

# ALL PIKES PEAK READS

## Children's All Pikes Peaks Reads Author

Thu., Nov. 12 • Time TBD  
For Schools and Homeschool students

**Brenda Woods**  
*The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA*  
A study guide will be available. Please register only one person for this program and we will send you a link to view the program online.

## Young Adult All Pikes Peaks Reads Author

Tues. Nov. 10 • 7 p.m.  
Lindsay Lackey  
*All the Impossible Things*



### Activity: Try a PPLD Challenge!



Try out one of the activities below, take a photo, and show off what you've made on Facebook.

One lucky winner per challenge will receive a \$25 gift card. Entries must include #ppldchallenge and tag @ppldkids or @ppldteens to be eligible to win. Or email your photo to ppldchallenge@ppld.org and we will post it to social media for you. Visit our virtual calendar of events for more information.

#### Banned Books Art

Fri., Sept. 4 - Fri., Sept. 25  
Celebrate your right to read! Create a piece of art celebrating or using pages from a banned book.

#### Favorite Fictional Character for President

Fri., Oct. 2 - Tue., Nov. 3  
From Oct. 2 - Oct. 18, create a poster that answers the following question: "How would your favorite fictional character change the world for the better if she/he/it were elected president?" Then vote for your favorites (Oct. 20-Nov. 3). The winning character will be featured on our Facebook page.

#### Appreciate Veterans through Art

Fri., Nov. 6 - Fri., Nov. 27  
Veteran's Day is November 11th, but let's celebrate veterans all month long! Create a piece of art celebrating veterans (it can be digital, multimedia, drawing, molding, etc.), and show it off Facebook. If you'd like to send your artwork in a card to a veteran or other hero, see Operation Gratitude (operationgratitude.com) for details and guidelines



@PIKESPEAKLIBRARYDISTRICT  
@PPLD



## Check the virtual calendar for more events!

[tinyurl.com/ppldvirtualcalendar](https://tinyurl.com/ppldvirtualcalendar)



# Homeschool Connections

An Educational Resource Tool

FALL 2020

## LOCATION KEY

- CA** **Calhan Library**  
(719) 531-6333, x7013  
600 Bank St., Calhan
- CH** **Cheyenne Mountain Library**  
(719) 531-6333, x7001  
1785 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- EA** **East Library**  
5550 N. Union Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7014
- FO** **Fountain Library**  
230 S. Main St., Fountain  
(719) 531-6333, x7002
- HI** **High Prairie Library**  
7035 Old Meridian Rd., Falcon  
(719) 531-6333, x7003
- KCH** **Knights of Columbus Hall**  
20 W. Pikes Peak Ave.  
(719) 531-6333
- LI** **Library 21c**  
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.  
(719) 531-6333, x7012
- MA** **Manitou Springs Library**  
701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs  
(719) 531-6333, x7004
-  **Mobile Library Services**  
ppld.org/mobile-library-services  
(719) 531-6333, x2313
- MO** **Monument Library**  
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument  
(719) 531-6333, x7005
- OL** **Old Colorado City Library**  
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x7006
- PA** **Palmer Lake Library**  
66 Lower Glenway St., Palmer Lake  
(719) 531-6333, x7007
- PE** **Penrose Library**  
20 N. Cascade Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x7015
- RO** **Rockrimmon Library**  
832 Village Center Dr.  
(719) 531-6333, x7008
- RU** **Ruth Holley Library**  
685 N. Murravy Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7009
- SA** **Sand Creek Library**  
1821 S. Academy Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7018
- UT** **Ute Pass Library**  
8010 Severy Rd., Cascade  
(719) 531-6333, x7011



## Online Resources to Enrich Learning from Home

Whether you are homeschooling full- or part-time, or simply looking for ways to enrich your child's education, the online resources featured in this issue provide a variety of elucidating and engaging possibilities.

