Matthew J. Kirby is the author of multiple middle grade novels, including Icefall, winner of the 2012 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery. Learn more at matthewjkirby.com.

WE HAVE LOTS OF ASPIRING WRITERS HERE AT THE LIBRARY. WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER ONE RULE FOR WRITING?

I’m going to cheat and give you two answers in one. Read and write a LOT. The best readers make the best writers, and I encourage anyone who wants to write to read widely and voraciously. Read attentively, paying attention to what the author is doing that works for you, and what doesn’t. Then take what you’ve learned from all that reading and apply it to your writing. Get in the habit of writing every day, even if it’s just a hundred words, because writing is a skill like any other. When kids are learning to play the piano, or basketball, we tell them to practice every day, right? Writing requires the same commitment of time and effort that we give to other activities.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WRITING?

I love the experience of wonder and discovery. It might be the discovery of something I didn’t know. It might be the discovery of something while writing that I didn’t expect or plan. It might be the wonder I feel at a new idea that flashes in my mind. I’ve experienced these things with every book I’ve written, and I thrive on it.

WHICH OF YOUR BOOKS WAS THE MOST FUN TO WRITE?

My Assassin’s Creed series, Last Descendants, has definitely been the most fun to work on. I had so much freedom to do whatever I wanted with the story, while at the same time I got to play around in an amazing universe, collaborating with the really smart and talented people at Ubisoft. These books brought together two of my favorite things—history and games.

IF YOU COULD TAKE A MONTH-LONG VACATION IN ANY BOOK, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE? WHY?

Harry Potter. I don’t even need to be a wizard. Just give me a month to hang out at Hogwarts with my muggle self. Rowling’s wizarding world fills me with wonder, and I want to bask in it. I also want to eat all the Hogwarts food.

IF YOU COULD BE A FAMOUS AUTHOR FOR ONE DAY, WHOM WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

I’m going to be really boring and predictable here and say Shakespeare. I’ve loved his plays since high school, and there continues to be a mystique around him and his work. I would very much like to observe his process to understand how he created his characters and their stories, and how he used language the way he did.

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the innovative research and exploration happening in our community. Join us February 12–March 1 for our 10th annual Research Revolution series, with lectures, forums, and exhibitions designed to inform us of current scientific discoveries and spark our interest in learning as much as we can about the world around us. For more information on each Research Revolution program, see the calendar inside the newsletter.

RESEARCH REVOLUTION SCHEDULE

7:00 PM | STORYTELLING WING
M, 2/12 STEM Like a Girl (6–8 PM)
T, 2/13 Should Utah Taxpayers Fund the Lake Powell Pipeline?
T, 2/15 Get a Headache? There’s an App for That!
T, 2/20 Earthquake Hazards Along the Wasatch Fault
T, 2/22 What’s Up with the Bloomin’ Lake?
T, 2/27 I Need an I.D., Please: Giving the Dead a Name and a Face
Th, 3/1 Makerspace Grand Opening (in the Makerspace)
Th, 3/8 The Lake Powell Pipeline: 4 PM in the Storytelling Wing. Bring your own computer or borrow one of our Surface Pro tablets.

LEGO LAB
Playing with Legos not only is fun, but encourages spatial development, attention to detail, and creative approaches to math/engineering problems. LEGO Lab meets each Thursday in the Children’s Mezzanine at 4:30 PM. Caregivers must accompany kids 7 & under. DUPLO kits are available for toddlers.

Libraries have always been a haven for lovers of the arts, but what about the sciences? As STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) skills become more vital to obtaining professions and interacting with our tech-saturated society, more libraries are working to foster curiosity and creativity in these fields by providing learning opportunities and hands-on experiences with STEM from an early age. Here are some ways to encourage interest and participation in STEM at the Orem Library:

CODERDOJO
CoderDojo is a weekly coding/gaming club where kids 8 and up can work on coding projects, play educational games, and learn cooperation and collaboration through interaction with mentors, fellow coders, and new forms of technology. CoderDojo meets each Wednesday at 4 PM in the Storytelling Wing. Bring your own computer or borrow one of our Surface Pro tablets.

