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Wed, 06/10/2015 - 1:13pm — testaj

EVERY HERO HAS A STORY! SUMMER READING 2015 @ BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES



For Immediate Release: June 10, 2015

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Summertime is a fun time for readers of all ages! That is the message from the 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries. Summer Reading 2015 programs, activities, games, and incentives to read were announced during the Library System's annual Summer Reading kickoff at the downtown Central Library. Forty students from Buffalo's Bennett Park Montessori School were in attendance and were entertained by The Hill Brothers.

Last summer, nearly 10,000 local young people participated in the Library System's free Summer Reading initiatives, reading 10,941 books and totaling over 1 million minutes of reading! On the state level, 1.9 million children participated in their local library's Summer Reading programs.

"We want you to discover the joy of reading," said Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "Study after study shows that summer reading programs raise students' learning levels and help children, teens and young adults retain and enhance their reading skills – meaning they are better prepared for school each fall. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries offer dozens of free family programs and entertaining activities to encourage reading."

Highlights of this year's "Every Hero Has A Story" Initiative include:

- **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 Online 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 7 inch tablet Reader. The adult reading challenge is themed "Escape the Ordinary." The teen challenge is called "Unmask" and the early literacy children's initiative falls under the "Every Hero Has A Story" program. Summer camps can participate as well.
- **Library Night at the Races -** For the third year, *Library Night at the Races* takes place at Holland Speedway. Saturday, August 22 is the big night. 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 5. Last year, 669 young readers participated, eliminating \$ 4,923. in library fines.

• **Battle of the Books** – All readers are winners in the annual Battle of the Books on Saturday, August 1 in the Gymnasium of Erie Community College – South Campus. This popular summertime team trivia competition is for youth entering grades six through nine. Currently there are 32 teams with a total of 225 participants. 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! For the second consecutive year, in 2014, Clarence Public Library took the gold medal competing against 29 local library teams in a fast-paced lightning round before 500+ fans.

• **Canalside** - Every Tuesday through September 1, the Library will be at **Buffalo's Canalside** for "Every Hero Has A Story" super storytelling and craft programs from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This year we are located in the Buffalo News Reading Center at Washington and Scott Streets.

- **Reading Journal from Barnes & Noble** – Young readers who finish eight books and log their efforts on the Reading Journal receive a free book from a local Barnes & Noble store.

The Library will also be at **Larkin Square** this summer on three Food Truck/Community Day Tuesdays - June 23, July 21 and September 8 from 5 – 8 p.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 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org. You can follow the Library on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [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 the Hill Brothers courtesy of Young Audiences of WNY; Rich Products, National Fuel, The Buffalo News, WGRZ TV 2, WBEN Radio, WKSE Radio and Holland Speedway.

For a Summer Reading overview at New York Libraries and additional information for educators, parents, and caregivers, go to <http://www.summerreadingnys.org/>.

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

Alden Ewell Free Library – Read Like A Hero with Mike Randall, July 23 @ 6:30 p.m.

Angola Public Library – The Wondermakers, June 26 @ 6 p.m.

Audubon Library (Amherst) – Buffalo Zoo Wildlife Heroes, **July 15 @ 6 p.m.**

Aurora Town Public Library – Traveling Touch Tank, June 26 @ 2:30 p.m.

Boston Free Library – Charlie & Checkers, Every Hero Has A Story, July 20 @ 6:30 p.m.

Central Downtown Library (Buffalo)– Summer Reading Celebration, June 13 @ 2 p.m.

Clarence Public Library – K-9 Demonstration & Summer Kickoff, June 25 @ 6 p.m.

Clearfield Branch (Amherst) – Super Hero Summer Fun, all summer long

Collins Public Library – Music with Creekbend Bluegrass Band, June 19 @ 7 p.m.

Concord Public Library – Defiant Monkey, Superpowers: Activate!, June 29 @ 1 p.m.

Crane Branch (Buffalo) – Heroes in Folk Song with Nan Hoffman, July 30 @ 2 p.m.

Dudley Branch (Buffalo) – Science Heroes, June 25 @ 6 p.m.

East Clinton Branch (Buffalo) – Fun Summer Activities, All Summer Long

East Delavan Branch (Buffalo) – Super Hero Scavenger Hunt, July 13 @ All Day

Eden Library- The Wondermakers, July 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

Eggertsville–Snyder Branch (Amherst) – Earth Heroes, July 13 @ 6 p.m.

Elma Public Library – Science Hero Magnet Fun, July 22 @ 6:30 p.m.

Grand Island Memorial Library – Omni Puppet Theatre, July 29 @ 2 p.m.

Hamburg Library – Super Animals, July 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

Kenilworth Branch (Tonawanda) – Gravitational Bull, August 18 @ 3:30 p.m.

Kenmore Branch (Tonawanda) – In Jest, August 4 @ 1 p.m.

Lackawanna Public Library – Creepy Crawly Creativity, June 20 @ 1 p.m.

Lake Shore Branch (Hamburg) – Zoomobile, June 23 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lancaster Public Library – Niagara University Repertory Theatre, Aug. 18 @ 2:30 p.m.

Marilla Free Library – Paul Antonio Magic & Variety Act, July 22 @ 1 p.m.

Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library (Buffalo) – Craft Night with Miss Becky, Aug. 5 @ 6 p.m.

Newstead Public Library – Heroes in the Sky planetarium visit, July 6 @ 2 p.m.

Niagara Branch (Buffalo) – Pet Show, August 11 @ 6 p.m.

North Collins Public Library – Create A Mini Book, June 22 @ 6:30 p.m.

North Park Branch (Buffalo) – Make Your Own Cape, July 29 @ 6 p.m.

Orchard Park Public Library – The Bubbleman, August 14 @ 1 p.m.

Anna Reinstein Memorial Library (Cheektowaga) – Buffalo Museum of Science Digging Dinosaurs,
July 7 @ 2 p.m.

Julia Boyer Reinstein Library (Cheektowaga) – African Safari, August 14 @ 2 p.m.

Riverside Branch (Buffalo) – Superhero Training Camp, June 27 @ 1 p.m.

City of Tonawanda Public Library – Super Animals, July 9 @ 1 p.m.

West Seneca Public Library – Marvel Us Wednesdays, June 17 @ 5 p.m.

Williamsville Branch (Amherst) – Summer Fun!

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

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 .**

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