

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Library Fun during the 2015-16 School Year!

People assume that a majority of the Columbus Public Library's children's programming takes place during the summer; however, that is not the case. Though the library does work hard to host numerous programs for children during those months, the Columbus Public Library (CPL) actually conducts more diverse programs during the school year.

Story Time is a traditional event offered by public libraries; however, CPL takes story time to the next level with StoryART. The way this program flows is one week families enjoy Story Time, which consists of a 30-minute story time followed by an hour of activity time for little ones to play at the Lego Table, interact with iPads and computers, and use the coloring station.

Then the next week families take part in StoryART. This program follows the same format as Story Time; however, after the books are read, little ones make a fun art project.

"Monday Night Book Adventures" is another great program that takes place the second and fourth Mondays of each month during the school year. For this event, students in pre-K-3rd grade listen to wonderful tales, make crafts, and leave with a tasty bedtime snack!

CPL's "Super Sensational Saturdays," which takes place one Saturday a month, also focuses on students in pre-K-3rd grade. The atmosphere of the program is more laid back. Families come between 10 a.m.-noon and take part in four different activities, including an eatable craft. Past themes have included "A Seuss Celebration," "Super Hero Fun," and "Flying High with Kites."

In addition to offering exciting programming throughout the school year, CPL also provides library tours for groups in the community like local afterschool programs and scout troops. Tours consist of groups being shown the various areas of the library like the computer lab, Teen Space, and Children's Room. Individuals also receive information on checking 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 CPL need to contact me or stop by and make arrangements.

CPL also conducts outreach to area schools and daycare facilities. Children enjoy three to four stories and also have fun with songs and poems. The sessions 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, North Park Elementary School, and St. Luke's Rainbow Preschool. If you would be interested in having the library visit your school or daycare site, give me a call!

So as you can see, the Columbus Public Library's Children's Department does not slow down during the school year. In fact, we continually develop ways to keep kids enjoying the library and reading! If you have any question regarding the programs offered by CPL, would like to learn more about our monthly outreach program, or want to schedule a tour, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.