

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

### 2019 Summer Reading Success!

Every year the Columbus Public Library (CPL) strives to host an exciting summer reading program for area families, and 2019 was no exception. "A Universe of Stories @ Your Library" attracted 651 participants (this number does not reflect the 205 students from the teen program, the 235 individuals involved with the Platte County Bookmobile, nor does it take into account the 395 participants in the adult program).

To kick off this year's festivities, Magician Jeff Quinn performed before a packed house on Friday, June 7. Quinn did a fantastic job incorporating fun, magic, and library awareness into his 2019 show.

The program then jetted forward providing children of all ages with entertaining events all throughout June and July. Mondays were movie days at the library. Families gathered in the library's auditorium with pillows and blankets in tow to view family-friendly films like "Monsters vs Aliens," "Mars Needs Moms," "Space Jam," and "Ralph Breaks the Internet."

On Tuesdays, presentations took place in the library's Children's Room. Participants learned about the moon, the stars, and the galaxy they live in with help from the Omaha Children's Museum, the S.A.C. Museum, Edgerton Explorit Center, Wildlife Encounters, the String Beans, and Dr. Todd Young from Wayne State College.

"CPL Space Explorers" took place on Wednesdays for those students that just completed the third through fifth grades. This program, which was a partnership between CPL and Platte County 4H, provided tweens with hands-on activities that allowed them to learn about rocket flight, gravity, and the fine art of making the universe's best tasting pizzas.

Five local celebrities (Ann Peterson, Riley Scott, Laurie Jansen, Sandie Fischer, and Jenny Meyer) shared over 80 entertaining tales with families during Thursday's two-session story times.

To conclude the 2019 summer reading program, a pool party was hosted on Friday, July 26 at the Pawnee Plunge. Families splashed around from 10-11:30 a.m., and then enjoyed a delicious hotdog and potato chip luncheon sponsored and served up by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library.

"A Universe of Stories @ Your Library" could not have been a success without contributions from community organizations like the Friends of the Columbus Public Library, the Pawnee Plunge, Platte County 4-H, Pizza Ranch, Applebee's, McDonald's, and the nearly 47 youth volunteers who donated a grand total of 436.75 hours by helping register and distribute reading incentives to area families that came to the library this summer!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

Thursday, August 8 at 6:30 p.m., the Columbus Public Library will host the annual Bully B.E.A.N.S. program. This event is a partnership with area agencies like the United Way and is designed to empower students to stand up to bullies. A reading of Julia Cook's "Bully B.E.A.N.S." will take place. Snacks and crafts will also add to the fun that evening. Don't forget that the Columbus Public Library's Children's Department offers a monthly calendar highlighting the many events that take place in the library's Children's Room. To have this informative agenda sent to your inbox, email me at [bhruska@columbusne.us](mailto:bhruska@columbusne.us).