

Librarian's Shelf by Kelli Keyes

### Holiday Programming

Hearing the words "holiday" makes me want to go to the library, find a good book, and cozy up to my wood burning stove in my old farm house. I'll do that when I can, but in the meantime my kids want to go do things and have some fun! Well, thankfully, the Columbus Library has a lot going on in November and December and these are activities my family would enjoy as well. Not only do we offer fun family events, we have books, movies, and so many other things you can check out while you're here.

Let me tell you about the Annual Author Fair that is happening today at 2 PM. We have 16 local authors bringing their books for sale. You have a chance to visit with each of them and to have them sign the books you buy from them. My children would be interested in the children's authors that will be there. This would be a good opportunity to find some Christmas gifts for their cousins and friends. And, of course, they will love the treat table! We will be offering homemade candies and cookies.

The next week, November 17 starting at 5 PM is the Downtown Christmas Stroll. It's always so fun to see the downtown decorated in all its holiday splendor. Many of the downtown establishments are offering treats and specials of some kind. The library is having a story walk inside the building this year. This would be a wonderful night to come in out of the cold and experience a Christmas story walk with your family. We have a beautiful story written by Laura Ingalls Wilder and illustrated by Renee Graef to show what a pioneer Christmas was like for Laura and her sisters in the middle of the snowy Midwest. You will receive a map at the door to show you which areas of the library to go to so you can read the pages of the picture book, "Christmas in the Big Woods". At each station there will be treats or prizes.

The Art Gallery, in the library basement, is having the Festival of Trees the same day, Thursday, November 17, starting at noon and closing at 8. They will also be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoon. Please call the library for more information on the hours. Tickets bought ahead of time are \$5 or you can purchase them at the door for \$6. Tickets can be purchased at Art Editions, Tooley Drug, or the Columbus Art Gallery. Kids five and under are free. With the purchase of a ticket not only do you get to see the beautifully decorated Christmas trees, but you also receive cookies and a drink.

If you need to, now is the time to take advantage of our annual Food for Fines during the first week of December. December 1 – 8 you can bring in three cans of food (or more) to erase the late fees on your account. You can bring back those late books and DVD's and erase your late fees with 3 cans of food per account. All cans will be taken to the Platte County food pantry.

After Thanksgiving, when we are all stuffed like the turkey dinners we ate, the library is sponsoring a cooking class on cinnamon rolls, Saturday, December 10 at 2 PM. Jackie will be back to show us how to make cinnamon rolls that will have your family rushing home for the holidays!

For those tired moms that need a peaceful break, come to our Coloring/Puzzle club December 7 starting at 7 PM and going through 9 PM. Remember to pick up a book for those moments when you can put your feet up by the fireplace. Have yourself a wonderful holiday season!