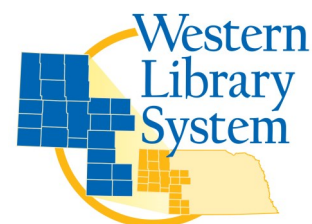


THE WESTERN SUN



Supporting libraries serving our communities

September-October, 2023
Summer Reading Supplement

All Together Now Sharing our Summer Reading Program Stories

Enjoy these stories from our libraries!



Alliance Learning Commons, Cynthia Horn



Library Page Simmi helped Cynthia with the Youth Book Club program. Cynthia reports that "these lovely ladies had a great time solving the Galactic Space race in less than forty minutes." The library checked out the breakout boxes from the Western Library System.



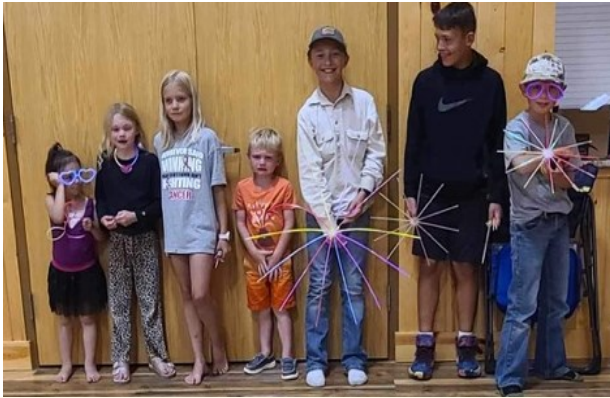
Clipart used in this supplement are Trademarks of the Collaborative Summer Learning Program.



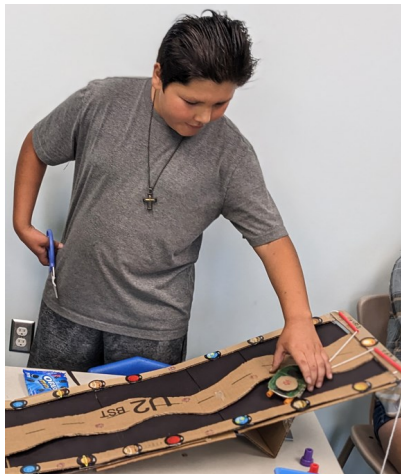
Arthur County Library, Karen Hanna

Karen reported that "our summer reading program wrapped up the end of June and we had our final party on July 14th!" The Arthur County Library's summer reading program took place during the month of June for all children through 6th grade. Since our library is partially self service, we tallied our checkouts when the books returned and put stickers on a chart so the participants could see their progress. Some of the children really got into the spirit of competition and our two top readers, Thea and Tobias Wilkes, each read 60 books! To celebrate we planned to host a movie night in the park for anyone in our community, but alas, a rainstorm forced us to move inside to the community building. Still, a fun time was had with prizes awarded, glow sticks to craft with and the movie, Puss & Boots, complete with popcorn, ice cream and juice boxes."





Bridgeport Public Library, Melissa Butler



Bridgeport Public Library staff enjoyed all our different Summer Reading groups, but we are most excited by the success of our 4th through 8th grade program this year. Thanks to some very fun cardboard specific tools we were able to use cardboard boxes and other found objects to make real working arcade games. The purchase of these tools was only possible through the Western Library System Grant and generous community donations, as we still wanted to purchase Reading Is Fundamental books for all participants this year. Thankfully, we were able to do both! These pictures are some of our participants in the process of building as well as some completed ones.



Selected Phrases, Slogans, Terms and Statements contributed by Deb Carlson, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library:

- * Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud!
- * We're over the rainbow for reading!
- * Books to take you Over the Rainbow!
- * Scatter Seeds of Kindness (tie in to seeds or plants)
- * We are each unique & beautiful but together we're a masterpiece!
- * Names for our summer readers: *Book Buddies, Caring Kids, Kind Kids, Fantastic Friends, Rainbow Readers*



Cravath Memorial Library, Julie Rasmussen

Cravath Memorial Library recently wrapped up their most successful Summer Reading Program thus far! Jeff Quinn and Your Magic Show kicked off this year's SPR. Sixty-eight adults and children were entertained by Jeff's magic and humor. We thoroughly enjoyed the fun afternoon.

Forty-five participants in the Summer Reading Program was a new record for us. Although not all participants were able to attend every session, such a large number contributed greatly to the organized pandemonium! Activities highlighted working together, community and kindness.

Groups rotated through three stations; Crafts with Miss Megan, Reading Corner with Miss Erika and STEAM with Nana Julie. We made origami, friendship bracelets and kindness flowers. We painted, danced, sang songs, tested our memory, got really messy with magic mud and read books, of course!

The final session of the Summer Reading program was highlighted by a visit from Jared Fernau and his amazing balloon creations, prizes and snacks. We had a marvellous time working "All Together Now!"



