

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

### "Starting A New..."

The start of a new year can be an exciting time for families! Parents and children can come together and make new resolutions on how to better function as a family like taking walks after evening meals; donating time at local organizations; and setting aside one night a week for everyone in the house to unplug from cellphones, laptops, and gaming devices and plug into the family by play board games or watching a favorite movie.

Another goal that parents can set for the New Year is to read aloud to their children. Reading to small children significantly affects their academic performance in the long run. Youngsters who are read to typically develop rich vocabularies, speak in complete sentences sooner, and have a more rounded and vivid imagination!

Another ideal resolution that parents can make for 2013, which would work better with older children, is to set aside time each evening for the family to read silently together. Reading interests vary from person to person, so sitting down with older children and reading aloud to them may not work as well; however, if parents implement a family reading time, older students would still reap the benefits of daily reading time.

Daily reading times would also be a great way to use those newly gifted Kindles, Nooks, and Android devices. If you or a loved one received an e-reader, the Columbus Public Library is able to assist you in downloading FREE books using Nebraska Overdrive. Click the Nebraska Overdrive Libraries link from our website ([www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library)) or bring your device to the library and we can help you download from numerous titles!

So don't ring in 2013 without first sitting down and making one or two positive family resolutions and be sure to let the Columbus Public Library help you achieve those goals. Together we can help you make 2013 a great year! If you have any questions about the importance of reading for children, need a list of great books to read, or would like help setting up that new e-reader be sure to give me a call at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.

Also, parents, grandparents, and childcare providers do not forget that with a new year comes a new session of the Columbus Public Library's Story Time/ART Program. This fun-filled, FREE program will be offered every Thursday from 10-11:30 am and 1:30-3 pm beginning January 10. Little ones will hear great stories, learn entertaining songs and poems, and use their imaginations to create amazing works of art with a little help from the Columbus Arts Council!

Students from kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade remember that on Saturday, January 12, the Columbus Public Library will have its first 2013 Super Saturday event! We will be having a "Circus Celebration" and the children will have the opportunity to make a fun craft, enjoy a tasty snack, and walk away with an awesome balloon creation made by Columbus' own Balloon Man, Mr. Travis Purkerson!