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Star Wars Week, a writing workshop with James Ponti and more fun library events for kids in December

Staff at the Orange County Library System are getting excited for the upcoming release of *The Last Jedi*, scheduled to hit theaters in mid-December, and they want to share that excitement with you. During the week of December 11-16, the Alafaya Branch will host Star Wars Week, a celebration of all things Star Wars. The branch's weekly Maker Monday will be dedicated to Star Wars-themed projects, and during the week families can participate in a Star Wars trivia night, a Jedi Training Academy, a screening of *The Force Awakens* and a daylong Star Wars Celebration on December 16 with a galactic storytime, crafts and snacks. During December, young Jedis and their families can also attend a Star Wars Party at our South Creek Branch, a Star Wars Rebel Outpost at the Winter Garden Branch and more Star Wars events throughout the system. See details below.

On December 6, our Sunshine State Author Series continues with a writing workshop for kids at the South Trail Branch led by author James Ponti. Ponti, a winner of the Edgar Award, will share some of his own tips and exercises that to inspire and help aspiring authors.

If you have any questions about the events or information shared below, please feel free to contact us at 407-835-7323. You can also check for more library events online at www.ocls.info.

Family Holiday Festival

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Saturday, December 2, 1–3 p.m.

Holiday Cheer is here! You are invited to a day filled with fun, photos and food. Bring the whole family to have a holiday photo taken, make a holiday bracelet and enjoy holiday stories and crafts for the kids. Apple cider and popcorn will be served while you have the chance to mingle and meet others. Enter to win a fantastic family prize! Registration required.

Handmade Holiday Ornaments

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

Saturday, December 2, 2:30 p.m.

Warm up your living spaces with handmade holiday ornaments. Ages 10 and up. Younger children with caregivers are also welcome.

Orlando Public Library Pokémon League

Orlando Public Library, Magnolia Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Sundays, December 3 & 17, 3 p.m.

Calling all trainers! Join the official Orlando Public Library Pokémon League. Battle for fun or for glory with the Pokémon Trading Card Game, Pokémon video games and even Pokkén Tournament. Earn cool prizes, meet other trainers and have fun. Trainers of all ages and skill levels welcome. ocls.info/pokemon.

It Doesn't Snow in Florida

Washington Park Branch, 5151 Raleigh St., Suite A.

Monday, December 4, 4:30 p.m.

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Thursday, December 7, 4 p.m.

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Friday, December 8, 3 p.m.

Winter Garden Branch, 805 E. Plant St., Winter Garden

Saturday, December 16, 2:30 p.m.

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Monday, December 18, 5 p.m.

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Tuesday, December 19, 5:30 p.m.

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Tuesday, December 26, 5 p.m.

It may not snow in Florida, but that doesn't mean we can't make our own winter fun! Join us to discover, learn and play with our own version of the mysterious white frozen stuff from up north. Ages 6–12.

Party in Your PJs

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Tuesday, December 5, 10:15 a.m.

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Wednesday, December 6, 10 a.m.

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Thursday, December 7, 11 a.m.

Chickasaw Branch, 870 N. Chickasaw Trail

Thursday, December 14, 11 a.m.

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Friday, December 15, 10:30 a.m.

Come over for an exciting pajama party just for you! Don't forget to wear your PJs. Get ready for fun with stories, games and crafts! Shoes required. Ages 2–5.

Writing Workshop with James Ponti

South Trail Branch, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Wednesday, December 6, 4:30 p.m.

Calling aspiring writers, ages 9–14! Edgar-award winning writer James Ponti presents a writing workshop for kids and teens with interactive writing exercises and writing tips. Ponti is the author of *Framed!* and the Dead City trilogy. Ponti has a degree in screenwriting from the University of Southern California and has written and produced television shows for Nickelodeon, Disney Channel, PBS, History Channel and Golf Channel. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Registration required. Register at ocls.info/sunshineseries.

Little Chef: Teddy Bear Toast

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Thursday, December 7, 2 p.m.

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Friday, December 8, 11 a.m.

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Monday, December 18, 10:30 a.m.

