

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Every Hero Has a Story @ the Columbus Public Library!

Despite the rain and cooler temperatures, summer is here and the Columbus Public Library (CPL) is once again offering its annual children's summer reading program. This year's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story"! Every week until July 24, CPL will be hosting a wide range of entertaining events.

On Mondays from 10:30 a.m.-noon, full-length, family-friendly films 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 animated flicks.

On Tuesdays, activities are scheduled from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at various locations around Columbus. Participants will have the opportunity to investigate the science behind superhero powers with guidance from the Edgerton Explorit Center; interact with amazing two and four-legged creatures from the Magical Paradise Exotic Farm; acquire an up-close look at super birds of prey brought in from Fontenelle Forest's raptor recovery program; learn more about the super hero of the Jurassic period, Tyrannosaurus Rex, with assistance from the Omaha Children's Museum; let their creative juices flow during a morning of art in Frankfort Square; and meet the real super heroes of our community through a safety program conducted by the Columbus Police and Fire Departments.

For those students who just completed the fourth and fifth grades, Wednesdays are reserved especially for them. CPL, in cooperation with the UNL Extension Office—Platte County, will be offering a program entitled "CPL Sidekicks." 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 nutrition can transform them into super heroes. I might note that it is important for interested participants to sign up for each "CPL Sidekicks" event by the specified date on the summer calendar, which can be obtained at the library.

CPL will also be offering its regular story times on Thursdays from 10:30-noon and 1:30-3 p.m. Children will have the privilege of listening to books read by talented guest readers like Tammy Hempstead, Susan Littlefield, Riely Scott, Cheryl Ferguson, and Jenny Meyer. Families will also have the opportunity on Friday, July 10, to attend a special story time at the Platte County Fair. To conclude this year's 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 24. After splashing around for about an hour and a half, hungry swimmers will be treated to a hotdog and potato chip luncheon served up by 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 and register them for this year's "Every Hero Has a Story!" extravaganza. If you have any questions regarding CPL's summer agenda or are looking for recommendations on what books would be best suited for your child to read during the summer months, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.