



Crete Public Library District

Winter 2026

PROGRAMGUIDE



MITTEN TREE

This holiday season, we invite the community to spread some warmth by hanging newly purchased or handmade mittens, scarves, and hats on the Mitten Tree in our lobby through December 10. All sizes are welcome. In addition, a toy bin will be available in the lobby for toy donations. All items will be distributed to those in need by Angels on Assignment.

PROGRAM SIGN UP

Sign Up

Programs that require registration are marked with an *.

Scan this QR code to register at the Events Calendar on our website.



You may also call
(708) 672-8017
or visit the
Library to sign up.

All programs are in person, unless marked as  for Zoom or  for recording.

TINY ART SHOW

The Tiny Art Show is back! Pick up your Tiny Art kit starting January 6 at the Adult or Children's Desk. Return your masterpiece by January 27, then join us for the Tiny Art Show Reception and new Silent Auction on February 21. Kits go fast—grab yours soon!



YOUTH PROGRAMS



Registration
opens Nov .17

Let's Lego

Wednesdays: Dec. 3, Jan. 7,
& Feb. 4 from 6-7pm | Grades K-5
Each month we'll have a new LEGO
building challenge to complete and put on
display in the Library.

All By Myself*

Tuesdays: Dec. 9 & 16, Jan. 6-20 &
Feb. 3-17 from 1-1:45 pm | Ages 3-5
Join us for picture books, songs, and activities
designed for preschoolers to promote early
literacy and school readiness.

Once Upon a Storytime*

Thursdays: Dec. 11 & 18, Jan. 8-22, &
Feb. 5-19 from 10-10:30 am | Ages 0-2
Snuggle, bounce, and bond with your little
one as we share rhymes, songs, and stories
to foster language development and a love
of reading at this program.

LEGO WeDo*

Saturdays: Dec. 20, Jan. 17, & Feb. 21 from
10-11 am | Grades 1-5
Build and program your own cool
contraptions with LEGOs and a computer in
this introduction to coding.

Muffins with a Mystery Reader*

Saturdays: Jan. 3 & Feb. 7
from 10:30-11:15 am | Families
Start your weekend with a delicious treat
while enjoying stories and songs with Ms.
Kerry and our Mystery Reader.

Peter Halligan's StoryWalk: *Good Morning, Snowplow*

Dec.-Feb. | Families
Visit Peter Halligan's StoryWalk, located off
of Steger Rd. & Nicolette Dr., for our winter
story *Good Morning, Snowplow* by Deborah
Bruss.

Go for the Gold Winter Reading Program

Jan. 5-Feb. 28 | Families
Get into the Olympic spirit with our Winter
Reading Program! Join us for weekly check-
ins and prizes. Registration and reading
logs coming soon!



Comics & Cookies: Happy Narwhalidays!*

Tuesday, Dec. 2 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2
The holiday season is here! Join us at Comics &
Cookies as we discuss *Happy Narwhalidays!* by Ben
Clanton. We will also enjoy some yummy cookies and
create a festive craft!

Kid Creatives: Giant Friendship Bracelets*

Monday, Dec. 8 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2
Monday, Dec. 8 from 6-6:45 pm | Grades 3-5
It's time to get crafty! Make a giant friendship
bracelet using oversized materials.

EPIC Graphic Novel Club: *The Cardboard Kingdom**

Tuesday, Dec. 9 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades 3-5
Let's get in the festive spirit with the Cardboard
Kingdom! Join us at EPIC Graphic Novel Club as we
discuss *The Cardboard Kingdom: Snow and Sorcery* by
Chad Sell, enjoy cookies, and create a holiday craft!

STEAM Holidays*

Thursday, Dec. 11 from 5:30-7 pm | Families
Join us for a fun night of family STEAM fun, we'll have
a variety of festive STEAM activities for the whole
family to enjoy!

Pokemon Club

Saturdays: Dec. 13, Jan. 10, & Feb. 14 from 3-4:30 pm |
Grade School & Teens
Bring your cards to trade and battle or just hang out
and have some Pokémon fun! (Try to defeat Gym
Leader Dan for a prize!)

Gingerbread House Workshop*

Monday, Dec. 15 from 5-6 pm | Grades K-2
Monday, Dec. 15 from 6-7 pm | Grades 3-5
Learn the fun history of gingerbread houses while
decorating one that will last forever. Students will use
cardstock houses, puffy paint, and faux candy to
create one-of-a-kind decor that looks good enough
to eat! Be prepared to get messy.

