

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

### Children "Dug" Reading @ the Columbus Public Library!

This year's Columbus Public Library's summer reading program entitled "Dig Into Reading" was a great success with 940 registrants (this number does not reflect the 128 students who signed up for the library's young adult program, nor does it include the nearly 275 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 days. Children came with their pillows and blankets in tow down to the Columbus Art Gallery (lower level of the library) to view fun, family-friendly films like "G-Force," "Bug's Life," "Dolphin's Tale," "Guardians of GaHoole," "Antbully," "Big Miracle," and "The Little Mermaid."

Various activities took place on Tuesdays. Magician Jeff Quinn opened the summer reading program with a magic show that entertained children of all ages. Those crafty gals from the Columbus Arts Council, Lisa Rosendahl and Susan Schoenhofer, allowed children to let their creative juices flow as they enjoyed making creative arts projects in Frankfort Square. The Nebraska Games and Parks Commission taught little ones about worms by engaging them in a hands-on program with those loveable underground creatures! The Amazing Arthur conducted a jaw-dropping juggling and magic show for little ones and their caregivers. The Nebraska Games and Parks Commission came back to Columbus and provided summer reading participants with an opportunity to catch the perfect fish at Pawnee Park East. The Edgerton Explorit Center taught children about the hidden secrets of dirt.

Five gifted storytellers (Sandie Fischer, Susan Littlefield, Alice Fraser, Jenny Meyer, and Cheryl Ferguson) 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. The children enjoyed loveable, dog stories like "Chip Wants a Dog" by William Wegman, "Cosmo Zooms" by Arthur Howard, and "Why A Dog By A Cat" by Robin Koontz.

To conclude this year's summer reading program, the Library and bookmobile hosted a community pool party at the Pawnee Plunge. Summer reading families splashed around from 10-11:30 a.m. and then enjoyed a hotdog and potato chip luncheon served and sponsored by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library. The Balloon Man, Travis Purkerson, was also on hand to make amazing inflatable items for all in attendance!

This year's program could not have taken place without the contributions from the Columbus Women's Club; Hy-Vee; the Optimist Club of Columbus; Super Saver; the Calico Quilt Club; the Friends of the Columbus Public Library; Applebee's; Arby's; McDonald's; Pizza Ranch; and Pizza Hut, whose support and donations went to good use by helping encourage the children of Platte County to keep reading during the summer months!

I would also like to thank the 75 youth volunteers who donated 871 hours by helping register and distribute reading incentives to the children who came to the library for their summer fun!