

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

On Your Mark, Get Set, READ @ the Columbus Public Library!

Though tomorrow is just the first day of May, the month will be gone in a flash and summer fun will be upon us before we know it. The Columbus Public Library (CPL) has been gearing up for these sizzling festivities for a while now and is ready for this year's annual children's summer reading program entitled "On Your Mark, Get Set, READ"! Every week, beginning June 6 until July 29, CPL will be offering a wide range of fun activities.

On Mondays from 10:30 a.m.-noon, full-length, family-friendly films will be shown in the library's auditorium. Children of all ages are encouraged to come with pillows and blankets in tow and enjoy entertaining, animated flicks.

On Tuesdays, activities and presentations are scheduled from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at various locations around Columbus. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in two days of dynamic sports clinics coordinated by the Columbus Family YMCA; learn proper stretching techniques from Columbus Community Hospital Physical Therapist, Dr. Doug Peters; enjoy a fascinating physics presentation lead by the Omaha Children's Museum; make creative sports-themed art with the talented folks at the Columbus Arts Council; get an up-close look at furry and feathered animal athletes brought in by Wildlife Encounters; and learn about the intriguing science of sports with the Edgerton Explorit Center.

For those students who will have just completed the fourth and fifth grades, Wednesdays are reserved especially for them. CPL, in cooperation with the Nebraska Extension Office—Platte County, will be offering a program entitled "CPL Pit Crew". This hands-on, science-themed program, which will take place from 10:30-11:30 a.m., will provide students with an understanding of how certain elements of science work.

CPL will also be offering its regular story times on Thursdays from 10:30-noon and 1:30-3 p.m. Children will have the privilege of listening to books read by talented local guest readers. Families will also have an opportunity on Friday, July 8, to attend a special story time at the Platte County Fair.

To conclude this year's festivities, participants will be invited to race down the water slides, splash around in the pool, and enjoy the Lazy River at Columbus' own Pawnee Plunge for free the morning of Friday, July 29. After splashing around, hungry swimmers will feast on hotdogs and potato chips at a luncheon served up by members of the Friends of the Columbus Public Library and dedicated library staff.

So if you are looking for summer activities for the children in your life, stop by the Columbus Public Library beginning May 31<sup>st</sup> and register them for the 2016 summer reading program, "On Your Mark, Get Set, READ." And be sure not to miss this summer's kick off event, featuring the talented magician, Jeff Quinn, on Friday, June 3, at 2 p.m. Quinn is a gifted magician and hypnotist who can entertain an entire crowd of both adults and little ones. If you have any questions regarding CPL's summer agenda, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.