Holiday Carol Night*

Wednesday, Dec. 17 from 5:30-7pm | Families
The holiday season is here! Join us as we rock around
the Christmas tree, sing along to carols together, and
enjoy some delicious hot cocoa!

Holly Jolly Storytime*

Friday, Dec. 19 from 10:30-11:15 am | Ages 0-5
Celebrate the holidays with a joyful storytime filled
with books, songs, and cheer.

YOUTH PROGRAMS



Noon Year's Eve*

Tuesday, Dec. 30 from 11 am-12:30 pm | Families
You don't have to stay up until midnight to celebrate the New Year. Help us get ready to count down the New Year with a Noon Year's Eve party.

Survival Kids Club: The Wellington Avalanche, 1910*

Monday, Jan. 5 from 6-7 pm | Grades 2-5
Can you survive? Each month we'll read about kids who faced real-life disasters, then dive into the topic with activities and experiments. January's book will be *The Wellington Avalanche, 1910* by Lauren Tarshis.

Comics & Cookies: Fitz & Cleo Put a Party on It*

Tuesday, Jan. 6 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2
It is a brand new year! Join us at Comics & Cookies as we discuss *Fitz & Cleo: Put A Party On It* by Jonathan Stutzman. We will also enjoy some yummy cookies and create a craft!

STEAM Tweens: Bounce into the New Year*

Thursday, Jan. 8 from 6-7 pm | Grades 3-5
Join us as we launch ourselves into the new year with some bouncing fun.

Book Drop Science*

Saturdays: Jan. 10 & Feb. 7 from 1-2 pm | Families
Join us for a new 4-part family STEM program where kids (4+) and their grownups explore STEM careers through a short scientist video, hands-on activities, and a free Book Drop guide.

Kid Creatives: Squishmallows*

Monday, Jan. 12 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2
Monday, Jan. 12 from 6-6:45 pm | Grades 3-5
It's time to get crafty! This month is make your own adorable paper Squishmallow.

Epic Graphic Novel Club: The Night Librarian*

Tuesday, Jan. 13 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades 3-5
Join us at EPIC Graphic Novel Club as we discuss *The Night Librarian* by Christopher Lincoln. We will also enjoy a snack and create a craft!

STEAM Kids: Pop into the New Year*

Thursday, Jan. 15 from 6-7 pm | Grades K-2
Pop on in for a fun filled night of bubble gum related experiments.

Get Ready for Winter*

Tuesday, Jan. 20 from 6-7 pm | Grades K-3
Discover the changes that take place in nature from fall to winter and learn how animals adapt to these changes.

Whose Bones?*

Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 6-7 pm | Grades 4-6
Turn your classroom into a forensic lab for dissecting and reconstructing the mystery of owl pellets.

STEAM Tots: Bubbly Fun New Year*

Thursday, Jan. 22 from 6-7 pm | Ages 3-5
Join us for a fun evening of bubble experiments.

Snowglobe Galaxy Painting*

Monday, Jan. 26 from 5-6 pm | Grades K-2
Monday, Jan. 26 from 6-7 pm | Grades 3-5
Learn to create a simple winter landscape using watercolor and ink, with a focus on "negative space" to bring your artwork to life. Be prepared to get a little messy!

Winter Wonderland Storytime*

Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 10:30-11:15 am | Ages 0-5
Let it snow! Join us for a very cozy storytime.

Otaku Club*

Monday, Feb. 2 from 6-7 pm | Grades 3-5
Anime and Manga fans unite! Join us for snacks and crafts while we talk about what we're reading and watching.

Comics & Cookies: One Smart Cookie*

Tuesday, Feb. 3 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2
Join us at Comics & Cookies as we discuss *One Smart Cookie* by Mika Song. We will also enjoy some yummy cookies and create a craft!

Kid Creatives: Turtle Weaving*

Monday, Feb. 9 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades K-2
Monday, Feb. 9 from 6-6:45 pm | Grades 3-5
Get crafty! This month we will be weaving our very own colorful turtles.

EPIC Graphic Novel Club: Swim Team*

Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 4:30-5:15 pm | Grades 3-5
Join us at EPIC Graphic Novel Club as we discuss *Swim Team* by Johnnie Christmas. We will also enjoy a snack and create a craft!