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for free! Whether you’re interested in unlocking the secrets of physics and astronomy, getting started with computer programming or robotics, or learning hands-on skills from woodworking to auto-mechanics, you’ll find thousands of resources from training manuals and do-it-yourself guides to online databases and documentaries.

RESEARCH REVOLUTION
Each spring the Orem Library brings some of Utah’s finest scientists to share
2017 was a great year for books, music, and movies! Here are the Orem Public Library staff’s favorite releases from 2017 that are now a part of our collection. To see our top 5 picks in each category, visit the library blog, justbrowsingopl.wordpress.com.

PICTURE BOOK
A Perfect Day
by Lane Smith
A perfect day means different things to different animals in Bert’s backyard—cat, dog, chickadee, squirrel—and even bear.

JUNIOR FICTION
Beyond the Bright Sea
by Lauren Wolk
Twelve-year-old Crow embarks on a journey to discover who her parents were and why she was abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old.

JUNIOR FICTION
Grand Canyon
by Jason Chin
Home to an astonishing variety of plants and animals, the Grand Canyon is much more than just a hole in the ground. Follow a father and daughter as they make their way through the cavernous wonder, discovering life both ancient and bizarre.

GENERAL FICTION
Walking Gods
by Sylvain Neuvel (SF Neuvel)
In the gripping sequel to Sleeping Giants, humankind faces a nightmare invasion scenario as a second robot, more massive than the first, suddenly appears and lashes out with deadly force.

GENERAL NONFICTION
You Don’t Have to Say You Love Me: A Memoir
by Sherman Alexie (921 Alexie)
A stunning literary memoir filled with stories that reflect on the author’s complicated relationship with his mother and his disadvantaged childhood on a Native American reservation.

TOP TEN NEW YEAR’S READING RESOLUTIONS
• Visit the library more often.
• Join—or start—a book club: The Library has book group kits that check out for six weeks, including great teen reads like The Book Thief, The Goose Girl, We Were Liars, and Where’d You Go, Bernadette.
• Pick an author you like and read all the books written by that author.
• Read a book that’s being adapted into a movie in 2018, such as The Maze Runners: The Death Cure; Ready Player One; A Wrinkle in Time; Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda; All the Bright Places; or Where’d You Go, Bernadette.
• Read a book that’s being turned into a graphic novel like Smile by Raina Telgemeier.
• Read something new: Some of our favorite teen books from 2017 were Hunted by Meagan Spoon, Caraval by Stephanie Garber, and Speak Easy, Stand Easy by McKelle George.
• Read something old: Fun fact—the first book in the Harry Potter series came out over 20 years ago! For other series or novels, try The Princess Bride, Uglies, or The Knife of Never Letting Go.
• Read something short: Try a graphic novel like Nimbous by Noelle Stevenson or Smile by Raina Telgemeier.
• Read something long: You won’t be able to put them down.
• Read something old: Fun fact—the first book in the Harry Potter series came out over 20 years ago! For other older books that are great fun, try The Goose You Own Adventure series or The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien.
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FEBRUARY 20, TUESDAY
7:00 PM  Storytelling Wing

**Research Revolution: Earthquake Hazards Along the Wasatch Fault**

Are you ready for the big one? While you’re battening down the hatches, be sure to look up and say cheese! Dr. Michael Bunds, Dr. Daniel Hornes, and Dr. Nathan Toké, professors of earth sciences at UVU, have pioneered methods of using aerial drones to take photographs and using those images to create 3-D models of the surface of the earth, which help us identify traces of earthquake faults and assess earthquake hazards.

