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MEDIA RELEASE

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Fizz! Boom! Read! Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries Announce Summer Reading 2014

Families looking for summertime activities should visit their local Buffalo & Erie County Public Library for a variety of free programs, activities and incentives for all ages to encourage reading all summer long. That was the message this morning at the downtown Central Library for the **Summer Reading 2014 – Fizz! Boom! Read! Kick-off announcement**. Approximately 50 students from Buffalo's Bennett Park Montessori School were on hand to hear about the exciting plans for Summer Reading in the 37 - Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries and to see juggler and entertainer Nels Ross of In Jest.

Last summer, nearly 17,000 local young people participated in the Library System's free Summer Reading initiatives, reading 10,500 books and totaling nearly 900,000 minutes of reading. On the state level, 1.76 million children participated in their local library's Summer Reading programs.

"Studies show that library Summer Reading programs raise students' learning levels and help children, teens and young adults retain and enhance their reading skills.," said Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "Summer Reading in our Erie County Libraries reaches out to families and children of all ages with a variety of programs ranging from puppet theatre performances, to visits from animals and from princess parties to Star Wars-themed activities. We also offer an incentive for children to read down and eliminate their Library fines. I encourage parents, grandparents, and all families to add Summer Reading to their summer bucket lists and designate 20 to 30 minutes a day to read together."

Highlights of this year's **Fizz! Boom! Read!** Initiative includes:

- **Reading Logs, Reading Competitions and Great Prizes-** Register at your local library, and have children track their summer reads. Incentives and prizes are provided when predetermined milestones (number of books read) are reached.

- **Summer Reading Challenge-** Adults and teens, read a book, write a short review and post it to the Library's online contest website to win some terrific prizes. One lucky participant will win a Kindle Fire HDX reader. The adult reading challenge is called "Literary Elements;" the teen challenge is - "Spark A Reaction;" and early literacy / children's initiative falls under the Fizz! Boom! Read! program.
- **Holland Speedway** for the second year will offer "**Library Night at the Races**" on Saturday, August 23. Children read two books and earn a free pass. Libraries will also have discount coupons for adults to attend.
- **Read Down Your Fines** gives children ages 16 and under an opportunity to pay down overdue library fines through reading. For every 15 minutes of reading, a child can earn one Library Buck toward reducing or eliminating overdue fines. All local libraries will be running the program through September 6. Last year, 624 young readers participated, eliminating \$5,074.04 in library fines.
- **Battle of the Books** – The final Battle begins at approximately 11:30 am on Saturday, August 2nd in the Gymnasium of Erie Community College – South Campus. This popular summertime team trivia competition is for youth entering grades six through nine. Currently 33 teams have formed at local libraries. Are you interested in joining a team? Head to your local Library to learn more. All team members read the same five books as they prepare for trivia questions about those books while vying for the coveted Battle title and trophy. It's fun! It's loud! It's a GREAT summer activity! Last year, Clarence Public Library took the gold medal competing against 29 teams in a fast-paced lightning round before 500+ fans.
- **Canalside** - Every Thursday, beginning July 3, the Library will be stationed at **Buffalo's Canalside** for Fizz! Boom ! Read! storytelling and craft programs from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00p.m.

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. Schools are encouraged to share with the Library their list of Summer Reading assignments per grade.

For more information about Summer Reading activities, visit your Buffalo & Erie County Public Library; call 858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org. You can friend the Library on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Flickr](#).

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Summer Reading is funded, in part, by Federal Library Services & Technology Act Funds, awarded to the New York State Library by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Special thanks to In Jest, courtesy of Young Audiences of WNY; The Buffalo Sabres Foundation, The Buffalo News, WGRZ TV 2, Rich Products, National Fuel and Holland Speedway.

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

Here is a sampling of summer reading programs @

Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries. All are free.

Alden Ewell Free Library – Gravitational Bull Juggling, July 31 @ 6:30 p.m.

Angola Public Library – Fizz,! Boom! Read! Preschool Storytime, June 25 @ 6:30 p.m.

Audubon Library (Amherst) – Fizz! Boom! Read!- Mike Randall & Friends, July 10 @ 6:30p.m.

Aurora Town Public Library – Doug Rougeux performs Bubble Mania, June 19 @ at 3:30 p.m.

Boston Free Library – Summer Fun Club, July 11 @ 3:00 p.m.

Central, Downtown Library (Buffalo)– In Jest presents Science Circus, July 10 @11:00 a.m.

Clarence Public Library – Gravitational Bull Juggling, July 1 @ 6:30 p.m.

Clearfield Branch (Amherst) – Fireworks in a Jar, July 9 @ 1:30 p.m.

Collins Public Library – Defiant Monkey Show, July 21 @ 6 p.m.

Concord Public Library – Fizz Boom Wow! – Science Fun, July 15 @ 1 p.m.

Crane Branch (Buffalo) – The Wondermakers present Science is a Blast, July 24 @ 2 p.m.

Dudley Branch (Buffalo) – Cold Blooded Critters by Beaver Meadow, July 10 @ 6 p.m.

East Clinton Branch (Buffalo) – Fizz! Boom! Read! Summer Fun , TBA

East Delavan Branch (Buffalo) – Fizz! Boom! Read! Balloon Sculpture, July 28 @ 2:30 p.m.

Eden Library- Charlie & Checkers, July 2 @ 2 p.m.

Egbertsville–Snyder Branch (Amherst) – Professor Punkin, July 14 @ 6 p.m.

Elma Public Library – Science Below Zero w/ the Buffalo Museum of Science, July 10 @ 2 p.m.

Grand Island Memorial Library – Omni Puppet Theatre, July 23 @ 2 p.m.

Hamburg Library – Groundbreaking Ceremony & Picnic, June 12 @ 4 p.m.

Kenilworth Branch (Tonawanda) – Summer Fun Club, July 10 @ 10:30 a.m.

Kenmore Branch (Tonawanda) – Primate Sanctuary, August 5 @ 1 p.m.

Lackawanna Public Library – Star Wars Extravaganza, June 23 @ 6 p.m.

Lake Shore Branch (Hamburg) – Minion Party & Movie, June 14 @ 1 p.m.

Lancaster Public Library – Bubble Man, July 17 @ 2 p.m.

Marilla Free Library – Fizz! Boom! Read! Summer Fun , TBA

Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library (Buffalo) – Drum Circle, June 21 @ 12 noon

Newstead Public Library – Magic of Steve Ingraham, June 30 @ 6:30 p.m.

Niagara Branch (Buffalo) – Mr. K's Mobile Planetarium, July 14 @ 2p.m.

North Collins Public Library – Mike Randall Program, June 18 @ 6 p.m.

North Park Branch (Buffalo) – Cold Blooded Critters w/Beaver Meadow, July 16 @ 5pm

Orchard Park Public Library – Touch Tank w/Aquarium of Niagara, July 30 @ 2 p.m.

Anna Reinstein Memorial Library (Cheektowaga) – Buffalo Zoomobile, July 18 @ 2pm

Julia Boyer Reinstein (Cheektowaga) – Mike Randall & Friends, July 9 @ 2 p.m.

Riverside Branch (Buffalo) – Defiant Monkey Show, July 12 @ 1 p.m.

City of Tonawanda Public Library – The Wondermakers, June 30 @ 6:30 p.m.

West Seneca Public Library – Cold Blooded Critters w/Beaver Meadow, July 29 @ 6:30pm

Williamsville Branch (Amherst) – Science in a Bottle, July 7 @ 10:30 p.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. **Friend the Library on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Flickr .**

Tags:

[Summer Reading 2014](#)

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