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Library Olympics: Crete 2026*

Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 5:30–7 pm | Families
Join us for a series of library-themed Olympic games and trials with your friends and family.

STEAM Tweens: Olympic Trials*

Thursday, Feb. 12 from 6–7 pm | Grades 3–5
The Winter Olympics are here! While the Olympians are gathering in Milan-Cortina, join us here at the Library for fun STEAM Olympic challenges.

STEAM Kids: Winter Olympic Science*

Thursday, Feb. 19 from 6–7 pm | Grades K–2
You may be busy cheering your favorite athletes to victory, but take a break and join us for some olympic STEAM fun.



Abstract Canvas Painting*

Monday, Feb. 23 from 5–6 pm | Grades K–2
Monday, Feb. 23 from 6–7 pm | Grades 3–5
Explore the creativity of layering shapes, patterns, and colors with this abstract workshop, inspired by Howardena Pindell. Be prepared to get messy.

Baby & Toddler Olympics*

Thursday, Feb. 26 from 10 am–12 pm | 6 mons–5 yrs
Bring your tiny athletes to the Winter Olympics. Your little ones will vault into a number of baby and toddler-themed games and activities.

STEAM Tots: Winter Olympic Games*

Thursday, Feb. 26 from 6–7 pm | Ages 3–5
The Olympics may be all the way in Milan-Cortina, but we can have some olympic fun right here at the Library! Join us for a night of Olympic-inspired STEAM experiments.

TEEN & TECH PROGRAMS

Teens

Mimic the Masters: Teen Art Club*

Saturday, Jan. 24 from 2–3:30 pm
Explore and create art from methods used by master artists or art movements. All supplies are provided.

Teen Volunteer Thursday*

Thursdays: Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12 from 3–5 pm
Middle and High Schoolers earn hours for their school community service requirements while making something for others at the Library.

Tech

Tech programs are for both teens & adults.

Canva Basics

Mondays: Jan. 12 & Feb. 9 from 6–7:30 pm
Saturdays: Jan. 17 & Feb. 14 from 2–3:30 pm
Learn the basics of Canva, a free graphic design website for creating flyers, social media posts, and more. Basic computer skills and email access required.

Library 101: Basics of the SWAN Catalog

Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 3:30–4:30 pm
Learn the basics of the SWAN catalog—how to find, request, and manage items. Bring your smartphone or tablet to try the SWAN Libraries+ app.

Library 101: Basics of Libby

Tuesday, Jan. 20 from 3:30–4:30 pm
Learn the basics of Libby, the free library app for borrowing ebooks and audiobooks. Bring your smartphone or tablet to download and explore the app.

Drop-In Tech Help

Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 10–11:30 am
Have a quick tech question? Drop in for up to 15 minutes of one-on-one help. Bring your device! Please note: The library is unable to assist with in-depth technology issues, hardware repairs, or specialized software instruction.



RECURRING ADULT PROGRAMS

Activities & Resources

Adult Writing Group

Mondays: Dec. 1, Jan. 5, & Feb. 2 from 6-7:30 pm

Trivia Nights at Evil Horse

Thursdays: Dec. 11 & Feb. 12 from 7-9 pm

Knot Just for Knitters

Thursdays: Dec. 4 & Feb. 5 from 1-4 pm

Thursdays: Dec. 18, Jan. 15, & Feb. 19 from 6-7:30 pm

SNAP Help

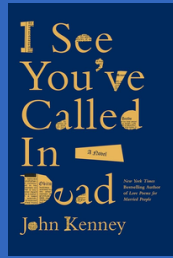
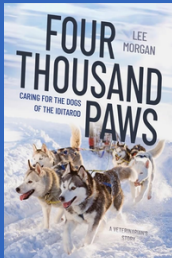
Wednesdays: Dec. 3, Jan. 7, & Feb. 4 from 1-4 pm

Wednesdays: Dec. 17, Jan. 21, & Feb. 18 from 9:30-11:30 am

Book Clubs

CPLD Book Discussion Group

Mondays: Dec. 8, Jan. 12, & Feb. 9 from 6:30-7:30 pm



Young Adult (for Adults) Book Club

Tuesdays: Dec. 16, Jan. 20, & Feb. 17 from 6-7 pm

Silent Book Club

Wednesdays: Dec. 3, Jan. 7, & Feb. 4 from 6-7:30 pm

No assigned reading, choose your own book.

