

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Helping Make Quality Time Count"

With 2016 in full swing, numerous individuals have already begun working on their New Year's resolutions. According to NewsDay.com, some people have hit the gym to lose those extra holiday pounds, others are keeping better tabs on their George Washingtons in order to save more and spend less, and still others have started volunteering with local organizations in order to give back to their communities.

Though all of these are worthwhile ambitions, the best one mentioned by NewsDay is to make spending quality time with family and loved ones a real priority. If your resolution includes having more quality family time, especially with the children in your life, the Columbus Public Library's Children's Department has a wide range of entertaining and engaging programs that will help you succeed in making this goal a reality.

The Columbus Public Library (CPL) offers five core children's programs geared for individuals from birth to fifth grade. The most well-known program is CPL's Story Time/ART program, which is offered every Thursday from 10:30 AM to noon and 1:30 PM to 3 PM. This program provides little ones with a half hour story time and then allows them to let their creativity shine by making a fun craft project.

CPL's Monday Night Book Adventures events are fast becoming a library favorite with families. This program takes place on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 6:30-7:30 PM. This hour-long program includes a half hour themed story time, a craft, and a bedtime snack. These activities provide families, whose children are in school during the normal Thursday programs, an opportunity to come and enjoy the library at a time that works best for them.

The Columbus Public Library's Super Sensational Saturday program has morphed into one of the most popular programs offered by CPL. This program, which takes place one Saturday a month from 10 AM to noon, allows families that are not able to make it to the library during the regular school week an opportunity to have fun, laugh, and engage in four fantastic crafts, which includes an edible craft (aka a cool snack). This program is geared toward children of all ages with a focus on those students preschool through third grade.

CPL understands that some families would rather come and experience the library independently, so the Children's Room is equipped with stations that allow little ones the opportunity to enjoy the library on their terms. The youth space at CPL is equipped with four iPads, two AWE educational computers, a Lego station, and a color table for those families that want to have fun at the library at their own pace.

So if part of your New Year's Resolution included making family time a top priority, let the Columbus Public Library's Children's Department help. We have a number of free, quality programs that are sure to interest the children in your life. If you have any questions about the programs offered for youth, feel free to contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.