

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

CPL welcomes back students

This summer has been busy and fun for our young adult patrons. Thirty-eight tweens and teens participated in at least one of the 17 activities held during our teen summer reading program. They enjoyed a downtown scavenger hunt, henna tattoos, bleaching t-shirts, and many other crafts and games.

Thank you to the Columbus Arts Council, Lois Smith of the Columbus Area Artists, Lynette Hogelin, Judy Marshall, Friends of the Columbus Public Library, Cornhusker Public Power District, Mindy Vyhnaek of the UNL Extension office, Crackers to Caviar, Applebees, McDonalds, and Pizza Hut for your time, talents, and donations to our summer program.

Over the summer, teens moved all of the young adult materials to the east wing on the second floor. Some of the furnishings that were selected by our Teen Advisory Board last spring have arrived and are already being enjoyed by patrons looking for a comfortable place to hang out and read.

With school starting soon, it is a good time to remember that the library is an excellent place for young adults to spend time. Whether they are talking with their friends in a relaxed environment or reading and studying on their own, the library can be a safe haven for tweens and teens.

Daily interaction with library staff provides children an opportunity for positive relationships with adults other than their parents. These relationships can make young adults feel valued in the community. It can also teach our youth how to be responsible community members.

If your child will be spending time at the library after school, here are some things you can do to assist in maintaining a pleasant atmosphere for the public's use of the library.

- Please come in and meet the staff who will be interacting with your child. Young adults typically demonstrate better behavior if library staff has met a parent.
- Whenever possible, please park and come into the library to pick up your child. Students who wait outside to watch for rides can cause traffic jams at the front door.
- Encourage your child to use the library's services. Services include board games, books, magazines, computers, and special activities and events just for young adults.
- Our behavior policy applies to patrons of all ages and can be found on our website at <http://www.columbuslibrary.info>. In most cases, CPL staff will offer assistance and make an attempt to redirect misbehavior. When redirection isn't successful, one verbal warning may be issued. If the behavior continues, the patron is asked to leave the area or the building.
- Behavior that is violent or criminal will result in a call to the Columbus Police Department.

If your child spends time at the library after school, please stop in and meet our staff and see what we're up to at your library. If you have any questions or want to know how you can support young adult programming, please contact me at 402-562-4201.