
SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

YOUTH NEWS

FALL 2003

SUMMER READING AT THE WESTVILLE LIBRARY

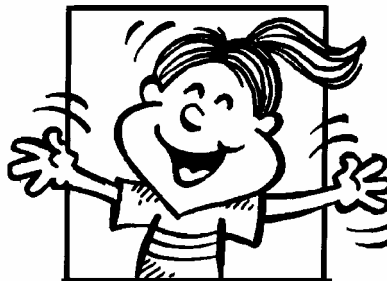
The sights and sounds of approaching autumn are all around us - leaves already falling off the trees, the tumultuous din of the crickets, cicadas, and locusts in the evenings, an occasional crisp night with the smell of a fireplace in the air.

At the library we have our own signals that summer 2003 will soon be a fond memory: students scurrying in and hoping to find a copy of the required reading book they should have started back in July - youngsters, some of whom haven't seen each other since the end of June, catching up and talking about the upcoming year. Then it begins - the new school year - school buses back and forth early morning and late afternoon, the neighborhood crossing guards at their corners, parents dropping off and picking up their little dears - was it just a few weeks ago they were all stopping by the library for a good beach read, a movie to watch that evening, an audiobook for the kids to enjoy while on a car trip, checking out lots of books for pleasure reading with the children in the long summer evenings, etc., etc.

Yes, summer is a special time and the staff at the Westville Library worked hard to keep the spirit of summer alive in all the youngsters who took advantage of and enjoyed our Read and Grow 2003 Summer Program. Starting in July and ending the second week of August, we devoted Wednesday morning (preschool to 5 yrs.) and Wednesday afternoon (6-8 yrs.) to our storyhour children. As we all know, it is a lot of preparation and work, but the results are certainly worth every minute. With all day kindergarten and 4 year old preschool classes at our elementary school, we sometimes only have the summer to acquaint these children with storyhours filled with good books, fun crafts, socializing with other kids, and everything the library has to offer.

From sunflower seed mosaics to popsicle stick trinket boxes, the children were busy using their hands and imaginations to create their personal masterpieces with loads of laughs and learning along the way, not to mention a little friendly competition (some of those trinket boxes got so tall they could

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Guest Editor:
Gwen Carotenuto,
Westville Library

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Many thanks to our guest editor, Gwen Carotenuto, director of the Westville Library for compiling the articles in this edition.

If anyone has upcoming meeting notices, please contact Peter Bromberg at the Region (bromberg@sjrlc.org) or 856-346-1222 - Peter will post the notices on the Region's listserv.

Ann Wodarczyk and
Denise Saia, Co-editors

TEEN VOLUNTEERS AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Woodbury Public Library has a long history of using pre-teen and teen volunteers to help with the summer programs for young children.

This library's summer program runs for 6 weeks and culminates with a picnic at a local park. Our children's librarian, Roxanne Long, creates a unique theme and builds programs filled with stories, games, crafts and music around her weekly activities. The library averages 150 children a week who attend these programs on Wednesdays along with a special program for 30 more children from the recreation department on Thursdays. This is a lot of activity for one part time children's librarian and her helper so Roxanne recruits about 15-20 preteen and teen children (ages 11-15) to help with this program. This group of helpers meets every Tuesday to plan the activities for the week and prepare crafts and snacks. The result of this group of helpers is that an older group of children work cohesively to help the library and end up reading stories, listening and playing games with smaller members of the community. Many of these teens were participants in the summer programs years ago and it also gives new teens in the community a place to come in the summer to meet new friends. As these teen helpers grow older they have used their volunteer experience at the library to help them qualify for National Honor Society and given them the confidence to join other groups in high school.

Like every other library, the Woodbury Public Library's goal is to reach out to as many children as possible during the summer break. Using teen volunteers is an easy, affordable way to offer library resources to all ages of children in the summertime.

Jean Wipf, Woodbury Public Library,
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READ AND GROW AT YOUR LIBRARY

Another summer program has come and gone. It seems that the Summer Reading Workshop in March was just yesterday! Now it is time to breathe that annual sigh of relief and start thinking of next year's program. I don't know if it is just me, but the summer program always seems more intense than the many other programs we provide through the year. Perhaps it is just because we service more children who don't have the opportunity to attend our other functions and I feel I must sell the library to a new group of potential attendees. Or maybe I am just a middle-aged, paranoid – sorry, I digress.

