

Headlines



Hit the library and avoid the summer brain drain!

June 5, 2008

Summer Reading Programs and Events @ Your Library Keep Kids Learning

If your child stopped playing baseball all summer, would he or she be ready to hit the ball out of the park come September? That, in a nutshell, is the reason for summer reading programs at area libraries. Practicing reading skills over the summer is an important part of keeping up with the fundamentals when school resumes.



Because summer reading should be fun and joyful, the Rock Island Public Library program plays off the “Get in Game: READ” sports theme this summer. More than 25 different events allow children to fish, play, game and dance their way through summer. Get in the Game: READ offers ongoing activities, such as a drama program on Mondays and Wednesdays from June 11 to July 18, as well as special performers and activities, such as jazz/ballet, “fishing for laughs,” Glue and Go (easy-to-make) costumes for kids and adults and “Babaloo” music and fun, featuring children’s musical comedy act Rob Compton. As good news for families interested in saving money this summer, all programs and events are free.

Rock Island librarians offered five fun ways to keep kids exercising their learning muscles this summer:

1. **Help your kids start a book club – or join the one at the Rock Island Library.** The Dog Watchers Book Club uses the “Dog Watch” novels of Mary Casanova, discussing one book per week. The free book discussions for ages 7 to 12 are offered on Thursdays at the 30/31 Branch, from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. Or maybe this is the perfect time to work your way through another series you’ve been eying. Options include The Spiderwick Chronicles, the Chronicles of Narnia (very timely with the new movie) and the Charlie Bone series. With the library’s free “Glue and Go” costume program, you can learn easy ways to help your kids dress up like the characters they read about.
2. **Borrow free educational DVDS from the library** and use what you see to check out non-fiction books on the same topic. Or, check out the library’s new online subscription to Scholastic Books’ BookFlix, which offers 80 fiction/non-fiction reading pairs in such themes as Animals and Nature, Earth and Sky, and People and Places. Kids and parents can watch a story online and then read the book. Other fun BookFlix tools include Spanish book pairs, interactive games and resources

for parents. To use BookFlix from home, go to www.ripl.lib.il.us, click “Children’s Library” and have your library card ready. The service may also be used on the library’s public computers.

- 3. Encourage your kids to draw over the summer or play board games**, to build skills in counting and visualizing shapes – both important for math. A few slots are still available in the library’s Art series with Gloria, held on Tuesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Main Library. Or learn how to make your own board game, with a free program on June 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library.
- 4. Take advantage of free drama and performing arts at your library.** Learning a role builds both language and presentation abilities. Openings are still available in the Drama series, which runs Mondays and Wednesdays at the Main Library from June 11 to July 18. To register your kids, call 732-7360. (Did we mention that this is free?) In more free cultural fun, kids can dance their way through summer with free dance performances that feature demonstrations and the opportunities to try a dance. Programs include Jazz/Ballet with Amy Eberts on June 10, Belly dancing with Jackie Gonzalez on June 17 and modern/African folk dance with Dorian Byrd and Imani! Dancers on June 23.
- 5. Make a summer memory book, giving them opportunities to tell stories and take pictures.** You and your kids can make a fun container for those memories at the library’s “Make a Book” program on June 30 at the Main Library.

“With free reading programs that allow kids to earn prizes for reading and lots of free activities for the whole family, going to the library should be a fun part of your summer,” adds Children’s Librarian Sue Foster. “It’s the ideal way to explore a whole world of learning, right from your own backyard.”

Speaking of summer reading incentives, Foster added that separate programs for teens and adults allow the entire family to read together – setting good habits for life. Scavenger hunt forms for teen reading are available at all three locations, along with registration and entry forms for adult reading. Teens who complete the program will also be treated to a movie and pizza program on July 12.

The summer reading “read to win” portion of the program runs until July 11, with free performances scheduled until July 17. For more details about summer reading, please call the Library Children’s Room at 309-732-7360 or visit www.ripl.lib.il.us

Summer Reading programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Rock Island Public Library, the Milan-Blackhawk Public Library District and the Geifman endowment for art and drama from the Rock Island Public Library Foundation.

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