

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Summer Reading Festivities @ The Columbus Public Library!

A number of Nebraskans have been wondering if warm weather would ever reach the Midwest. Well, I am very pleased to say that Summer is finally here! We at the Columbus Public Library (CPL) have been waiting for this season for quite some time because this is the time of year when we offer our annual summer reading program. This year's theme is "Dig into Reading @ Your Library" and we have an amazing lineup ready for the children of Platte County.

Every week during the months of June and July, the CPL will be offering a number of fun and entertaining events! On Mondays from 10:30 am to noon, full-length feature films like "G-Force," "A Dolphin's Tale," "Antbully," and "Big Miracle" will be shown in the Columbus Art Gallery (lower level of the library). Children of all ages are invited to come with pillows and blankets and enjoy these amazing family-friendly flicks.

On Tuesdays, presentations/activities are scheduled from 10:30 am-11:30 am at various locations around Columbus. Featured programs are by Magician Jeff Quinn, the Edgerton Explorit Center, The Amazing Arthur, the Columbus Arts Council, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the Magical Paradise Exotic Farm.

CPL will also be offering its regular story times on Thursdays from 10:30 am to noon and 1:30-3:00 pm. Children and their parents will have the privilege of listening to books read by talented local-celebrity guest readers like Jenny Meyer, Susan Littlefield, Alice Fraser, Sandy Fischer, and Cheryl Ferguson. Families will also have the opportunity on Thursday, July 11, to attend a special story time at the Platte County Fair, where I will be reading some of my favorite tales!

Though CPL's children's summer reading program is geared for those youngsters 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 youth summer reading program attended one of two meetings either on Wednesday, May 29th, or Thursday, May 30th in the library's auditorium. If you missed these meetings and still wish to volunteer, please contact me at the library.

Older participants (students going into 6th grade and up) may also participate in the young adult program coordinated and conducted by CPL's YA Librarian, Rachelle McPhillips. This year's lineup is entitled "Beneath the Surface" and is sure to be loads of fun!

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 CPL's summer reading line-up. Program features will begin on Monday, June 11th, and will conclude on Friday, July 26th, with a pool party at Columbus' own Pawnee Plunge followed by a hotdog and potato chip picnic lunch, featuring The Balloon Man, Travis Purkerson. If you have any questions regarding CPL's summer agenda, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.