

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

School Day Fun @ the Columbus Public Library!

Many people immediately assume that because the 2013-14 school year is heavily underway that children's programming at the Columbus Public Library (CPL) slows down; however, nothing could be further from the truth. CPL continues to deliver a wide range of quality activities during the school year that children are sure to enjoy!

CPL's "Story Time/ART" program is offered on a weekly rotation, every Thursday from 10:30-noon and 1:30-3p.m. Each theme-based story time consists of five to six stories and includes poems, songs, and finger plays; however, what takes place after the story time sessions differs from week to week.

During a "Story Time" week, little ones entertain themselves with the library's Lego table and coloring table (coming soon), while also enjoying the company of the library's pets: the trio of parakeets and the colorful assortment of fish. On a "StoryART" week, children let their creative juices flow while making fun craft projects with help from those animated ladies from the "Columbus Arts Council," Lisa Rosendahl and Susan Schoenhofer.

CPL's "Super Sensational Saturdays," which takes place one Saturday a month, focuses on students prek-third grade. The atmosphere of the program is fun and relaxed. Families come between 10 a.m.-noon and take part in three to four different activities, including an eatable craft/snack. Past themes have included "A Birthday Party for Dr. Seuss," "Super Hero Fun," and "Halloween Festivities."

In addition to offering exciting programming throughout the school year, CPL also provides fun and engaging library tours for various groups in the community like local Boy and Girl Scout troops. Tours consist of groups being shown various areas of the library like the public access computer lab and Children's Room. Individuals also receive information on checking in and out items, as well as what it means to be a responsible library card holder. Participants are then entertained with an amusing story time. Groups interested in scheduling a tour at the Columbus Public Library need to contact me or stop by and make arrangements.

Columbus Public Library also conducts an enriching outreach program to area schools and daycare facilities. Children enjoy three to four stories and also have fun with various songs and poems. The sessions usually last about a half hour. Some of the sites CPL is proud to say are included in our children's outreach program include the Columbus Head Start, Lost Creek Elementary School, North Park Elementary School, Little Messengers Daycare, and St. Luke's Rainbow Preschool.

If you would be interested in having the library visit your school or daycare site once a month, give me a call and we will create a schedule that will work best for you! So as you can see, the Columbus Public Library Children's Department does not really slow down at all during the school year. In fact, we just continually develop ways to keep kids loving and enjoying the library and the awesome experience of reading! If you have any question regarding the programs offered by CPL, would like learn more about our monthly outreach program, or want to schedule a tour, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.