### Learning Heroes [belearninghero.org](http://belearninghero.org)

This site provides parents with a picture of their child's learning needs along with tools to bolster their academic, social, and emotional development. A "Readiness Check" with short questions about reading or math for grades K - 8 will show you where your student stands. You'll also find learning aids by subject and grade level, ways to identify a child's character strengths and areas for development, an idea-packed "Anti-Racism Resources Directory," and more. It's also accessible in Spanish!

### GreatSchools [greatschools.org](http://greatschools.org)

This resource helps with developing "Emotional Smarts," learning issues, building character, college prep, and more. A "What Your Child Should Have Learned" section outlines key academic and social benchmarks typical for grades K - 8 along with specific subject check-ins aligned with Common Core State Standards. Short "Milestones" videos clarify grade level expectations by demonstrating what success looks like in reading, writing, and math in grades K - 12. Parents can also access learning activities, vocab words, worksheets, and more by grade level. It's also accessible in Spanish!

### Khan Academy [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org)

This site provides free standards-aligned video tutorials and interactive exercises in math, science, and the humanities from kindergarten through the early years of college. The self-paced lessons are organized to build knowledge one concept at a time. Create a free account to track a student's progress, chart subject mastery, and support their learning needs. Use Khan Academy to tackle new coursework, fill in gaps for subjects already learned, homework help, or as a fun activity. It's accessible in numerous languages!

### Understood [understood.org](http://understood.org)

Understood is aimed at supporting kids with learning and thinking differences, like dyslexia and ADHD, by offering customized, accessible resources and a compassionate community. The "For Families" section organizes articles and resources into general topics: understanding and navigating learning and thinking differences; school and learning issues; socio-emotional development; community, including blogs and discussion groups; and "Through Your Child's Eyes," interactive simulations to help parents better understand their child's world. It's also accessible in Spanish!

### Wide Open School [wideopenschool.org](http://wideopenschool.org)

This site offers engaging, high-quality online learning experiences for kids pre-K - 12. Parents can access the content by subject, or plan a full school day by grade level. Other sections are dedicated to virtual field trips, art and music, physical activity, emotional well-being, English-language learners, learning differences, and more.

To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email [jfleishhacker@ppld.org](mailto:jfleishhacker@ppld.org).



# Online Resources to Enrich Learning from Home

## Digital Citizenship

As resources and information are increasingly available online, it is important to make sure youth know how to be good digital citizens. This includes evaluating information they read online, maintaining online privacy and security, and knowing how to manage and mitigate their digital footprint. These are complicated topics, but luckily, there are many high-quality resources for educators to help teach youth these skills! Here are a few you can incorporate into your curriculum for this year.

## The Oregon School Library and Information System

[oslis.org](http://oslis.org)

OSLIS has put together a website with lots of useful information about proper research techniques, which include correctly evaluating websites and being a good digital citizen by citing your sources. Engaging and easy-to-understand videos help youth think critically about what they read online, and they'll find selections focused on performing research for their age group.

## Common Sense Media

[commonsense.org](http://commonsense.org)

This site has amazing resources for educators! While many of their free lesson plans are designed for the classroom, they are easily adaptable to a homeschool environment. Digital citizenship curricula is accessible by grade level or topic. Also available are two games that will reinforce digital citizenship skills and concepts for elementary ("Digital Passport") and secondary students ("Digital Compass").

## NorthStar Digital Literacy

[digitalliteracyassessment.org](http://digitalliteracyassessment.org)

This site provides excellent training on computer-related topics. Three general sections explore "Essential Computer Skills," "Essential Software Skills," and "Using Technology in Daily Life" (focusing primarily on topics related to digital citizenship). Youth take an assessment and are then immediately presented with their results and a curriculum tailored to their current skill level. Eventually, youth will be able to get official certificates at PPLD as PPLD will be a NorthStar Digital Literacy testing site.

