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LIBRARIES ANNOUNCE SUMMER READING

Dig into Reading – Many Options for School Age Children to Read this Summer

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System will have plenty of free programs and activities this summer to encourage children of all ages to read. During a media announcement this morning, plans for “*Dig into Reading*” were unveiled. The Library’s Summer Reading 2013 initiative is geared toward school-age children and their families, offering a combination of fun and exciting programs, incentives, and a variety of special events to encourage reading during the summer months. Statistics show that summer reading programs enable young people to maintain educational advances when not in school.

Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski said, “The welcome sign is out at all 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries-- from interesting book clubs to entertainers to reading logs, school age children can stay ahead of the curve by spending quality time at the Library - and best of all – everything is free.” Students from Buffalo’s Enterprise Charter School and Bennett Park Montessori PS#32 were on hand for the announcement which featured songs about books and reading by local performers The Hill Brothers.

Locally, last summer, 40,934 young people participated in the Library System’s free Summer Reading initiatives, reading 12,000 books, totaling more than 1 million minutes of reading right here in our community. Those numbers are expected to increase this summer through new partnerships and enhanced marketing. 2012 saw 1.65 million children participating in their libraries Summer Reading programs across New York State.

Highlights of this year’s *Dig into Reading* initiative include:

By reading, children can earn complimentary tickets to Holland Speedway for “**Library Night at the Races**” scheduled for August 10.

Read Down Your Fines gives children ages 16 and under an opportunity to read off overdue library fines. For every 15 minutes of reading, a child can earn a library buck toward reducing or eliminating overdue fines. All local libraries will be running the program through September 7.

Battle of the Books takes place on Saturday, August 3. This popular summertime team trivia competition is for youth entering grades six through nine. There are currently 31 teams from local libraries who are all reading the same books as they prepare for trivia questions about those books while vying for the coveted Battle title and trophy. Last year, Marilla Free Library took the gold medal against 32 teams in a fast-paced lightning round before 500 fans.

Every Wednesday, the Library will be stationed at **Canalside** for *Dig into Reading* storytelling and craft programs from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00p.m. from July 3 – August 28.

Free library cards are available in all libraries and applications can be downloaded from www.BuffaloLib.org. Parents or guardians with identification must accompany the child to obtain a card.

For more information about Summer Reading activities, visit your neighborhood Buffalo & Erie County Public Library or go to the website at <http://www.buffalolib.org/>. Friend the Library on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/buffalolibrary.central?ref=ts>.

For an overview of Summer Reading initiatives at New York Libraries and additional information for educators, parents, and caregivers, go to www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer.

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Here is a sampling of summer reading programs @ Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries. All are free.

Alden Ewell Free Library – Dig Into Reading with Mike Randall, June 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Angola Public Library – Charlie & Checkers performance, June 15th at 1 p.m.

Audubon Library (Amherst) – Summer Fun Express Yourself Club, July 9 at 2 p.m.

Aurora Town Public Library – Rumpelstiltskin, Roycroft Chamber Music, June 13 at 6 p.m.

Boston Free Library – Nickel City Reptiles, June 14 at 5:30 p.m.

- Central, Downtown Library (Buffalo)**– Hug Your Library, June 20 at 5:15 p.m. & In Jest, July 11 at 10 a.m.
- Clarence Public Library** – Summer Party – Mike Randall & Friends, July 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- Clearfield Branch (Amherst)** – Summer Fun Club, Dig into Geology, July 9 at 10:30 a.m.
- Collins Public Library** – Doug Rougeux, The Bubble Man, July 1 at 6 p.m.
- Concord Public Library**- Summer Fun for everyone!
- Crane Branch (Buffalo)** – Magic with Paul Antonio, June 22 at 3 p.m.
- Dudley Branch (Buffalo)** – Summer Beach Party, July 25 at 5:30 p.m.
- East Clinton Branch (Buffalo)** – Kaleidoscopes with Explore & More, July 15 at 1 p.m.
- East Delavan Branch (Buffalo)**- Interpretive Storytelling w/Amherst Youth Consortium, June 26 at 2 p.m.
- Eden Library**- The Wondermakers, July 11 at 6:30p.m.
- Egbertsville–Snyder Branch (Amherst)** – Cold Blooded Critters w/ Audubon Society, July 16 at 2 p.m.
- Elma Public Library** – Penn Dixie program, July 8 at 2 p.m.
- Grand Island Memorial Library** – Omni Puppet Theatre, July 24 at 2 p.m.
- Hamburg Library** –Summer fun for everyone!
- Kenilworth Branch (Tonawanda)**- Dig Into Mining Mysteries with Mr. J, August 1 at 2 p.m.
- Kenmore Branch (Tonawanda)** – Singer Kevin McCarthy, July 31 at 1 p.m.
- Lackawanna Public Library** – Civil War program w/ Kate Shea, June 29 at 11 a.m.
- Lake Shore Branch (Hamburg)** – Digging Dinosaurs w/ Museum of Science, July 20 at 1p.m.
- Lancaster Public Library** – Monkey Business w/ Primate Sanctuary, July 11 at 2 p.m.
- Marilla Free Library** – Fairies program & Hug Your Library, June 26 at 1 p.m.
- Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library (Buffalo)** – Drum Circle, June 22 at 12 noon
- Newstead Public Library** – Buffalo Zoomobile, July 2 at 2 p.m.
- Niagara Branch (Buffalo)** – Nickel City Reptiles and Exotics, July 22 at 2 p.m.
- North Collins Public Library** – In Jest!, June 26 at 6 p.m.
- North Park Branch (Buffalo)**– Gravitational Bull comedy & magic, June 19 at 4 p.m.
- Orchard Park Public Library** – Nitro Magic Ice Cream, July 12 at 1 p.m.
- Anna Reinstein Memorial Library (Cheektowaga)** – Charlie & Checkers, July 5 at 2 p.m.
- Julia Boyer Reinstein (Cheektowaga)** – Gravitational Bull comedy, June 27 at 2 p.m.
- Riverside Branch (Buffalo)** – Mike Randall & Friends, July 11 at 6 p.m.
- City of Tonawanda Public Library** – Charlie & Checkers, July 8 at 6:30 p.m.
- West Seneca Public Library** – Mark Carra – Naturalist, July 15 at 2 p.m.
- Williamsville Branch (Amherst)** – Summer Fun Club, Dig Into the Past, July 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Programs are subject to change - please call your library first to confirm.

For more detailed information, visit the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library website at www.BuffaloLib.org

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Buffalo & Erie County Public Library * 1 Lafayette Square * Buffalo, NY 14203 * (716) 858-8900 * Fax: (716) 858-6211
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