

Changes coming to the Library

By Brad Hruska

If you've ever watched Disney's "The Lion King", you know that one of the major themes throughout the film is "change." This is noticed when the dynamics of Simba's family unit change when Scar becomes leader of the pride; when Simba's life motto (Hakuna Matata, a Swahili phrase which means "No Worries") alters after Nala finds him alive; and when Simba's role within the "Circle of Life" shifts as he reclaims his rightful place as King of Pride Rock!

Though the changes taking place at the Columbus Public Library (due to the strategic plan) are not as dramatic as those found within "The Lion King," anyone visiting the library, especially the Children's Room, will notice throughout the year that significant changes are taking place; and as Simba's monkey friend, Rafiki, puts it "Change is good!"

One of the biggest changes that children and their parents will notice when visiting the Children's Room is that the room is being significantly rearranged into various "zones" (a toddler-kindergarten zone, a first-third grade section, and a four-fifth grade area).

To achieve these diverse spaces, the juvenile nonfiction collection is being moved from the north-center of the room to the southwest corner of the space. Two stacks that once held juvenile nonfiction texts are going to be uprooted and placed in the south-center portion of the Children's Room, becoming home to the juvenile fiction/chapter book section. Two of the three remaining juvenile nonfiction stacks will be then be taken downstairs to the adult fiction sitting room and the third and final stack will be placed along the southwest corner of the Children's Room and used for youth DVDs.

The large area that will be created by moving the juvenile nonfiction stacks will then be divided (using wheeled bookcases) into two spaces: one for small children and the other for students in k-3rd grade. In the toddler space, parents and little ones will find board books, short stories, and materials that deal with concepts like colors and shapes. Over the course of this year, comfortable seating along with fun, interactive activity stations will also be located in the new toddler zone along with six ipads, containing fun toddler games and magazines!

The k-3rd grade space will have beginning reader books as well as higher level picture books, which are perfect for students reading in the grade range. The school age space will have later in the year, a small technology lab equipped with four kid-friendly computers. Students will be welcome to use to computers to look up information, type reports, and play safe computer games!

In the center of the Children's Room, a table with a six laptops will eventually be available for Mom and Dad to search for information, e-mail, pay bills, and play games. This area will also provide parents and children with comfortable seating, so parents and little ones can enjoy a great book together!

So when you and your family venture into the Children's Room, don't be startled by all the changes that are taking place throughout 2013! A staff member will be more than happy to assist you find what you

are looking for and remember..."Change is Good!" If you have any questions regarding what is taking place in the kid's space, please feel free to contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.