

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

2017 Summer Reading Success!

Each year the Columbus Public Library (CPL) provides an exciting and educational summer reading program to area youth and this year was no exception. "Build a Better World @ Your Library" attracted 698 participants (this number does not reflect the 130 students who signed up for the teen program, the nearly 322 individuals involved with the Platte County Bookmobile, nor does it take into account the 249 participants of the adult program).

To kick off this year's festivities, Magician Jeff Quinn performed before a packed house. Quinn did a fantastic job incorporating fun, magic, and literacy awareness into this year's show. The program then surged forward providing children of all ages with fun and engaging activities all throughout the months of June and July. Mondays were movie days at the library. Families gathered in the library's auditorium to view animated films like "Zootopia," "The Lorax," "Frozen," "Sing," and "Finding Dory."

On Tuesdays a wide range of activities and presentations took place around Columbus. Staff from the Edgerton Explorit Center presented a mind blowing bubble presentation; Firefighter Kyle, from the Columbus Fire Department, spoke to participants about the importance of safety and then allowed attendees an up-close look at emergency vehicles like the ambulance and fire truck; and at various times during the summer, furry and feathered building buddies like beavers and weaver birds were brought to the library by professionals from Wildlife Encounters, the Nebraska Games and Park Commission, and the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo.

"CPL Imagination Builders" took place every Wednesday for those students that just completed the third thru fifth grades. This program, which was a partnership between library and Platte County 4H staff, provided participants with a hands-on approach to learning concepts like wind energy, the digestive system, and the fine art of making pizzas.

Seven local-celebrity readers (Riley Scott, Susan Littlefield, Sandie Fischer, Clair Fuchser, Cheryl Ferguson, and Jenny Meyer) shared over 80 entertaining books with children during Thursday's two-session story times.

To conclude this year's summer reading program, a pool party was hosted on Friday, July 28, at the Pawnee Plunge. Families splashed around from 10-11:30 a.m. and then enjoyed a delicious hotdog luncheon served up the Friends of the Columbus Public Library and HyVee.

"Build a Better World @ your Library" could not have been the success it was without the contributions from community organizations like the Friends of the Columbus Public Library, the Pawnee Plunge, NPPD, staff from the Platte County 4-H, Pizza Ranch, Applebee's, McDonald's, and wonderful individuals like Mrs. Connie Jansen, whose time and efforts helped keep area youth reading during the summer months.

I would also like to thank the 40 youth volunteers who donated 265.5 hours by helping register and distribute reading incentives to the children who came to the library this summer!