



President's Message - Reading is Gourdgeous

Our library is concluding its summer reading programs soon and that has caused me to wonder what next summer's theme will be. This year we used the state theme and focused on bugs. I am wondering whether or not we could win approval as a statewide theme for 2009: **READING IS GOURDGEOUS: HAVE A GOURD TIME AT YOUR LIBRARY!**

So....consider this a brainstorming session and feel free to contribute your ideas. We might together craft an idea that would be a win-win: libraries would have an enjoyable topic and gourders would have an opportunity to share their passion and their wares.

My mind is picturing field trips and student tours of gourd patches and farms. I am seeing gourd crafts that are economical, educational, and entertaining (those three E's are tough to beat). I am hearing gourd stories and pumpkin books for children AND adult readers: Calabash Cat and His Amazing Journey, Broken Gourds, Chumpkin, The Gourdmother, Gourdfellas, Follow the Drinking Gourd, Little Green Pumpkins, My Great-Grandmother's Gourd and many more.

I am seeing children learning to clean gourds (with appropriate warning to wear old clothes and shoes). I am feeling the sculptures that children create from gourds and then enter in their county fairs. I am watching children observing the growth of gourd plants and become our future Indiana Gourd Society members. We planted two gourd seedlings this year and hope to watch gourds bloom and grow. Given the year, however, our little plants are off to a slow start. My mind sees Plein Aire painting sessions in front of the gourd patch and students sketching a gourd still life. I can see a parade through the local restaurant with all students playing gourd guiros. I am hearing a Native American talk about the use of gourd rattles. I am watching gourd dolls emerge from paint and scraps of fabric. I see embellishments being used in novel ways and IGS speakers sharing ideas in mini-presentations for a variety of age groups. It is easy to picture a challenge competition in which children receive 100 gourd seeds and have one hour to create something with the seeds. Prizes are for the most useful, most unusual, most attractive, etc.

Until the leaks are identified and all spaces sealed, there are a few damaged ceiling tiles after a building project. We removed our damaged tiles and I applied Kilz, then had the youth paint them, and we mounted them into the young adult room ceiling. They are interspersed with undamaged white tiles. Thus we avoided buying cases of new tiles and enjoyed a creative project at the same time. One boy was so taken by the idea that he painted three. Everyone knows which one is mine—it is the only one with a gourd vine, gourd, and the caption "Reading Is Gourdgeous!"

I did not realize how my house was identified until we recently were trying to tell someone which house in the cul de sac was mine. A library staffer said, "Hers is the

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State Fair Theme Comin; Back Around

Comn' Back Around
With IGS Gourds - 2008

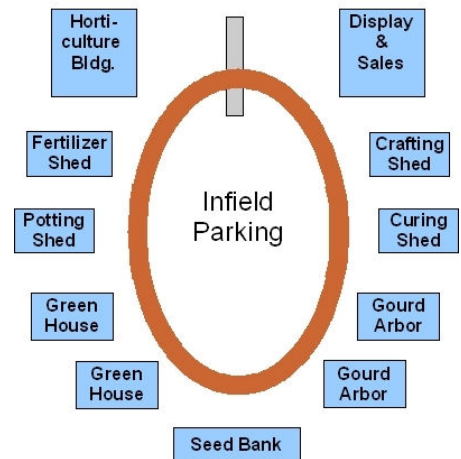


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