

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Summer Fun @ The Columbus Public Library

Though registration for the Columbus Public Library's 2012 summer reading program is in full-swing, families that have not been able to sign up their children because of vacation plans, camps, or sport practices are still welcome to enroll their little ones into this year's FREE program entitled "Dream Big—Read@ Your Library!"

Every week during the months of June and July, the Columbus Public Library (CPL) will be hosting tons of amazing, nocturnal fun during three of the five weekdays! On Mondays from 10:30 a.m.-noon, full-length, family-friendly features like "Night at the Museum," "How to Train Your Dragon," "Kung Fu Panda," and the newly released "Muppets" film will be shown in the Columbus Art Gallery (lower level of the library). Children of all ages are invited to come with their pillows and blankets and enjoy these entertaining flicks. Participants will occasionally be treated to some yummy, tasty popcorn as well!

On Tuesdays, presentations and activities are scheduled from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at various locations around the Columbus area, featuring programs by Magician Adam White, the Edgerton Explorit Center of Aurora, the Columbus Arts Council, the Pawnee Plunge, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Magical Paradise Exotic Farms, and Raptor Recovery of Nebraska out of Omaha.

CPL will also be offering its regular story times on Thursdays from 10:30-noon and 1:30-3 p.m. Children and their parents will have the privilege of listening to tales from talented guest readers from around the area like (in no particular order) Joan Van Ruden-Kruger, Sandy Fischer, Kathy Fuscher, Riley Scott, and Susan Littlefield. These gifted storytellers have selected a wide-range of dreamy books sure to engage children of all ages.

Though the Columbus Public Library's summer reading program is geared for children in preschool-fourth grade, older students can still be a part of the fun by volunteering. This is a great way to not only give back to the library but also the community. Individuals interested in volunteering for CPL's summer reading program are encouraged to stop by the library and speak to me (Brad Hruska/Mr.H.).

These older participants (students in 6th grade and up) may also participate in the young adult program coordinated and conducted by CPL's YA Librarian/Readers' Advisor, Rachelle McPhillips. This year's lineup is entitled "Own the Night @ Your Library" and is sure to be loads fun for those older teens!

So if you are looking for great activities to include in your family's summer calendar of fun, be sure to include the events from the Columbus Public Library's summer reading line-up. Program features will begin on Monday, June 11, and will conclude on Friday, July 28, with a pool party at Columbus' own Pawnee Plunge followed by a hotdog and potato chip picnic lunch. If you have any questions regarding CPL's summer agenda or would like recommendations for enticing summer reads, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4!