Book Appétit Cookbook Book Club*

Mondays: Jan. 26 & Feb. 23 from 6-7:30 pm



Sci-Fi Book Club

Wednesdays: Dec. 3, Jan. 7, & Feb. 4 from 6-7:30 pm



Movies



Film Club

Thursday, Dec. 18 from 5:30-7:30 pm: *The Green Knight*

Thursday, Jan. 22 from 5:30-7:30 pm: *After Hours*

Thursday, Feb. 26 from 5:30-7:30 pm: *Annie Hall*

Retro Movie Fridays



Fridays at 2:30 pm

Scan the QR code for the fall schedule or visit cretelibrary.org/retro.



Harry Potter Movie Marathon

Monday, Dec. 22 from 2-7:45 pm
Sorcerer's Stone & Chamber of Secrets

Tuesday, Dec. 23 from 11 am-4:30 pm
Prisoner of Azkaban & Goblet of Fire

Friday, Dec. 26 from 11 am-4:30 pm
Order of the Phoenix & Half Blood Prince

Monday, Dec. 29 from 2-7:15 pm
Deathly Hallows Part 1 & 2



Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig*



Tuesday, Jan. 13 from 7-8 pm

Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine*



Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 7-8 pm

ADULT PROGRAMS

The Magic of a Christmas Carol*

Thursday, Dec. 4 from 6-7:30 pm

Join historical presenter, Michelle Gibbons, as the Ghost of Christmas Past on a theatrical journey through time, awakening Dickens to a life of possibility and showing him the bright future that awaits when one believes in the magic of the season.



Paint in Place*

Monday, Dec. 8 from 5:30-7:30 pm

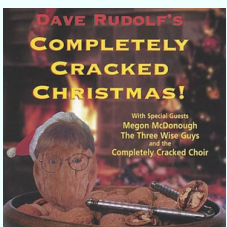
Come embrace the season by painting a cheerful snowman who won't melt till spring, led by Paint in Place artist, Betty Postma. You can bring out your inner creativity in a warm, encouraging, and welcoming atmosphere! No previous painting experience required and all supplies provided.



Dave Rudolf's Completely Cracked Christmas*

Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 6:30-7:30 pm

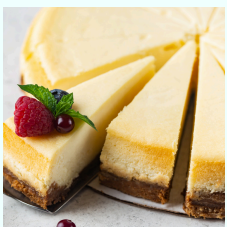
In "Dave Rudolf's Completely Cracked Christmas", Dave puts his unique spin on your favorite Christmas tunes with clever, irreverent song parodies that are equal parts funny and festive. Expect plenty of laughs, unexpected twists on familiar melodies, and a holiday show that's anything but ordinary. Perfect for anyone ready to embrace the lighter, zanier side of the season!



Cheesecake 101

Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 6:30 pm-8 pm

Get ready to wow your holiday guests with luscious, creamy cheesecakes! In this class, you'll learn the secrets to a perfectly smooth base, how to avoid cracks, and how to create both classic and fun flavor twists.



Loom Knitting*

Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 am-12 pm

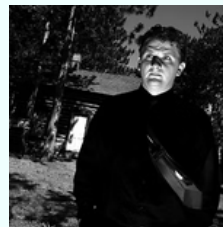
Come and learn the basics of loom knitting. All supplies will be provided to make a small hat. Feel free to take the hat home or donate it afterward.



Winter Legends and Lore

Available throughout January

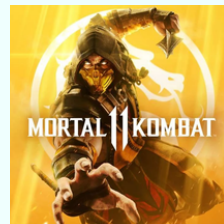
Join researcher and author Chad Lewis for a journey into the chilling folklore of winter. Whether eerie holiday traditions or ghostly tales, explore the strange and supernatural side of the season.



Adult Video Game Tournament: Mortal Kombat 11*

Saturday, Jan. 3 from 12:30-3:30 pm

Come test your might at our Mortal Kombat 11 adult-only tournament! Face off with friends and frenemies on the Nintendo Switch at our small double-elimination tournament. Bring your own Nintendo Switch controller or use ours. Prizes for 1st-3rd place.



