

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Fizz, Boom, Read @ the Columbus Public Library!

Ready or not parents, summer is here, but don't fret because the Columbus Public Library (CPL) will once again be offering its annual children's summer reading program. This year's theme is "Fizz, Boom, Read!" and every week from June 1 thru July 18, CPL will be hosting a wide range of fun and exciting events!

On Mondays from 10:30 a.m.-noon, full-length, animated features will be shown in the library's auditorium. Children of all ages are encouraged to come with pillows and blankets in tow and enjoy awesome family-friendly flicks.

On Tuesdays, activities are scheduled from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at various locations around Columbus. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in wacky science fun with Mrs. Science (Lucinda Faunce), catch aquatic wildlife with assistance from the Nebraska Games and Parks Commission, learn about the various forms of energy from NPPD, interact with fascinating four and two-legged creatures brought in by the Magical Paradise Exotic Farm, and experience science like never before with the brilliant staff of the Edgerton Explorit Center.

For those students just finishing up the fourth and fifth grades, Wednesdays are typically reserved especially for them. CPL, in partnership with the UNL Extension Office—Platte County, will be offering a NEW library program entitled "CPL Lab Rats." This hands-on, science themed program, which will take place from 10:30-noon, will allow students an up-close look at how certain elements of science function. It is important for interested participants to know that they do need to sign up for each event by a specified date. Seating is limited and the "CPL Lab Rats" program is first come, first serve.

CPL will also be offering its regular story times on most Thursdays from 10:30-noon and 1:30-3 p.m. Children will have the privilege of listening to books read by talented local-guest readers like Amy Sokol, Tammy Hempstead, Susan Littlefield, Alice Fraser, Cheryl Ferguson, and Jenny Meyer. Families will also have the opportunity on Friday, July 11, to attend a special story time at the Platte County Fair.

To conclude the "Fizz, Boom, Read!" festivities, participants will be invited to race down the slides and enjoy the lazy river at Columbus' own Pawnee Plunge for free on Friday, July 18. After splashing around for a time, hungry swimmers will be treated to a hotdog and potato chip luncheon served up by the amazing members of the Friends of the Columbus Public Library. So if you are looking for quality activities for the children in your life, stop by the Columbus Public Library the week of Tuesday, May 27, and register them for this year's "Fizz, Boom, Read!" extravaganza. Please bring your little ones down when you sign them up because the Horn T Zoo out of Monroe, NE, will be bringing in a number of unique creatures for little ones' viewing pleasure.

If you have any questions regarding CPL's summer agenda, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4!