

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

“Dream Big—Read” a Great Success!!!

This year's Columbus Public Library's summer reading program entitled “Dream Big—Read @ Your Library” was a great success with about 930 registrants (this number does not reflect the 106 students who signed up for the library's young adult program, nor does it include the nearly 302 individuals involved with the Platte County Bookmobile)!!!

Participants enrolled in this year's festivities were given numerous opportunities to enjoy 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 (lower level of the library) to view fun, family-friendly films like “Night at the Museum,” “How to Train Your Dragon,” “Kung Fu Panda,” “Alice in Wonderland,” “Cinderella,” “An American Tale,” and “The Muppets” on an eight-foot by seven-foot fabric screen.

Various activities took place on Tuesdays. “The Magical Paradise Exotic Farm Petting Zoo” from Central City, Ne. hosted a petting zoo, featuring snakes, birds, turtles, lemurs, rabbits, and sugar gliders. “Raptor Rescue Nebraska” of Omaha, Ne. conducted a program on different birds of prey such as owls, hawks, and falcons. The Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora, Ne. staged an event featuring unique science experiments, the Columbus Arts Council hosted “Art in the Park,” a day where children could gather at Frankfort Square and make three amazing art projects, and The Nebraska Games & Parks Commission sponsored a community fishing time, which provided summer reading participants the opportunity to catch “the one that got away!”

Many gifted storytellers (Amy Sokal, Joan Kruger, Tongay Epp, Sandi Fischer, Riley Scott, and Jenny Meyer) read over 80 entertaining books to the children during Thursdays' two-session story time programs.

Participants were also encouraged to attend “Library Time @ the Platte County Fair” on Thursday, July 12 and 13. The children enjoyed fun farm animal stories like “Duck on a Bike” by David Shannon, “Click, Clack, Moo; Cows that Type” by Doreen Cronin, and “Where Is the Green Sheep” by Mem Fox. To conclude this year's summer reading program, the Columbus Public Library and Platte County Bookmobile hosted a community pool party at the Pawnee Plunge. Summer reading participants splashed around from 10:30-noon and then enjoyed a hotdog and potato chip luncheon served and sponsored by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library!

This year's successful program could not have taken place without the contributions of Columbus Bank and Trust; Bank First; Great Western Bank; Cornerstone Bank; Pinnacle Bank; the Kallweit Family; the Columbus Women's Club; the Optimist Club of Columbus, Ne.; the Calico Quilt Club; the Friends of the Columbus Public Library; the Cornhusker Power Goodwill Fund; the Center 6 Theater; Applebee's; Arby's; McDonald's; Pizza Ranch; Pizza Hut; and Runza, whose support and donations to this vital program went to good use by helping to encourage the children of Platte County to keep reading during the summer months!