We started Read and Grow in May with a class for teenagers and adults on decorating terra-cotta pots. Decoupage, painting, and gluing items such as buttons and string on pots were a few of the easy to make projects. There are also a few more preschool and elementary school teachers in Collingswood that now have large pots decorated with their student's hand prints. That was an idea that took on a life of its own and has replaced the hand print tote bag and tee shirt.

We had two, four week storytime groups, which met once a week: one for 3 and 4 year olds, and one for 5 to 7 year olds. In the younger group we had stories, fingerplays, a snack, free play, and each child was given a theme-related craft package to make at home. This group averaged fifteen children per week. The older group was slightly larger, averaging 25 per week. Our crafts were more elaborate for this group and were completed at the library. The favorite craft was the balancing butterfly. This was a symmetrical butterfly weighted on each wing with a penny, which could be balanced on a wooden dowel. Both groups enjoyed a puppet show about a caterpillar that thought he was a moustache. We also watched real caterpillars turn into butterflies.

Our last session for the groups were storybook parties where children dressed as a character from a book. Naturally, the kids were just adorable. We decorated cupcakes and had a Rainbow Fish piñata. Always trying to make our program dollars stretch, we decided to make the piñatas ourselves. We have made a mental note not to try this again anytime soon. Yes, we forgot how long it took and how messy papier-mache was. Making them industrial strength by mistake, the fish refused to be broken by bat wielding youngsters and had to be torn apart. We completely shelved the piñata activity for the preschool set. Each child was allowed to choose a paperback book to take home that had come from our free give-away at the workshop.

For the second summer a three part improvisational movement program was offered free of charge by local dance/movement therapist, Fern Love. One course was for children ages 7 to 12 and another for adults. This popular program will continue in the fall.

Our reading program is somewhat different than in most libraries. Our school district has a comprehensive summer reading list developed by both public and school librarians for elementary schools, and by the English Department for middle and high school. Although our library provides the books to be read, the lists and assignments are turned into the teachers on the first day of school. We know that a great number of books have been read (by the ache in our knees from shelving) but do not have specific statistics.

Dorothy Garabedian
Collingswood Free Public Library
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pass for small wastepaper baskets - it became a race for who could build the fastest and tallest). Well, it is all about growing, yes?

We enjoyed planting grass seed in cups to create our green haired people. The fun really started the next week when the kids brought their cups back with the green grass sprouting way over the tops of the cups. They were proud of themselves for remembering to water and watch over their green haired guys and girls and more than one parent wished their lawns looked as green and lush! I also made one and am still tending it carefully: it even went on vacation with me so I could keep it going - move over, Flat Stanley!

One of our most memorable and hilarious crafts was our pipe cleaner people. This idea came from [Family Fun Magazine](#) and was easy enough for our preschoolers to tackle. The older the child, the more elaborate and imaginative the craft became. The basic instruction called for only four pipe cleaners to make the body, then different colors could be wrapped around for clothing. We used wiggle eyes, doll hair, jewels and beads, glued small wood cutouts on the hands, feet, heads of our creations to form angels, surfer dudes, skateboarders, Martians, sword-bearing pirates, the Incredible Hulk, and a few young lady types carrying their handbags, walking their puppies, reading a book and so on. We used thin rounded sticks to attach to backs of our creations to make them puppets. Creativity and individuality ruled that day!

