colorado and the role of libraries in developing early child literacy.

Q: Tell us a little bit about One Book 4 Colorado (OB4C).

Beth Crist: OB4C was modeled after the successful One Book One Denver program, which began in 2009, to provide a copy of the same book to preschool students in Denver. In 2012, a group of partners brought the program to all 4-year-olds in Colorado.

The purpose of the program is to provide young children with access to books, which

“...low-income children have few to no books in their homes and are exposed to 30 million fewer words before age 4 than their higher-income peers.”

research shows promotes early literacy and helps families serve as their children's first and most important teachers. For low-income families, access to quality books and early literacy efforts are doubly important as research shows that low-income children have few to no books in their homes and are exposed to 30 million fewer words before age 4 than their higher-income peers.

OB4C aims to help minimize this vocabulary gap by getting a book into

the home of every 4-year-old in Colorado and fostering a culture of reading. We also hope OB4C will promote library usage, including getting new families to their local libraries, and will highlight the excellent early literacy programs that libraries in Colorado offer.

Q: What's the process like for selecting each year's book?

BC: For this year's title, we invited library staff and early childhood educators to nominate titles that 4-year-olds would love. There were some additional criteria, such as the titles had to be in print in both English and Spanish, and the author had to be alive and living in the United States. After the nominations were in, we put the top three up for an online vote to the residents of Colorado. There were more than 2,000 votes! *Duck on a Bike* was in the lead the whole time. We plan to do a similar selection process for the title for the 2014 OB4C program, though we're going to start earlier!

Q: There were several OB4C events across the state this year. Did you have a favorite?

BC: One of my favorite OB4C events this year was the Read to the Children program. Since 1999, the Colorado Department of Corrections libraries and the Colorado State Library have provided a program in which library staff record incarcerated parents reading a book and send the recording with the book to the child, and now some of the facilities are videotaping the offenders reading. For the last two years, Read to the Children has incorporated OB4C by having offenders with children who are 4 read the selected title for their children, then let their caregivers at home know that they can pick up a copy of the book at their local library. The joint

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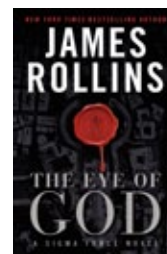
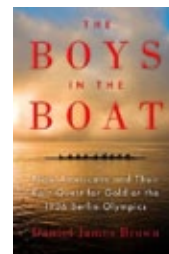
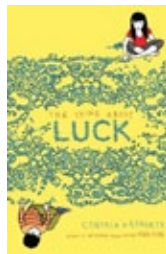
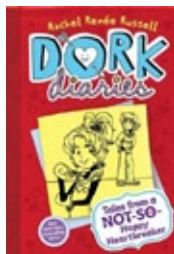
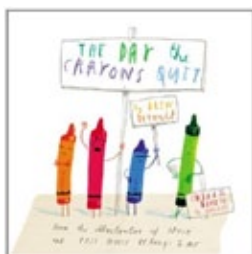


New Books: Check 'Em Out

We've got great new titles in June for children and adults at Anythink.

CHILDREN

- *Charlie the Ranch Dog: Where's the Bacon?* by Ree Drummond, illustrated by Diane deGroat
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers
- *Dork Diaries 6: Tales from a Not-So-Happy Heartbreaker* by Rachel Renee Russell
- *The Thing About Luck* by Cynthia Kadohata, illustrated by Julia Kuo



ADULT

- *The Astronaut Wives Club: A True Story* by Lily Koppel
- *Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown
- *Eye of God: A Sigma Force Novel* by James Rollins
- *Kennedy's Last Days* by Bill O'Reilly
- *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman
- *Second Honeymoon* by James Patterson and Howard Roughan

Backyard Concert Series

BENEFITING THE  Anythink Foundation

June 14 – Irie Still
July 12 – Chimney Choir
Aug. 9 – Blue Canyon Boys

6:30 – 8:30 pm
Anythink Wright Farms
5877 E. 120th Ave.
Thornton, CO 80602

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Proceeds from food and beverage sales benefit the Anythink Foundation.
For more information, visit anythinklibraries.org.

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Events Not to Miss



Taiko Drumming Wednesday, July 10, 3 pm

Costumes, Japanese folktales, percussion instruments and the booming Taiko drum come together to immerse you in this ancient Japanese art form.

Anythink Brighton
327 E. Bridge Street
Brighton, CO 80601
303-405-3230



Hunk-Ta-Bunk-Ta Friday, July 29, 1 pm

Join award-winning songwriter Katherine Dines as she provides a musical experience filled with participation. Interact using movement, sing-alongs, zany props and more. Please visit our online calendar to register.

Anythink Perl Mack
7611 Hilltop Circle
Denver, CO 80221
303-428-3576



Art Stop on the Go Wednesday, Aug. 28, 4-5 pm

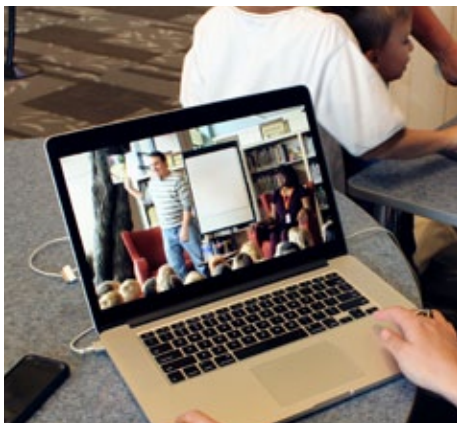
Anythink has teamed up with Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art to bring you an art-making workshop with visiting artist Heather Cherry. For students ages 5-12. Please visit our online calendar to register.

Anythink Huron Street
9417 Huron Street
Thornton, CO 80260
303-452-7534

For a complete listing of Anythink events, visit anythinklibraries.org.

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program has been a great success, with several families visiting their libraries for the first time and getting their first library cards. Another benefit of the program is that caregivers report that offenders' children maintain more positive relationships with their incarcerated parent.



Anythink Editor Erica Grossman watches the live, online broadcast of David Shannon's reading.

My other favorite OB4C program this year was the amazing reading and live webcast at Anythink Wright Farms! It was an excellent event that was very well attended. The fact that you all were able to broadcast it live and archive it was absolutely invaluable to share the author experience with libraries, preschools, clinics, and families at home across the state. Mr. Shannon



Duck on a Bike, duck on a napkin

was extremely impressed with your library, finding it highly innovative, interactive, collaborative, and fun.

Q: *How do libraries help support this initiative? What role do libraries play in helping develop child literacy?*

BC: OB4C simply would not be possible without the support of libraries statewide. Libraries play an integral role in helping child literacy. Particularly for children under 6, public libraries are one of the few institutions that are free and open to all families across the state and country. Story times that incorporate the principles of Every Child Ready to Read are a critical source of information on and modeling early literacy techniques for parents and caregivers, as well as of course a prime time to read to young children and help them associate reading with fun.



When you're done reading SPARK, share with a friend, give back to a staff member, or recycle.