

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Library Fun during the 2017-18 School Year!

Many assume that a majority of the Columbus Public Library's children's programming takes place during the summer months; however, that is not the case. The Columbus Public Library (CPL) actually conducts more diverse programming during the school year.

Story Time is a traditional library program offered by almost every public library. CPL, however, has taken this traditional event to the next level with the Story Time/ART program, which is offered every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and hit the ground running on September 7th. The way this program operates is one week families enjoy Story Time, consisting of a 30-minute book reading followed by an hour of learning activity time. Little ones can enjoy the Lego and coloring tables, and interact with iPads and computers. Before leaving, children receive a colorful balloon animal of their choice!

Then the following week, families take part in StoryART. This program flows about the same as Story Time; however, after the 30-minute book reading, little ones have the opportunity to make a fun craft, which ties in with that day's theme.

"Monday Night Book Adventures", which kicks off on September 18, is another great program that families can take part in during the 2017-18 school year. This program, which takes place the second and fourth Monday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m., is geared toward students in prek-3rd grade. Participants will hear wonderful tales, make cool crafts, and leave with a tasty bedtime snack!

CPL's "Super Sensational Saturdays," which takes place one Saturday a month, also focuses on prek-third grade students. The atmosphere of the program, which kicks off on September 16, is more laid back. Families come anytime between 10 a.m.-noon and take part in three to four different activities, including an edible craft.

CPL also conducts outreach to area schools and daycare facilities.

Children enjoy entertaining songs, finger plays and poems, as well as three to four terrific tales. Some of the sites involved in CPL's outreach program include the Columbus Head Start, various Columbus Public School classes, Father Price Preschool, and St. Luke's Rainbow Preschool. If you would be interested in having the library visit your school or daycare once a month for 30 minutes, please give me a call!

CPL also provides library tours for numerous organizations during the school year. Tours consist of visitors being shown the different areas of the library like the computer lab, Teen Space, and Children's Room. Participants are then entertained with an exciting story time. Groups interested in scheduling a tour at CPL need only contact me to make arrangements.

So as you can see, the Columbus Public Library's Children's Department does not slow down during the school year. In fact, we continually develop new ways to keep children engaged in the library and reading! If you have any questions regarding the programs offered by CPL, would like to learn more about our monthly outreach program, or want to schedule a tour, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.