You're never too young to get your start in the kitchen! Kids will learn how to make teddy bear toast for a healthy kids breakfast or a snack. Bring your little one to learn cooking skills such as kitchen safety, layering, measuring, smearing, tasting and presentation as you interact with a delicious recipe. This class is a "Mommy or Daddy and me" event. Space is limited. Registration required. Ages 3–5.

Origami Ornaments

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

Saturday, December 9, 12:30 p.m.

Learn the art of paper folding and create unique origami decorations! Ages 6–12.

Cuisine Corner Junior: Gingerbread Cookie Workshop

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

Saturday, December 9, 2:30 p.m.

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Monday, December 11, 3:15 p.m.

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Tuesday, December 12, 4 p.m.

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Saturday, December 16, 1 p.m.

Hiwassee Branch, 7391 W. Colonial Drive

Tuesday, December 19, 6 p.m.

South Trail Branch, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Wednesday, December 20, 4:30 p.m.

Washington Park Branch, 5151 Raleigh St., Suite A.

Wednesday, December 20, 4:30 p.m.

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Saturday, December 23, 11 a.m.

Run, run as fast as you can to catch the gingerbread man! Decorate a famous holiday treat in this month's Cuisine Corner Junior event. Registration required. Ages 8–18.

Maker Monday: Star Wars

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Monday, December 11, 4:30 p.m.

Maker spaces foster learning through hands-on tinkering and play. Discover the maker in you as we complete challenges, STEM projects and experiments in this special Star Wars themed program. Ages 8–15. Registration required.

Jedi Training Academy

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Tuesday, December 12, 4:30 p.m.

Is the Force strong with you? Find out at the Jedi Training Academy! We will work on proper training protocols, practice our Force skills and leave with a craft. Ages 6–12. Registration required.

Cuisine Corner Junior: Melted Snowman Bark

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Wednesday, December 13, 5:30 p.m.

Learn and create a winter-inspired treat to celebrate the season and enjoy a sweet dessert. Registration recommended. Ages 8–18.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens Movie

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Wednesday, December 15, 2–4:30 p.m.

Get ready for the new Star Wars movie by watching *The Force Awakens*. This movie is PG-13.

Star Wars Party!

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

Saturday, December 16, 2:30 p.m.

Attention Jedi Knights, Sith Lords and all other galactic beings! You are invited to a Star Wars party that will be cooler than Hoth and hotter than Tatooine. Wear your Star Wars costume and enjoy crafts, movies, snacks and more! Ages 6–12.

Star Wars Celebration

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Saturday, December 16, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Join us at the Alafaya Library for an all day Star Wars celebration! Visit Mos Eisley Cantina to watch Star Wars movies on the big screen and for a galactic storytime with the last Jedi herself. In between the entertainment, travel to the Niima Outpost for crafts and snacks throughout the day. These events are for all ages, so we hope to see both Padawans and full Jedi alike. May the Force be with you all.

Winter Break: Holiday DIY Crafts

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Monday, December 18, 10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Get crafty for the holidays! Drop in to celebrate the season with easy projects to gift or keep. Ages 9–18. Space is limited. Registration required.

Book Bingo

Winter Garden Branch, 805 E. Plant St., Winter Garden

Tuesday, December 19, 6 p.m.

Windermere Branch, 530 Main St., Windermere

Wednesday, December 20, 3:30 p.m.

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Saturday, December 23, 1 p.m.

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Wednesday, December 27, 2 p.m.

Washington Park Branch, 5151 Raleigh St., Suite A.

Wednesday, December 27, 4:30 p.m.

Bingo! Celebrate back-to-school by playing bingo. You could win a book to take home. Ages 6–12.

Cool to Do-Last Minute Gifts

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Wednesday, December 20, 4 p.m.

Looking for some last minute gift ideas or just love handmade gifts from the heart? Bring the kids to the Edgewater Branch to create some last minute gifts. Ages 6–12.

Noon Year's Celebration

Southwest Branch, 7255 Della Drive

Friday, December 29, 11:15 a.m.

Join us for our very own children's version of New Year's Eve. The fun will include making crafts, noise makers, yummy treats, New Year's Resolutions and counting down to NOON with a balloon drop finale!