Grains & Greens

Wednesday, Jan. 14 from 6:30-8 pm

Give your winter meals a wholesome refresh with hearty grains and flavorful greens. We'll explore vibrant recipes like warm grain bowls, stuffed greens, and flavorful pilafs that prove nutritious can still be comforting.



Jigsaw Puzzle Competition*

Saturday, Jan. 24 from 1-3 pm

Teams will compete to complete a 300-piece jigsaw puzzle in the fastest time. Each team's puzzle will be the same picture. Teams can have up to 4 members maximum. Only 1 person per team should register.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Adult Health Assessment*

Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 6:30-7:30 pm

This workshop will give you the tools and confidence to understand, manage, and improve your health. You'll learn how to track your wellbeing, recognize early changes, and communicate effectively with your healthcare provider using clear questions and organized information.



Health
is the
Best
Wealth

Brownies, Blondies

& Brookies  

Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 6:30-8 pm

Celebrate the sweetest month of the year with the ultimate trio of bar treats! We'll bake up rich, fudgy brownies, chewy blondies, and brookies. Learn tips for customizing textures, flavors, and swirls to create your own signature bars.

Sew for Charity*

Saturday, Feb. 14 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Join us for a sewing workshop to create chemo port cushions and neck pillows for Franciscan Hospital in Olympia Fields, IL. Some sewing experience is suggested. If you have your own machine, feel free to bring it. If not, one will be provided. All materials provided.

Legends of Motown*

Thursday, Feb. 19 from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Join Randy Walker for *Legends of Motown*, a lively tribute to the golden age of soul! Enjoy timeless hits from artists like Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, and Marvin Gaye, all performed with Randy's signature energy and style.

Crete Creative



9th Annual Regional Showcase

Friday, Nov. 28 to Saturday, Jan. 17

The Annual Crete Creative Community Showcase is an independent survey of art in Crete, IL, and surrounding communities. This exhibition aims to offer a unique opportunity for artists in the far south Chicago suburbs to showcase their work within their own community.

Opening Reception & Art Market

Saturday, Nov. 29 from 11 am-1 pm



Ricardo Cabral Show

Friday, Jan. 23 to Saturday, Mar. 7

Ricardo Cabral is an artist active in Chicago's Bridgeport arts corridor who has shown work in group exhibitions and at the Zhou B Art Center. He works in oil, found objects and more.

All Ages

Laser Comedy*

Tuesday, Dec. 2 from 6-7 pm

The Laser Comedy Show is an improvised story based on targeted suggestions gathered from the audience by drawing the characters and scenery live with lasers on a special glow in the dark screen and voice acting the characters and sound effects.

Crete Country Christmas: Enduring Strings

Saturday, Dec. 6 from 2-3 pm

In light of Crete Country Christmas, Enduring Strings will be making their return to the Library! Come watch these talented children perform your favorite holiday songs. Their performance will take place by our fireplace. Stop by and spread the holiday cheer!



1177 N. Main Street
Crete, IL 60417

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Library Hours:

Monday–Thursday
9:30 am to 8 pm
Friday & Saturday
9:30 am to 5 pm
Closed Sunday

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Suzanne Oliver

Library Director

David Sieffert

Newsletter Editor

Elise Tarrant

A large type edition of this
newsletter is available
at the Library.

Donations, Gifts, and Memorials

- *In Memory of Thorin
Granville Benson
Robert & Anne-Marie
Gavenda*

Winter Closings

Christmas: Dec. 24–25
New Year's: Dec. 30–Jan. 1
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day: Jan. 19
Presidents Day: Feb. 16

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER



Great news for families! The Imagination Library, founded by Dolly Parton, is now in Will County. Children from birth to age five can receive a free book each month. Crete Public Library is proud to help bring the joy of reading to local kids—scan the QR code to sign up!



PARENTING PROGRAMS

Homeschool Huddle*

Fridays: Dec. 12, Jan. 16, & Feb. 13 from 2:30–3:30 pm

Come to the library to hang out with other homeschool families. Children will have activities in the room set up while parents gather to learn about library resources and exchange ideas.

Mom's Coffee Clutch*

Wednesdays: Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 6–7:30 pm

Fridays: Jan. 23 & Feb. 20 from 1:30–3 pm

Feeling overwhelmed as a mom? You're not alone! Join us for connection, support, and laughter—it really does take a village!

