

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Never Too Late for Fun @ the Columbus Public Library!

The Columbus Public Library's "Build a Better World" summer reading program began just this last week, so families still have time to register and get in on the fun!

Every Monday from 10:30 a.m.-noon, an animated flick will be shown in the library's auditorium and tasty treats will be provided. Children are encouraged to bring pillows, blankets, and a favorite stuffed buddy to the showings.

On Tuesdays, activities are scheduled from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at various locations around Columbus. Area youth will have the opportunity to engage in events conducted by the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, the Columbus Police and Fire Departments, the Edgerton Explorit Center, and Wildlife Encounters.

Those students who just completed the third through fifth grades are invited to attend the library's "CPL Imagination Builders" program, which typically takes place every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. This hands-on program is made possible through a partnership with the fantastic Platte County 4-H staff!

The Columbus Public Library (CPL) will also be offering its regular story times on Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m. Children will have the privilege of listening to books read by talented guest readers.

Though the 2017 summer reading program is in full swing, CPL is still looking for responsible teen volunteers. These individuals will be assisting with various tasks around the library while also registering new participants and handing out prizes to young readers. If you know someone who would be interested in volunteering at the library, please encourage them to see me. I'll get them signed up to work whatever shifts will work best for their schedules. Teens can apply the hours spent volunteering at the library towards required service hours for school, church, and other youth programs.

The Columbus Public Library is committed to providing a safe environment for our patrons. In order to help staff better meet this goal, CPL has in place a policy regarding children (10 years of age and under). The library's "Unattended Child Policy" requires that children (10 years of age and under) be accompanied by someone at least eleven years of age. This policy does allow for children (10 years of age and under) being at the library without such supervision if they are attending a children's library program.

Generally I explain to parents that if their children are 10 years old or younger, they are permitted to be dropped off at the library 15 minutes before a summer reading activity begins, but they must be picked up immediately after the event concludes. Again, the library's "Unattended Child Policy" is in place in order to provide a fun and safe environment for all library users.

So if you're looking for a great way to spend the summer months, check out the Columbus Public Library's "Build a Better World" summer reading program. We have activities for children of all ages and conduct such events in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning and character building. If you have any questions regarding this year's summer program, please feel free to contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4