



In the last four years, spring has become my favorite season. Why? Because I have the pleasure of spending a week with some of the most amazing children, parents/guardians, and staff in Jackson at our camp, the Literacy Achievement Bonanza (LAB). The LAB is a place of lively learning, magical moments, and nourishing narratives. I hope that I will have the pleasure of seeing you and your family this year!

*Dave Miller*  
Director of Community Engagement



## Winter Word Play

**Why couldn't the kid visit the library?**

*Answer: It was overbooked!*

## Spotlight on Registration for the Literacy Achievement Bonanza 2020!



Join us at Jackson State University from March 9-13, 2020 for a week of fun-filled standard-aligned literacy activities with snacks, a meal, and a book provided each day for **180 students in first through sixth grade.**

Open enrollment ends February 21, 2020. Once you receive a Letter of Acceptance, you will be required to submit a non-refundable \$25 registration fee.

We are also excited to be able to offer After-Care this year for up to 50 participants. More information is included in the acceptance letter after you have registered your participant.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**



a spring break literacy day camp

MARCH 9-13, 2020  
8 AM - 2 PM  
JSU EDUCATION BUILDING

Priority Registration deadline: **Friday, February 7**

Open Registration deadline: **Friday, February 21**

To apply, visit [www.isjl.org/LAB-2020-registration](http://www.isjl.org/LAB-2020-registration)



Liability Waiver and non-refundable  
\$25 registration fee required



[Staff and volunteers can also sign up here!](#)

## LAB Fundraiser this Saturday, February 8

a spring break literacy day camp

# ZUMBATHON

SATURDAY FEB. 8 | 1-4 PM  
FONDREN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
\$12 IN ADVANCE | \$15 AT THE DOOR

Join us for an energetic Zumbathon event to raise money for the LAB!

- Win door prizes every hour!
- Dance with Certified Zumba® Instructor Rachel Glazer!
  - Come ready to sweat!
  - Stay for a song or the whole event!
  - All ages and skill levels are welcome!
- Tickets are \$12 in advance using [this form](#) or \$15 at the door.
  - All proceeds go to the LAB

## Read about the man who created Black History Month

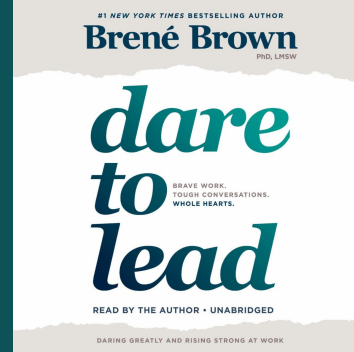
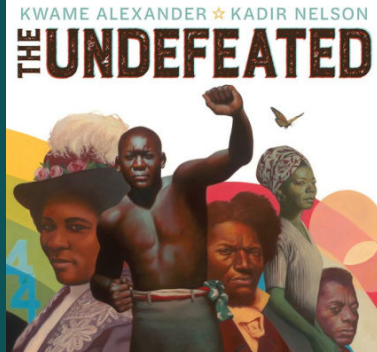


February marks Black History Month, a federally recognized, nationwide celebration that calls on all Americans to reflect on the significant roles that African-Americans have played in shaping US history. But how did this celebration come to be -- and why does it happen in February?

[Click here to read more.](#)

## Staff Picks

Each quarter, our staff members highlight their favorite reads and listens. Literacy doesn't just happen in the words on a page: it can be auditory, visual, and interactive, too. Many of these picks are great for students and family members to enjoy together!



**Book Club for Kids** is a free podcast in which young readers meet to talk about books. The show includes a celebrity reader and an interview with the author. The host is award winning public radio journalist Kitty Felde. Book Club for Kids won the Literacy in Media Award.

*Rachel says: Discussing literature shouldn't be restricted to a Language Arts classroom! In this podcast, middle school students talk about the big questions that arise when you feed curious minds book goods! I also love hearing the celebrity readers and interviews with the authors.*

**The Undefeated**, quoted as being "a love letter to black life in the United States," is a book that honors the story of African American heroes throughout the ages. The plight of African Americans is acknowledged, while offering historical context through [lyrical poetry and beautiful illustrations](#).

*Rianna says: This is a book that highlights the importance of historical context in a way that is engaging for all ages. The poetry and illustrations highlight African American heroes, while shedding light on the difficult path they had to take.*

**Dare to Lead** is a free program to help create classrooms where students can "breathe, be curious, and [to] explore the world and be who they are without suffocation." Brené Brown's Dare to Lead curriculum provides posters, articles, and videos to help create safe spaces at schools.

*Ava says: I am a huge fan of Brené Brown and think that vulnerability and empathy are important traits to learn at a young age and where better to practice and learn them than in the classroom.*

Stay in the loop via the ISJL Literacy Community Facebook group!

For more information contact us at 601.362.6357 or [engagement@isjl.org](mailto:engagement@isjl.org).  
LAB and Our Reading Family are programs of the ISJL.  
**THIS IS ISJL:** [www.isjl.org](http://www.isjl.org)  
**Call Us:** 601-362-6357  
**We're social!** [Like us](#), [follow us](#), and [read our blog!](#)

