

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

School Year Library Programming @ the Columbus Public Library

Many people believe that because the summer reading program is behind us that activities at the Columbus Public Library (CPL) come to a screeching halt; however, that is not the case! In fact with the 2012-2013 school year in full swing, we are just as busy providing quality programming for children and their parents!

One of the most popular events offered at CPL is Story Time/ART, which takes place every Thursday from 10-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. This program is geared for children ages 1-6 and is designed as a time for them to come to the library with a special adult; interact with other youngsters; experience great books, songs, poems, and finger plays; and let their creative juices flow!

"Super Sensational Saturdays" is another library program that takes place during the school year. These festivities occur one Saturday a month from 10:30-noon. The scheduled dates for these events are Oct. 13; Nov. 10; and Dec. 8, 2012/ Jan. 12; Feb. 9; Mar. 9; Apr. 6; and May 4, 2013. These activities are designed for individuals pre-k-third grade and consist of about four to five activity zones, including at least one craft project and one edible craft/snack! I am very pleased to announce that this year CPL has partnered with the UNL Extension Office's afterschool program to help make our Saturday events even more sensational!

During the school year, CPL's Children's Department also offers a story time outreach program to area schools, Daycares, and other child-related facilities and organizations (excluding private in-home daycares). The purpose of this service is to bring library story times to children who would not normally be able to attend our weekly Thursday story time events. The monthly visits typically consist of reading three to four picture books and occasional songs, finger plays, and poems.

If your organization would be interesting in having various story times brought to your classroom or facility, please contact me and we can set up a schedule that works best for you and your students or children! Accelerated Reader (AR) Testing is another service available at CPL during the school year; all students need to do is register at the library. Once they are signed up, individuals will then be able set up appointments to take quizzes at times that would work best for them!

As you can see just because the summer reading program may be behind us, the Columbus Public Library is still quite busy providing parents and their children with an abundance of great programming and services. If you have any questions regarding the festivities mentioned in this article, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.

And please don't forget that on Tuesday, September 25, our locally owned Runza restaurant will be sponsoring its annual "Great Books for Great Kids" fundraiser, which means that 15% of the day's profits will go to the Columbus Public Library to help purchase quality materials for children.