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**March 1 | 7PM | Makerspace GRAND OPENING**

Here are a few things you’ll find:
- 3D printers
- Photography and sound equipment
- Creative software
- Powerful computers
- Arts and crafts supplies

**Research Revolution: Giving the Dead a Name and a Face**

Skeletons all look pretty much the same, right? Not to forensic anthropologists, who can tell age, gender, race, diet, and physical health just by looking at the bones. Join Dr. Daniel Fairbanks, professor of biology and dean of the College of Science at UVU, as he discusses the answers to these questions and the surprising solution.

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**February 22, Thursday**
7:00 PM  Storytelling Wing

**Research Revolution: What’s Up with the Bloomin’ Lake?**

Algae blooms may not sound dangerous, but when algae dies off and decomposes, the results can be fatal for all kinds of marine life. Just how dangerous are they to humans and what can we do? Join Dr. Kevin Shurtliff, professor of chemistry at UVU, as he discusses the answers to these questions and the surprising solution.

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**February 27, Tuesday**
7:00 PM  Storytelling Wing

**Research Revolution: I Need an I.D., Please:**

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**January 1, Thursday**
7:00 PM  Storytelling Wing

**Research Revolution Finale: Makerspace Grand Opening**

The OPL Makerspace is up and running! Visit this exciting space and routines that make upkeep easy.

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**January 8, Monday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: Swing Time** (Not Rated, 1936)

Join us for a special screening of Swing Time, one of the all-time classics starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

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**January 20, Tuesday**
7:00 PM  Storytelling Wing

**Research Revolution: Earthquake Hazards Along the Wasatch Fault**

Are you ready for the big one? While you’re battening down the hatches, be sure to look up and say cheese! Dr. Michael Bunds, Dr. Daniel Hornes, and Dr. Nathan Toké, professors of earth sciences at UVU, have pioneered methods of using aerial drones to take photographs and using those images to create 3-D models of the surface of the earth, which help us identify traces of earthquake faults and assess earthquake hazards.

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**January 20, Tuesday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: The Dark Knight** (PG-13, 2008)

Here are a few things you’ll find:

**January 21, Wednesday**
7:00 PM  Storytelling Wing

**Research Revolution: What’s Up with the Bloomin’ Lake?**

Algae blooms may not sound dangerous, but when algae dies off and decomposes, the results can be fatal for all kinds of marine life. Just how dangerous are they to humans and what can we do? Join Dr. Kevin Shurtliff, professor of chemistry at UVU, as he discusses the answers to these questions and the surprising solution.

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**January 22, Thursday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: Night Train to Munich** (Not Rated, 1940)

Join us for a special screening of Night Train to Munich, a classic film directed by Billy Wilder.

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**January 23, Friday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: The Dark Knight** (PG-13, 2008)

Here are a few things you’ll find:

**January 24, Saturday**
7:00 PM  Storytelling Wing

**Research Revolution: I Need an I.D., Please:**

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**January 25, Sunday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: The Dark Knight** (PG-13, 2008)

Here are a few things you’ll find:

**January 26, Monday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: The Dark Knight** (PG-13, 2008)

Here are a few things you’ll find:

**January 27, Tuesday**
7:00 PM  Storytelling Wing

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**January 28, Wednesday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: The Dark Knight** (PG-13, 2008)

Here are a few things you’ll find:

**January 29, Thursday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: The Dark Knight** (PG-13, 2008)

Here are a few things you’ll find:

**January 30, Friday**
6:30 PM  Media Auditorium

**Film Screening: The Dark Knight** (PG-13, 2008)

Here are a few things you’ll find:
Join the Orem Arts Council for an art show opening celebration. 

**Orem Stories**
7:00 PM Fireplace
Film Screening: *Funny Face*  
(Not Rated, 1957)  
Doors open at 6:30 pm and the program goes from 7 to 9 pm. The library will be closed during the program and teens are expected to remain and the program goes from 7 to 9 pm. The library will be closed during the program and teens are expected to remain until the program is finished. For ages 12–18 only.

