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News You Can Use



Drop Everything and Read Day and Beverly Cleary's Birthday - April 12

You might already know the D.E.A.R. means Drop Everything and Read. But did you know that Beverly Cleary's birthday is April 12 and a great way to celebrate her birthday is to D.E.A.R. on this day? Families are encouraged to spend 30 minutes reading on her birthday.

[Read More](#)

Did You Know?



Microsoft Word is testing a new Read Aloud

Microsoft has added a new Read Aloud feature to Word. This text-to-speech option will include text highlights, voice and speed modifications, and edits in real-time. This new Read Aloud is currently being tested and will be available to all later in the year.

[Read Tom Warren's Article](#)

Knowledge at Noon



A Student/Teacher Webinar Series: *AIM for College*

This webinar series is designed for you and your high school students as they consider and plan for transitioning to college. Existing students at George Mason University (GMU) will talk about how they use accessible instructional materials (AIM) to support their college work and how they prepared and wish they would have prepared for the experiences they now have. Each of the 6 webinars will highlight students who have disability areas that would qualify as AIM-VA eligible if they were currently in a Virginia high school. Select the students you feel might benefit; the two April webinars are below.

April 4 AIM for College: Dyslexia

April 16 AIM for College: Learning Disability

[Sign Up for Webinars Here](#)

[Access Archived Webinars Here](#)

Additional Webinar Series



AIM-VA' Google Chrome Webinar Series

Students require educational materials in a format that works best to meet individual learner needs.



This webinar series will help educators learn how to navigate avenues for acquiring accessible instructional materials on desktop and laptop computers using the Google Chrome browser and on Chromebooks. This month's webinars will be posted on the AIM-VA Website on the following dates:

- April 11** How to Search for, Download, Share, and Delete a File with a Student from AIM-VA on a Chromebook
- April 24** AIM-VA File Formats to Use with a Chromebook and Tools to Access Them

In the News



Using Text to Speech Technology To Assist Dyslexic Students

Interesting mainstream article by Jabez LeBret, Education Contributor at Forbes magazine. Looks like the word is getting out!

[Forbes Article](#)

External Resources



That All May Read

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is a program offered at The Library of Congress. It is a free talking book and braille service for "people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page." Learn more about the service and its eligibility criteria at:

[NLS](#)



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