

Happy New Year from the Library!

The bustle of the holidays is behind us; I hope you had an opportunity to share time with those closest to you. While there are still wintry days ahead of us, there is much to be excited about here at WCDPL as 2017 starts. In fact, I'm excited by a number of new things coming our way. Here are just a few that I'm especially looking forward to:

First, new books! And new, in this case, is relative. Even if the book was published hundreds of years ago, if it's new to you that counts. Why not take a look at your TBR (To-Be-Read) list and select that book you've been meaning to read for some time now? Or join me in browsing through the new fiction and nonfiction books in the library Atrium and challenging yourself "to boldly read what you've never read before" by choosing to read a book out of your reading comfort zone. What better way to start the New Year than by discovering new worlds—real *and* imaginary—through a new-to-you-book!

I'm also excited by the Walbridge Library building expansion project and the knowledge that the "new" library is slated open around mid-February. The new building's design will reflect and honor the community of Walbridge and its history, offer new technology, provide a new meeting space for programs and classes, and include plenty of cozy spots for reading. Keep an eye on the construction camera on wcdpl.org for an up to the minute view of project's progress.

Community Reads—now in its 14th year!—and its ambitious plans for 2017 to celebrate of the work of internationally-known and best-selling author, poet, screenwriter and filmmaker, and performer Sherman Alexie. From his delightful new picture book, *Thunder Boy Jr* illustrated by Yuyi Morales, to his National Book Award-winning and much beloved YA novel *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, to his collections of short fiction and poetry for adults such as *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven* and *War Dances*, the work of Sherman Alexie provides humorous, provocative, and thoughtful reading for readers of every age. Alexie was named one of Granta's Best Young American Novelists and has been lauded by The Boston *Globe* as "an important voice in American literature." His works have received numerous awards, including the PEN/Malamud Award for Fiction and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award, and have been translated into eleven languages.

Community Reads kicks off on April 6 with a visit to Bowling Green by Mr. Alexie. To best accommodate the anticipated audience, Mr. Alexie's talk and book signing will be held in the Bowling Green High School Performing Arts Center (530 West Poe Road, BG). The event, which will start at 7 pm, will be free but ticketed. You'll find more information about Sherman Alexie, his visit to BG, and Community Reads at wcdpl.org/CommunityReads.

2017 promises to be a great year for WCDPL and readers! I'm looking forward to sharing it with you. See you at the library!

Michael Penrod.