

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Brad Hruska

“One World, Many Stories” a Big Success!!!

I would like to report to the citizens of Columbus that this year’s summer reading program entitled “One World, Many Stories @ Your Library” was a great success with 920 registrants (this number does not reflect the 76 students who signed up for the library’s young adult program, nor does it include the 430 individuals involved with the Platte County Bookmobile)!!!

Children enrolled in this year’s festivities were given numerous opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities throughout the eight-week program. Mondays were movie madness days at the library. Children came with their pillows and blankets down to the Columbus Art Gallery to view fun, family-friendly films like “The Guardians of Ga’Hoole,” “Toy Story 3,” “The Lion King,” “The Princess and the Frog,” “Brother Bear,” and “Tangled” on an eight-foot by seven-foot fabric screen.

Various activities took place on Tuesdays. The Magical Paradise Exotic Farm Petting Zoo out of Central City, NE. conducted a petting zoo featuring creatures like chinchillas, iguanas, snakes, and birds. Cherrie Beam-Clarke, a well-known presenter with the Nebraska Humanities Council, presented a program entitled “Promise in a New Land,” which provided children with an understanding of what early life was like on the plains of Nebraska. David Marsh, also with the Nebraska Humanities Council, staged a program entitled “Music from Around the World” which introduced children to various instruments from other countries. The Nebraska Games & Parks Commission sponsored a program entitled “Big Fish Stories,” which gave children the chance to catch “the one that got away!”

Also on one Tuesday, the Pawnee Plunge opened its doors to summer reading participants, allowing them the opportunity to take an hour-long, early morning dip!

Many gifted storytellers (Kathy Brenner, Susan Littlefield, Sandi Fischer, Vanessa Oceguela, Alice Fraser, Jenny Meyer, and Riley Scott) read over 70 entertaining books to the children during the two-session story time programs, which took place on Thursdays.

To bring this year’s summer reading program to a close, the library and Platte County Bookmobile hosted an event entitled “World’s Fair @ Frankfort Square,” which presented children with an opportunity to register for a raffle; make uniquely-designed boomerangs with help from the Columbus Art Gallery staff and volunteers; express themselves artistically with chalk art; try their skill at a ring-toss game; receive an amazing balloon creation made by Columbus’ own Balloon Man, Travis Purkerson; and enjoy a delicious hotdog/sloppy joe luncheon sponsored and served by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library.

This year’s program could not have been the success it was without the contributions of Hy-Vee, Super Saver, McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, Applebee’s, The Pawnee Plunge, The Columbus Arts Council, The Columbus Women’s Club, The Columbus Optimist Club, The Calico Quilt Club, The Friends of the Columbus Public Library, and The Nebraska Humanities Council whose support and donations to this program went to good use by helping encourage children to keep reading during these past summer months!

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