## eLibrary: More than Books!

If you've never visited PPLD's eLibrary, you're missing out! This is the place to go for thousands of free digital materials. First, you'll need to create an account using your library card number and pin. Some services in the eLibrary include OverDrive (eBooks, eAudios, eVideos), Hoopla (eMusic, eVideos, eComics, eBooks, eAudios), AudioBookCloud (eAudios), Freeding (eBooks), Freegal (eMusic), Kanopy (eVideos), and more. Learn more about our digital resources by visiting [ppld.org/eLibrary](http://ppld.org/eLibrary).

## Databases

These platforms provide high-quality educational content and are fun to explore! Access is free with a valid library card and pin number. To access go to [ppld.org/databases](http://ppld.org/databases) and type in the name of the database, or visit [ppld.org/kids](http://ppld.org/kids) and click Homework.

## CultureGrams Online

Wish Social Studies was more personal? Do you need just the facts? CultureGrams online has it all covered! Culture Grams is unique because you can learn how people actually live their everyday lives in countries around the world. Not only will you get all the facts, but you will also meet people up close and personal during video interviews from residents, young and old. Join in to discover fun tidbits about daily life, perhaps cook a new distinctive recipe, and maybe even encounter an unforgettable cultural custom during your virtual visit. Need some curriculum ideas? There are fun and meaningful hands-on lesson activities for grades K - 12 as well as Common Core State Standards. Check out the new video series, "What We Talk About When We Talk About COVID-19," to learn more how this worldwide pandemic is affecting us all. Get ready to explore and meet the people that live in our world!

## HelpNow

HelpNow offers a variety of services to people of all ages! Find live virtual tutors for K - 12 and older every day from 2 - 11 p.m. The "SkillSurfer" option provides a comprehensive library of lessons, videos, practice tests, and quizzes by grade level and subject, where learners can identify and address skills they need to work on. Students can submit writing assignments and academic papers to the "Writing Lab," and a tutor will review and edit the document (within 24 hours). People can also submit resumes and cover letters for feedback! The "LEAP Learning Platform" invites students to complete an online assessment for an academic skill; receive a customized learning plan containing lessons, quizzes and videos that addresses areas requiring attention; and track their progress until they achieve mastery. HelpNow also provides practice tests for the ACT, SAT, ASVAB and more! You will need to create a free account to track progress, re-play recorded tutoring sessions, and more.

## Homeschool Hub

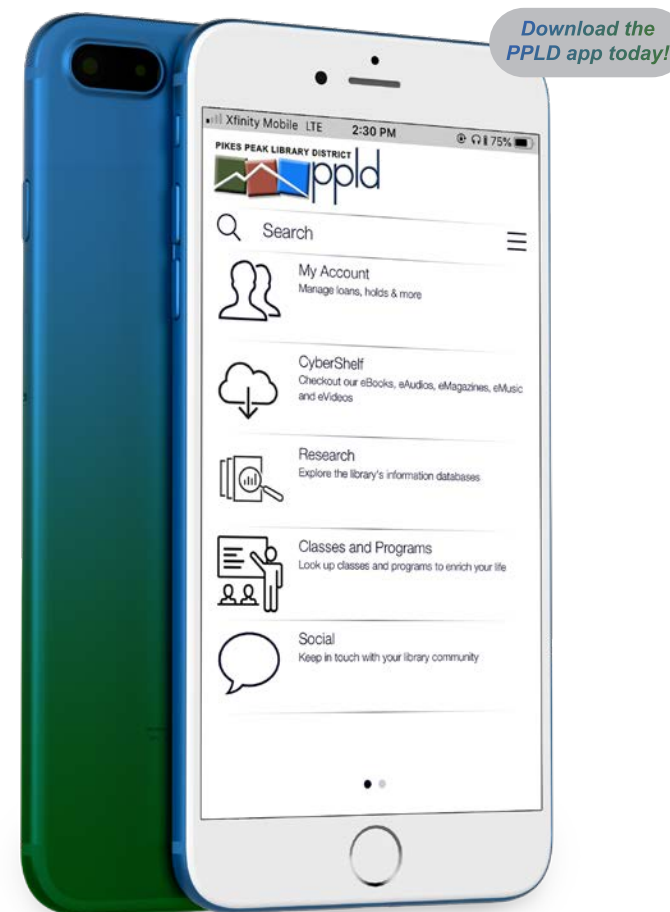
Whether you are a veteran homeschooling family, or just getting started, visit the PPLD Homeschool Hub to check out community and library events, sign up for newsletters, and access reading lists. Click on "Resources" to find information on getting started; Colorado homeschool law, online courses, concurrent enrollment, and enrichment programs; tutoring; extracurricular activities; support organizations; and more. Get started at [ppld.org/homeschool-hub](http://ppld.org/homeschool-hub).