**Orem Library Book Club:**  
Etta and Otto and Russell and James by Emma Hooper  
Join the Orem Library Book Club as they read and discuss *Etta and Otto and Russell and James* by Emma Hooper. Books are available at the main floor general reference desk.

**Orem Stories**
7:00 PM Media Auditorium  
Film Screening: *Spider-Man: Homecoming*  
(PG-13, 2017)

**Teen After Hours:**  
**Movie Night:** *Spider-Man: Homecoming* (PG-13, 2017)  
Join us for treats and a special after hours screening of *Spider-Man: Homecoming* at the library. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the program goes from 7 to 9 pm.

**JANUARY 17, WEDNESDAY**
7:00 PM Media Auditorium  
*Great Scott Magic*  
Scott Chamberlain has been performing magic professionally since 2014. His routine and inspiration come mainly from his grandfather, Ralph Adams, the first magician with his name in lights in Vegas. Come enjoy a funny, surprising, and wonderfully entertaining show for all ages.

**JANUARY 19, FRIDAY**
6:30 PM Media Auditorium  
Film Screening: *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*  
(PG, 1985)

**JANUARY 20, SATURDAY**
7:00 PM Media Auditorium  
*Food Sense*  
Add a delicious, healthy approach to your New Year’s resolutions! Join certified nutrition educator Christie Jensen as she discusses the development of a new app by a team of BYU faculty to make a nationally recognized concussion diagnostic tool more available.

**JANUARY 21, SUNDAY**
7:00 PM Storytelling Wing  
**Utah Valley Earth Forum: Bears Ears, Escalante, and How to Use Public Lands in Utah**  
This forum will discuss both sides on the key issue of where and how to set aside and preserve public lands while allowing mineral extraction, 4-wheeling, hunting, etc., on other public lands.

**JANUARY 22, MONDAY**
6:30 PM Media Auditorium  
Film Screening: *Funny Face*  
(Not Rated, 1957)  
Doors open at 6:30 pm

**JANUARY 23, TUESDAY**
7:00 PM Storytelling Wing  
**Utah Valley Earth Forum: Bears Ears, Escalante, and How to Use Public Lands in Utah**  
This forum will discuss both sides on the key issue of where and how to set aside and preserve public lands while allowing mineral extraction, 4-wheeling, hunting, etc., on other public lands.

**JANUARY 25, THURSDAY**
7:00 PM Media Auditorium  
Film Screening: *The Producers*  
(PG, 1951)  
Doors open at 6:30 pm

**JANUARY 26, FRIDAY**
6:30 PM Media Auditorium  
Film Screening: *The Producers*  
(PG-13, 2005)

**JANUARY 29, MONDAY**
6:30 PM Media Auditorium  
Film Screening: *The Court Jester*  
(Not Rated, 1955)  
Doors open at 6:30 pm

**JANUARY 30, TUESDAY**
7:00 PM Storytelling Wing  
**Utah Valley Earth Forum: Bears Ears, Escalante, and How to Use Public Lands in Utah**  
This forum will discuss both sides on the key issue of where and how to set aside and preserve public lands while allowing mineral extraction, 4-wheeling, hunting, etc., on other public lands.

**FEBRUARY 1, THURSDAY**
7:00 PM Storytelling Wing  
**Utah Valley Earth Forum: Bears Ears, Escalante, and How to Use Public Lands in Utah**  
This forum will discuss both sides on the key issue of where and how to set aside and preserve public lands while allowing mineral extraction, 4-wheeling, hunting, etc., on other public lands.

**FEBRUARY 2, FRIDAY**
6:30 PM Media Auditorium  
Film Screening: *Groundhog Day*  
(PG, 1993)

**FEBRUARY 5, MONDAY**
6:30 PM Media Auditorium  
Film Screening: *Singin’ In The Rain*  
(1952)