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### **Kick off the New Year with fun-filled library events at a branch near you**

The Orange County Library System welcomes the New Year with some fun-filled and educational events for kids of all ages. The Southwest Branch and the Alafaya Branch both host an eight-week series called K Ready! designed to prepare children for kindergarten through creative play and stimulating the imagination.

Various library branches host WhizKids: Typing Games, in which children play games that help increase their typing skills and hand positioning. The fun starts at the Orlando Public Library on January 4. See below for more times and locations.

The Winter Garden branch welcomes Sunshine State Young Readers Award winning author Kekla Magoon on January 31. Magoon will read and discuss her book, *Shadows of Sherwood* as part of the library's Sunshine State Author Series. She will also speak at the Zora Neale Hurston Festival on February 1.

If you have any questions about the events or information shared below, feel free to contact us as 407-835-7323. Check us out online at [www.ocls.info](http://www.ocls.info) for a complete listing of library events.

#### **K Ready!**

Southwest Branch, 7255 Della Drive

*Fridays, January 4–February 22, 10:30 a.m.*

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

*Tuesdays, January 8–February 26, 10:30 a.m.*

This eight-part series readies preschool children to excel in kindergarten through creative play, cooperative learning and activities that stimulate the imagination! This series introduces important concepts and skills that align with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds. In order to fully experience this series, register and attend all eight sessions. Call 407.835.7323 or visit [ocls.info/kready](http://ocls.info/kready) for more information. Recommended for preschoolers.

#### **Secret Mission: Code Name Library**

South Trail Branch, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

*Friday, January 4, 2 p.m.*

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

*Saturday, January 12, 2:30 p.m.*

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

*Saturday, January 12, 2:30 p.m.*

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

*Monday, January 14, 4 p.m.*

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

*Tuesday, January 15, 5 p.m.*

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

*Wednesday, January 23, 4:30 p.m.*

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

*Tuesday, January 29, 3:15 p.m.*

Your mission is to break into a rouge agent's top-secret lab and recover the plans before time runs out!

Recommended for lower and upper elementary.

### **WhizKids: Typing Games**

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

*Friday, January 4, 3 p.m.*

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

*Saturday, January 5, 10:30 a.m.*

Herndon Branch, 4324 E. Colonial Drive

*Saturday, January 12, 10:30 a.m.*

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

*Wednesday, January 23, 3 p.m.*

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

*Wednesday, January 23, 3:30 p.m.*

Have fun playing games that can help you speed up your typing skills and learn how to position your hands on the keyboard like a pro! Ages 9–12.

### **Cuisine Corner Junior: Snowman Dessert Dip**

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

*Saturday, January 5, 10:15 a.m.*

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

*Saturday, January 5, 2:30 p.m.*

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

*Monday, January 14, 3:15 p.m.*

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

*Thursday, January 24, 3:30 p.m.*

South Trail Branch, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

*Tuesday, January 29, 4:30 p.m.*

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

*Tuesday, January 29, 5 p.m.*

Hiawasse Branch, 7391 W. Colonial Drive

*Tuesday, January 29, 6:30 p.m.*

Do you want to build a snowman? Come pour, mix and taste a dip that will melt in your mouth this winter. Recommended for upper elementary, tween and teens.

### **Let's Dance Flamenco**

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

*Saturdays, January 5–19, 12 p.m.*

Join dance instructor Montse Romero to learn the art of Flamenco Dancing. Registration required.  
Recommended for lower and upper elementary.

### **I Have a Dream**

South Trail Branch, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

*Tuesday, January 8, 10:15 a.m.*

Hiawassee Branch, 7391 W. Colonial Drive

*Wednesday, January 9, 3 p.m.*

Hiawassee Branch, 7391 W. Colonial Drive

*Tuesday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.*

Herndon Branch, 4324 E. Colonial Drive

*Saturday, January 19, 2 p.m.*

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

*Friday, January 25, 3:30 p.m.*

Celebrate the life and dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. by making crafts inspired by your own dreams, the importance of peace and togetherness. Recommended for lower and upper elementary.

### **LEGO Block Party**

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

*Tuesdays, January 8 & 15, 6:30 p.m.*

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

*Saturday, January 19, 2:30 p.m.*

Is there anything you can't build with LEGO? Let's find out! Join us for lots of building fun. We provide the LEGOs, you provide the creativity. LEGO will be provided but cannot go home with you.

Recommended for lower and upper elementary.

### **Candy Sushi**

Southeast Branch, 5575 S. Semoran Blvd.

*Saturday, January 12, 2 p.m.*

Learn to make candy sushi rolls! At this program, we'll create Candy Sushi Rolls, write haikus and watch anime. Recommended for upper elementary, tweens and teens.

### **Orlando Public Library Pokémon League**

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

*Sunday, January 13, 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. For more information, visit [ocls.info/pokemon](http://ocls.info/pokemon).

### **Community Helper Storytime**

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

*Saturday, January 26, 10:30 a.m.*

Many people in our community work together to help keep it clean, beautiful and safe. Bring your family to storytime and meet local community helpers. Registration recommended.

### **Frozen Sing-A-Long**

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

*Saturday, January 26, 11:30 a.m.*

Warm up your voices and experience *Frozen*, the Sing-Along Edition, for the first time in forever!

Recommended for lower and upper elementary.

**Meet the Author: Kekla Magoon**

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

*Thursday, January 31, 6:30 p.m.*

Kekla Magoon will read from and discuss her book, *Shadows of Sherwood*, winner of the Sunshine State Young Readers Award for grades 6–8. *Shadows of Sherwood* tells the story of Robyn Loxley, a 12-year old who must learn to fend for herself when her parents disappear and her city is taken over by a harsh governor. Readers will be treated to feats of courage and daring deeds as Robyn and her band find their way in this cruel, new world. Kekla Magoon is the author of nine novels, including *The Rock and the River* and *How It Went Down*. She has received an NAACP Image Award, the John Steptoe New Talent Award and two Coretta Scott King Honors. She lives and writes in Vermont, where she also teaches writing. Registration recommended. Register at [ocls.info/sunshineseries](http://ocls.info/sunshineseries).

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