Memory Game



Craft Table



Jared Fernau and his amazing balloon creations



Reading Corner



Gering Public Library, Kira Perez

Thank you, Western Library System, for supporting our 2023 summer reading program! With your support, we were able to buy supplies for our teens' Bad Art Night, flower pots for our elementary group, and sensory bottle supplies for our Feelings Story Time & Yoga.





Gordon City Library, Rachael Price

"Kids, Kindergarten through 6th grade, let their imaginations soar this year at the Gordon City Library. "The Flight of the Bookworm" was the theme created and brought to life by Library staff, particularly Assistant Librarian Amy Gantz. It was fun to hang replica airplanes and "float" a hot air balloon from the light fixtures as part of the decorations and each day a different mode of flight was explored. Day one we learned about airplanes, painting and assembling wooden models and folding multiple styles of brightly colored paper airplanes. When helicopters were the subject, the kids decorated and assembled two different styles of helicopter, one of which was powered by rubber bands. The Gordon Memorial Hospital donated helium for assembling hot air balloons and kids learned about different gasses, how temperature affects gasses, etc. Some problem-solving was involved, attaching Dixie cups and trying get the "hot air balloons" to fly.)



The competitive spirit was strong when the kids decorated and assembled rockets and everyone went outside to hold an impromptu contest to see whose rocket would launch the highest. Each day had accompanying books read aloud (as well as additional titles available for checkout take home prizes, and snacks donated by the local grocery stores.” Rachael acknowledged the Western Library System for their contribution.



Grant County Library, Jennifer Holthus

The Grant County Library held their summer reading program throughout the entire summer this year. A kick-off party was held on June 1st with Magician Jeff Quinn. The children enjoyed the show and then had refreshments afterwards.

Craft days were held on June 21st and July 19th. On June 21st, the children learned about being kind to everything around us. We painted bird houses, either for their own yards or as a gift for a special person. Painting is always an exciting and enjoyable craft with our children! On July 19th, we made friendship bracelets. The children could either braid embroidery cord or use beads.

Children were allowed to turn in minutes up until August 2nd to be eligible for prizes. We had a generous patron donate a Samsung tablet, so we were able to do "Titles for Tickets" again this year. For every title the children turn in that they have read, they get a ticket to go into a drawing for the tablet. Chapter book readers get a ticket for every chapter. We have done this the past 3 years and the children get very excited about the chance to win!

Thank you to the Western Library System for the extra \$100, as we were able to purchase more craft supplies





Hemingford Public Library, Colleen Garner



Colleen reported that summer reading participants “learned about reducing, reusing and recycling trash. We’re all together on this planet and it’s everyone’s responsibility to keep it clean. Keep Alliance Beautiful hosted our program and brought many new ideas in how we can each make a difference.”



More phrases, slogans, terms and statements from Deb

- * TEAM—Together Everybody Achieves More
- * SPRINKLE kindness everywhere (use with confetti, sprinkles, watering can)
- * It’s Cool to be Kind
- * Kindness Counts
- * Sharing is Caring

Hooker County Library, Julie Pfeiffer

Julie Pfeiffer reports that with swimming lessons and bible camps the library chose an early date and have one program. The children are encouraged to read books to collect prizes for the rest of the summer. This year was a great success! We read the book Hom by Jeanne Willis, played some outdoor games that promoted team building, ate snacks while watching a movie (well at least part of a movie) and then built our frogs. These turned out so cute and the grant money from our library system helped make it possible.



Kimball Public Library, Amber Sweetland

Summer Reading in Kimball: Another busy year

Summer reading in Kimball is like everywhere else, trying our best to entertain the community while trying like crazy to keep kids reading. Keeping the ideas for the programs fresh and new is always challenging but thanks to the wonders of Pinterest, Facebook, and Instagram we have a constant stream of ideas that we can use, borrow, and change to make them work for us. This summer we wanted to try something a little different for our adult summer reading challenge. For the last couple of summers, we did a bingo reading challenge, but we felt that it was a little worn out. With that in mind Cheryl Paul, our assistant director, started to research new ideas. Bookopoly is the challenge that we choose. This fun variation of the classic game Monopoly was a fun way to challenge our patrons to new and exciting books. Cheryl and Davina took the base idea and created a new board that included community chest, chance, and railroad options. These spaces gave the patron a chance to pick out something from the staff picks (community chest) and wrapped unknown title books (chance). Each time a patron would complete a monopoly they could enter their name into a drawing for gift card prizes. At the end of July, the grand prize was a handmade Home Sweet Home sign made by Cheryl Paul's husband. It's always nice when we can use the spouse resource for benefit. Our grand prize winner is a regular and she was overjoyed by the prize. This new challenge was a huge success and our patrons loved it. We even had some teens join in on the fun.



Wyndee Green contributed this article for the Lyman Public Library. “We had a great turn out for the Summer Reading Program at our little library this year. I think the kids had the most fun with painting birdhouses, rock painting and cookie decorating.”



