

Kids: Tune In @ Your Library

Summertime Reading is as Critical as School-Year Reading

The Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) is encouraging all children this summer to participate in the New York State Library's statewide summer reading program, "Tune In @ Your Library," which focuses on kids' love of music. Summer programs, created especially for kids by youth services librarians, include "Shake, Rattle and Read" for tots, to "Bring in da Noise" musical scavenger hunts for the K-5 group, to "American Library Idol" for the tweens and teens. In promoting reading as a leisure activity, the Ramapo Catskill Library System invites kids to come to the library, make friends, have fun – and read.

Libraries play a critical role in maintaining reading levels over the summer, which research shows is as important as the structured reading curriculum during the academic year. Children who participate in library summer reading programs return to school in the fall ready to learn at grade level. In 2004, New York State libraries served over 1 million children of all ages who signed-up at their local neighborhood libraries, a 26% increase over the past two years.

The Ramapo Catskill Library System encourages youngsters and parents to sign up for the 2005 summer reading program, "Tune In @ Your Library" at their local library. According to educational research, if children select their own reading materials, this positive experience leads to more time spent reading and improved reading ability.


But with so many choices out there, how does a child know where to start? "Librarians are trained to direct kids to books and other reading materials that best suit their personality, interests, and imagination," says Randall Enos, RCLS Youth Services Consultant. "As parents structure their kids' summertime activities, they should remember to put reading into the mix. Once children discover the fun of reading for pleasure, they can't be stopped," says Enos. School achievement research confirms there is a positive relationship between the amount of time a child spends reading and an improved reading level in school.

Libraries throughout the Ramapo Catskill Library System will be hosting special programs featuring stories, crafts, and songs for all age groups. Additional special workshops include musical performances, Chinese cooking classes, magic acts, puppet shows, interactive storytelling, game nights, and sidewalk chalk activities.

"Summertime at public libraries opens up a whole new social world for kids," says Anne Simon, the New York State Library's Youth Services Consultant, "and, while they're here, we also get them to try a book or two."

Supplementing the onsite local library programs, a summer reading website at www.summerreadingnys.org, provides additional activities, age-appropriate booklists, and tips for parents to encourage summer reading. To access local library information, visit www.rcls.org.

Children participating in the summer reading programs at their local libraries are eligible to win books contributed by publisher Scholastic Inc., which provided additional support with a donation of children's books for distribution at local libraries.

Registration dates vary throughout local communities. For more information, visit or call your local library. Remember, the library is the place to celebrate reading this summer. 



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