## PPLD Kids

You can find plenty of links to PPLD resources here! Click on one of the buttons to explore: Homework (search by subject to find databases, recommended websites, and more), Read (access booklists by grade level, genre, online resources, and more), Create (links to hands-on activities and websites), or Parents & Educators (a curated information source for adults). Visit [ppld.org/kids](http://ppld.org/kids) to get started.

## Mango Languages

Ready to expand your horizons by learning a new language? Mango Languages features 70 language options, including 21 options for those learning English as a second language. Explore languages from Irish to Punjabi in the comfort of your own home, or download the app to learn on the go! Students can go at their own pace. The courses have been created by expert linguists and native-speaking instructors to ensure that the content is grammatically and conversationally correct, as well as culturally relevant. You will need to create a free account.



## NoveList K-8 Plus: Find a Great Book

Whether you are looking for titles to support your curriculum or want to help your child find a book in a favorite genre, this database is the first place to stop. NoveList K-8 Plus includes picture books, chapter books, and younger teen titles in both fiction and non-fiction. Recommended reads by subject and age level appear in a directory on the left. You can search by author/title/series, keywords, or genres, and then limit your results by age, genre, storyline, pace, and more. For each book, entries include a cover image, brief description, reading level (Accelerated Reader and/or Lexile), reviews from professional publications, and links to the PPLD catalog. Homeschooling parents will want to browse the "Quick Links" tab on top, which includes subject-specific "Curricular Connections" related to common core standards, and "Genre Outlines" introducing literary categories with suggestions. You can also make your own account to keep track of reading lists.

## TumbleBooks

This curated database of children's eBooks offers over 1000 titles for kids in grades K - 6. Included are animated talking picture books, read-along chapter books, National Geographic videos, non-fiction books, literacy puzzles and games, books in Spanish and French, and graphic novels (a fan favorite!). Younger kids will enjoy listening to the stories while perusing the illustrations, while older or more accomplished readers can choose from the collection of read-along books featuring narration, sentence highlighting, and automatic page-turning. Each book is accompanied by a reading level, Lexile level, and grade information, plus an optional quiz. There are no limited check-out times or wait lists, so every item is always available to everyone. Access TumbleBooks via [ppld.org/eLibrary](http://ppld.org/eLibrary), or [ppld.org/kids/read](http://ppld.org/kids/read), and settle into the pleasure of reading in this tech-savvy format.

## Science Reference Center

This resource provides easy access to a multitude of full-text, science-oriented content. Designed to meet every student researcher's needs, this database contains full text for 732+ science encyclopedias and reference books, 195 periodicals, 519 science videos and other sources. Students can browse by category or search by key words, refine their results by limiters such as publication or format, and access citations. A "Reference Shelf" feature links to lesson plans, science experiments, curriculum standards, worksheets, and more.

## Workforce Readiness Training

Get ready to get a job or go to college! Work your way through modules focused on professionalism, communication, social skills, and goal setting to prepare yourself for the next big step in your life. Folks below age fifteen should focus on the "basic" training while older youth might find the "intermediate" training more appropriate. Complete the training and pass an assessment to earn 10 hours of volunteer credit! To access, visit [research.ppld.org/workforce-readiness-training](http://research.ppld.org/workforce-readiness-training).

