

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Brad Hruska

2010 Summer Reading Community Report

It is with great pleasure that I report to the citizens of Columbus that this year’s summer reading program entitled “Make a Splash @ Your Library” has been a great success with 990 registrants!! It should be noted that this number does not reflect the 59 students who signed up for the library’s NEW young adult program, nor does it include the 396 individuals involved with the Platte County Bookmobile.

Children enrolled in this year’s festivities were given numerous opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities throughout the eight-week program, in addition to the prizes offered for their weekly reading.

Mondays have been movie madness days here at the library. About 540 children came with their pillows and blankets down to the Columbus Art Gallery to view fun, family-friendly flicks like “Surf’s Up,” “Free Willy,” “Ice Age: The Melt Down,” “Finding Nemo,” “Little Mermaid I & II,” and the newly released “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs” on an eight-foot by seven-foot canvas screen. Various activities took place on Tuesdays, entertaining around 800 summer reading fans. The Columbus Women’s Club sponsored a program highlighting the various forms of water conducted by the Edgerton Explorit Center of Aurora, NE.

The Columbus Art Gallery hosted a morning of arts projects in Frankfort Square, allowing individuals to make four water-themed crafts.

Magician Adam White, from the Omaha area, was invited back to entertain the masses with a number of amazing mind-blowing illusions.

The Pawnee Plunge graciously opened its doors to the reading group for an hour and a half of free H2O fun!

The library coordinated its first-ever clay-boat float contest. The two –Tuesday event gave children the opportunity to craft boats out of clay and see how many scoops of sand it took to sink their battleships. The first place winner received a 1 lb. chocolate bar, the second place champ was awarded a pack of Starbursts, and the third contestant was given a cherry ring-pop.

Biologist Greg Hartel, from the Ak-Sar-Ben, facilitated a program featuring 12 Nebraska-native turtles. Hartel allowed participants an up-close look at these amazing, fascinating shelled creatures.

Many gifted storytellers (Alice Fraser, Sandy Fischer, Kathy Fuscher, Susan Littlefield, Danielle Weberdink, Vickie Meyer, Amy Sokol, and Kathy Brenner) read over 75 entertaining books to about 520 children during the two-session story time programs, which took place on Thursdays.

To bring this year’s event to an end, the Columbus Public Library and Platte County Bookmobile hosted a “beach Party” at Frankfort Square. This exciting festival allowed children of all ages a chance to play numerous aquatic games; face-off in a friendly game of soccer; create lively paint-blob, googolly-eyed monsters; and enjoy a delicious sloppy-joe and potato chip luncheon sponsored and served by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library.

Before closing, I would like to thank Hy-Vee, Super Saver, McDonald’s, Wendy’s, Applebee’s, The Pawnee Plunge, The Columbus Arts Council, and The Friends of the Columbus Public Library for all of their support and many donations. All of which were greatly appreciated and went to good use by helping to encourage children to keep reading during these past summer months!