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# **Touch and Listen**

***The Newsletter of the Florida Braille and Talking Book Library***

***Summer 2020***

## **NLS News You Can Use**

### **BARD Website Upgrade**

### The BARD website was upgraded on Friday, June 5. Some of the changes include:

### • Patrons can now subscribe to their favorite book series. When a book in a series becomes available on BARD, the book will be added automatically to the Wish List. If patrons have notifications turned on, BARD will send an email letting them know that the book is now ready to be downloaded from the Wish List.

### • A new tool is available from the BARD main page to manage subscriptions.

### • Patrons can now change the BARD interface to display text in Spanish.

A reminder: If locked out of your account, call us at 1-800-226-6075 or email us at **OPAC\_librarian@dbs.fldoe.org**, and staff will reactivate it. A temporary password will be sent to the email address on file for the account. The password must be updated within 24 hours by logging into BARD from a web browser on your computer or the web browser on your device, such as Google or Bing. Remember to log into your BARD account or open the BARD mobile app at least once every six months to keep the account active. Better yet, just keep using your BARD to keep up with the latest and greatest that BARD has to offer!

## **News from the Florida Librarian**

### **Covid-19**

We would like to thank all of you for your continued patience as we navigate the changes required to keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are isolating all incoming books and players for a week before being handled by staff. This additional step combined with other unforeseen events may delay the turnaround time for you to receive new books. Please know we are doing our best to make sure services continue as expected.

We recognize the hard work of the entire Florida Braille and Talking Book Library staff during these challenging times. They have all stepped up to deal with the consistent uncertainty and navigate through an ever-changing timeline. We have found creative solutions to meet patron needs when working remotely from another location. Our circulation staff has learned on the fly how to manage extraordinary mail volume. We are also grateful for the help we have received from the subregional offices who have opened their collections and helped fill the requests.

Thank you to all for your support!

**Four Tips For Helping Your Visually Impaired Children With Their Homework During The Coming School Year** (from an article courtesy of Outlook Nebraska)

The 2020-2021 school year is upon us. In these uncertain times, sighted and non sighted parents of blind and visually impaired children are looking for ways to assist their children if they are required to be homeschooled due to COVID-19. The following four tips will help you advocate on your child’s behalf when you meet with teachers and school officials.

If your child uses braille textbooks, ask teachers for print copies of the books. This will allow you to refer to the material if your child needs assistance. If braille materials aren’t available through your child’s school, ask teachers or school administrators to provide textbooks and other materials in electronic formats, which can be used with assistive technology.

Ask your child’s teacher to provide class notes in accessible formats for home use. If notes are not provided in an accessible format, or volunteers are unavailable to take notes for your child, ask for a copy of the teacher’s notes, so you can check them against your child’s notes for accuracy. If PowerPoint presentations are used in class, ask your child’s teacher to provide the text within the presentation in an alternate format.

If your child is required to complete written assignments, ask teachers for permission to type the assignments using a word processor with assistive technology. The assignment can be printed and turned in to the teacher or submitted by email. If assignments are required to be handwritten, ask your child to read what he or she has written in braille and copy the work as he or she reads it, instead of correcting the work for him or her.

Scheduling intermittent breaks during study periods for your partially sighted child will prevent visual fatigue. These breaks can also prevent fatigue during the completion of longer projects, such as research papers and book reports.

Arming yourself with tools and resources will help ensure your child succeeds during remote learning.

### **Mobile Health News: CVS Pharmacy App Introduces Feature For People With Visual Impairments**

To enroll in the free program, people can either call into the pharmacy or go into the store for assistance. The development of Spoken Rx was assisted by the American Council of the Blind, which helped CVS test the technology. “Spoken Rx is a positive step that offers same-day, access for prescriptions filled in CVS stores, allowing for a greater level of privacy, safety, and independence for blind and visually impaired customers of all ages,” said Kim Charlson, the immediate past president of the American Council of the Blind, in a statement. “We’re pleased about this addition to the existing braille, audio, and large print accessible prescription label offerings provided by CVS Caremark and CVS.COM.”

## **On the Library Bookshelf**

### **Fresh From the Recording Studio: New Books**

### The following books can easily be found in BARD and are available for immediate download. Call your reader advisor to find out how to get your account started and be able to get books on all of your devices!

***A First Book of the Sea* by Nicola Davies DBC17112**. A poetic introduction to beachside scenes and underwater inhabitants. Subjects include maritime legends, modern dangers, and unattainable wonders. For grades K-3. Narrator: David Hostetler. Reading time 35 min.

***Survival Tails: The Titanic* by Katrina Charman DBC17103.** (Book 1 in the Survival Tails series). A stowaway dog and the captain's cat forge an unlikely friendship as they race to protect three kittens, help their humans, and survive the sinking of the Titanic. Narrator: Terry Fiset. Reading time 4 hrs. 45 min.

***Sled Dog School* by Terry Lynn Johnson DBC12759.** Eleven-year old Matt was raised by two human parents alongside their pack of sled dogs. When Matt needs to get resourceful in school, he realizes his unique upbringing can help him level up. Narrator: Kathleen Ragan. Reading time 4 hrs. 20 min.

***Superstar* by Mandy Davis DBC17102.** Lester is out of his element in his new school. He’s always been home-schooled and his autism-spectrum challenges make the transition that much more difficult. As he learns to navigate his new environment, he finds friends and talents he never expected. Narrator: Dave Archard. Reading time 6 hrs. 40 min.

***Ethan Marcus Stands Up* by Michele Weber Hurwitz DBC12799.** In this story told from multiple viewpoints, well-behaved Ethan Marcus turns punishment into protest when he, his sister, and their close friends enter their Jr. High's invention competition inventing a device to help students tired of sitting all day. Award winner. For grades 5-8. Narrator: Patrick Forestell. Reading time 5 hrs. 20 min.

The Bureau of Braille and Talking Books Library Services is part of the

**Division of Blind Services, Florida Department of Education.**

Visit our websites at www.dbs.fldoe.org or www.fldoe.org

**Contact us at 1-800-226-6075 or via email at OPAC\_librarian@dbs.fldoe.org**

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