More phrases, slogans, terms and statements from Deb

- * Together we're stronger
- * Get it Together at the Library
- * All are welcome

Minatare Public Library, Caryle Covalt

Eight readers participated in the Minatare Public Library Summer Reading. Participants won a prize for reading a book, choosing a question about the book and answering the question. Questions included:

“Who is your favorite character in the book?”

“Which character is most like you?”

“What is your favorite part of the book?”

“If you were writing this book, how would you change the ending?”

Prizes included: Squishy and Squirty animals, Dr. Seuss markers and Dr. Seuss book marks.

The reader who read the most books during the month of July was Parker. Parker read 23 books including all the Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Dogman and I survived books the library owned. Parker won \$50.00 in Roblox cards.



Palisade Public Library, Stephanie Malcolm

What a fun theme to bring us "All Together Now"!

We focused on giving to others with all our crafts and activities. From friendship bracelets to mail-a-hugs and "chalking the block" we discussed being kind to self, others, our places, and animals.

We worked with a granddaughter of a patron who teaches American Sign Language (ASL) to learn the signs for the Beatles song, "All Together Now" and performed it for our town celebration, Pioneer Days, in the parade and won \$30 for 1st place in the Youth Division. She sent us videos and we were able to post them to our library YouTube page.

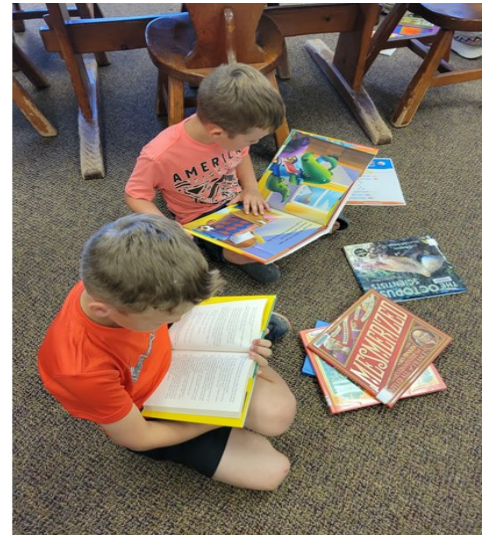
We formed a local "Fantastic Bureau of Imagination" (F.B.I.) after reading Brad Montague's book by the same name. What a wonderful book! We also were able to promote our 100 new books with Book Scavenger Hunts, as well as, our newly genrefied Childrens' collection. Young patrons are now able to find books by their interests and can re-shelve the books with ease due to the pictures and color-coded labels.

With our Kick-Off Party on May 31st and June attendance, we served a total of 63 participants, including many parents who attended with their "Wee Readers".

We had no takers for the Adult Summer Reading Program and few for the Teen Program, as par for the course lately.

Our locally-funded Summer Intern helped recruit a few teens, but was extremely helpful with the entirety of the Summer Reading Program.

We are ever grateful for the funds from the WLS for our Summer Reading Programming. A little bit goes a long way in our small, rural library. Thanks a million and we are so glad to be "all together now" within such a supportive library system!



Book Scavenger Hunt in our newly genrifed Childrens' Collection



Our F.B.I. Badges...



Practicing "All Together Now" in ASL with Gabrielle



Walking in the Pioneer Days Parade—1st Place winners in the Youth Division

One more Deb phrase:



Discovering How Kindness Rocks!

The Potter Public Library held their summer reading program throughout the month of June. Children from Pre-K to 3rd grade listened to stories, answered questions, played games, and worked on projects to share with others, all based on the theme of “kindness”. Books read during the month were:

- ◇ *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* By Carol McCloud
- ◇ *Creating Kindness* by Rebecca Greene,
- ◇ *Up and Adam* by Debbie Zapata
- ◇ *Arnold the Super-ish Hero* by Heather Tekavec and Guillaume Perreault,

Along with others available for check-out. Students will continue reading throughout the summer as they complete their reading bingo sheets and kindness sheets, preparing them to be ready for school in the fall!



Teen helpers make the learning fun!



A child actor portraying Arnold, the Super-ish Hero



Kindness rocks were placed in the Reading Garden.



Children preparing paper hugs.

This year's theme of kindness found the kids moving their hedgehogs through a wooded area as they read books and learned facts about Hedgehogs! Each week the kids would listen to a story with a kindness lesson and then take part in cooperation and showing kindness activities. Then they would make a snack such as Hedgehog donut holes and Friendship Trail Mix.

The kids did a community project by making Kindness Cards and delivering them with a gift of kindness. The cards were then signed and passed throughout the community and then ended up back at the library!

Games were enjoyed each day after the Storytime. The games included cooperation skills, kindness and gratitude sharing and much silliness and fun. Included were Kind Charades, Gratitude Dice, Cup Stack, Drop and Pop, Hula Hoop fingertip, Cross the River, and a variety of water cooperation games to end the week.

By the end of the month the kids had many opportunities to learn how to show and accept kindness, empathy and gratitude, making them all more compassionate people!

Our Library also gives out money coupons and prizes for the reading accomplishments earned. But of more importance is the time "ALL TOGETHER NOW" that was spent at the Stratton Public Library.

