

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Teen Summer Readers Enjoy Summer at the Library

The Teen Summer Reading program is underway at the Columbus Public Library! Over 100 young people who will be in grades 7 – 12 in August have registered to read, create, and explore over the next two months.

Twenty participants decorated the space on May 28. The Teen Space walls have been “slimed” to express our science-based summer reading theme, “Spark a Reaction @ your library™.” Everyone enjoyed some refreshments and a plethora of Disney songs, thanks to Pandora and the library’s free Wi-Fi service. The following day we watched the movie “Frozen” and munched on fresh popcorn in the library’s spacious auditorium. Even if you haven’t seen the movie, it’s hard to have dodged exposure to the film’s soundtrack, so I told moviegoers they could sing along. A few did better than that and recited the movie almost in its entirety.

On Wednesday, June 4, crafters assembled tin can robots. Using magnets, and a variety of hardware, young adults put together a robot version of Mr. Potato Head. They can use their Mr. Robot Head as a fun pencil holder or even as a planter. For an example of this craft, visit the Teen Summer Reading board at <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/171277592053167361/>. (This could be a fun craft for younger children for whom the small pieces are not a choking hazard.)

Summer readers tie-dyed t-shirts on Thursday, June 5. This is always a popular event during summer reading. It’s fun to see patrons visit the library in their tie-dyed shirts throughout the rest of the summer. We did this activity during CPL’s first summer program for teens. A couple of years later, one of the participants had outgrown their shirt but brought it back to make a t-shirt pillow out of it!

In addition to our regular Wednesday and Thursday activities, our young adult participants will have a book discussion on Sunday, June 29. We will discuss “The Maze Runner” by James Dashner. This popular young adult novel introduces us to a cast of characters who are trapped inside high, stone walls. The only way out is through a maze that changes constantly and has never been conquered.

This is a solid pick for fans of “The Hunger Games” by Suzanne Collins, and “Divergent” by Veronica Roth. The film adaptation of “The Maze Runner” hits theaters later this year. For a sneak peek, watch the movie trailer here: <http://youtu.be/64-iSYVmMVY>. Teen summer readers can borrow a copy of “The Maze Runner” by talking to Rachelle or asking at the front desk.

This week, teen summer readers will enjoy a visit from Wildlife Encounters on Wednesday, June 11 at 1pm. This organization is an animal rescue and introduces young people to incredible animals. In the past we have enjoyed holding a snake, getting up close to an alligator, and seeing the adorable (but not at all talkative) fennec fox. We never know what surprises Wildlife Encounters have in store for us!

On Thursday, June 12 at 2pm, astronomy expert Gary Fugman visits to share fascinating information about the relationship between the Earth and the moon, and our solar system. Mr. Fugman will also explain what we can look for in our night sky this summer.

Teen summer reading continues until July 18. Patrons who will be entering 7th – 12th grades this fall are still able to register in the Teen Space. If you have questions about our programs, please call Rachelle at 402-562-4201.