

## ***“Librarian’s Shelf” by Rachelle McPhillips***

### Teens Make Waves at Library in Summer

Area teens are invited to "Make Waves @ your library" this summer by participating in the Columbus Public Library's teen summer library program from June 1st to July 31st. Young adult patrons entering grades 6 through 12 are invited to come to the library and read for prizes as well as to take part in special events offered throughout the summer.

Special events this summer will include a morning at the Pawnee Plunge, movie screenings, and art projects with the Columbus Art Gallery. Beginning June 1, youth in junior high and high school can register at the library to attend these free events. Participants will receive a "bingo" card. To sail through all nine bingo squares, patrons will have to dive into the whole library.

In addition to reading, program participants will be encouraged to explore all of the library's services. Patrons can use the microfilm reader to find out what the big headlines were in the Columbus Telegram the day they made a splash in the world or read about the floods that have left parts of Columbus under water. If they have internet access at home and a library card, patrons can download audio books using OverDrive. Teens will also have an opportunity to use the new computer lab to surf the internet. Dipping a toe into uncharted library waters will earn patrons another square or two on their card.

Because we're not all washed up, our theme has two interpretations: having fun with water and making waves by making a difference. Volunteers are needed in the children's summer reading program and our teens make great volunteers. Giving of their time and their talents in other areas of the library will mark off a couple more squares. (Ideas for other volunteer opportunities during the summer and beyond will be explored.)

Summer guests will be among the first to enjoy a new teen area in the reference wing of the library. This space will offer comfortable seating, a place to study, and library materials of interest to teens.

During the summer, teens can cruise in to participate in an "Anytime Activity." These activities can be completed whenever it is convenient for patrons to visit the library and a new activity will be offered each week. One week I will set up a water conservation board with facts and quizzes and conservation experiments that can be done at home (with permission, of course.) Another week teens can hunt for treasure in the library and who would miss an opportunity to light up their lives with lemonade?

I will also be requesting teens' thoughts on their favorite and not-so-much books of the summer. They will tell me if what they've read has earned passage or if it's time for it to walk the plank. Teen book reviews will be posted online where other area teens can find out what their peers are reading.

If you have questions about the summer reading program, or if you're interested in supporting teen programming, please call me at 564-7116 or stop by the library.