These are some highlights of our storyhour crafting experience. Of course, we read some good books too. Participating in the Book Evaluation Program has enabled me to review many children's books and I have gotten quite a few titles to add to my purchasing wish list along with some great books I picked at the May Book Evaluation Giveaway. To name a few: [The Wild Boy](#) by Mordicai Gerstein had the children fascinated listening to the story about a young boy named Vincent who grew up alone and lived like a wild animal in the forests of France until he was captured and studied by doctors in Paris. Another was [I Crocodile](#) by Fred Marcellino about a loveable crocodile living the perfect life in Egypt until Napoleon sees him and decides he absolutely must have a crocodile to take home with him. We also enjoyed [Raising Dragons](#) by Jerdine Nolen, a story about a little girl and the dragon she raises from infancy. [On the Town: A Community Adventure](#) by Judith Caseley told of a young boy named Charlie who, along with his mother, went all around the neighborhood doing errands so he could keep a notebook about all the people and places in his community. The older children really enjoyed the offbeat [Monster Goose](#) by Judy Sierra, which delivered the hoots and laughs that this irreverent play on Mother Goose intended.

Our last storyhour session consisted of each child making a scrapbook with photos I took of them during the previous weeks' storyhours. Everyone enjoyed the build your own ice cream sundae party as a finale. Wow, no wonder the summer seems to have flown by - so many plans, lots of good books, too little time...we will be waiting anxiously for next summer to do it all again!

Mary A. Ward,
Westville Public Library
856-456-0357

READING ROAD TRIP AT WENONAH LIBRARY

In our little town, many people are fortunate enough to have wonderful summer vacations. Some go to the beach, some to their relatives' homes in other states and some even go to other countries. For those children who stayed in Wenonah during the month of July, the Wenonah Public Library's Reading Road Trip provided travel adventures all their own.

Our four week program featured a week of City Sights, one of Camping Fun, one of Wild West Adventures, and Beach Week. Each of two age groups were offered stories and activities that highlighted the theme of the week.

During their trip to the city, children heard Taxi by Betsy and Giulio Maestro and stenciled and applied stickers to a mural of a city that was displayed throughout the program. During camping week, there was an evening session when kids brought their sleeping bags and snuggled around a make-believe campfire to hear A Camping Spree with Mr. McGee by Chris Van Dusen. They heard stories about bugs and did some stargazing. During Wild West week, the children decorated their own canvas book bags while listening to tales of wagon train and cowboy adventures, like Tulip Sees America by Cynthia Rylant. The last week of our program featured beach stories, such as George's Store at the Shore by Francine Bassede, sand art and a candle craft.

The program culminated with a guest storyteller, Mr. Malcolm of Twilight Productions, who told several interactive stories, among them the Wizard of Oz, the ultimate trip story.

During the month, there were four stations set up in the children's section of our library that displayed toys, puzzles, and activity sheets for each theme. In addition, a reading challenge was offered throughout the month. Any child, who participated in our Reading Club and was able to read a minimum of two age appropriate books per week, was awarded a certificate and a free book at the closing event. Posters were displayed throughout the month tallying the children's progress. Most of those who participated far exceeded the minimum reading requirement.

The summer program provided an opportunity for as many as sixty young readers to maintain their reading skills over summer break from school and hopefully instilled the idea that reading is fun.

Anne Zuber,
Wenonah Free Public Library
856-468-6323

YOUNG ADULT SECTION AT THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

On September 23, the Franklin Township Library celebrated its one year anniversary in the newly constructed community center. The new library is approximately three times the size of the old. While our former building holds many fond memories, the additional space at our new location allows us to further develop our collection.

One area that has recently received some attention is Young Adult fiction. Formerly consisting of just four shelves, the collection has been expanded and now occupies a small corner of the library where teens can browse the latest fiction and magazines at their leisure. Located close to the circulation desk but far enough away to afford teens some privacy, the area boasts colorful posters and modern seating, creating a fun, youthful environment. With additional display space available, I am able to highlight recent additions to the collection, such as music CDs and graphic novels, which have been well received by patrons of all ages. I am also planning to offer more programs for young adults and am currently organizing a College Night for parents and teens.

As a library intern, the opportunity to develop the Young Adult collection, plan programs, and organize a separate area of the library for teens to enjoy has been a truly invaluable learning experience for me and one for which I am deeply grateful.

Deborah Swierk
Franklin Township Library, Franklinville
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WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER...AT CAMP MCCOWAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fall already? Now I know what they mean when they say, "Time really flies when you are having fun!" The seeds were planted, so to speak, on June 9, when we kicked off our Summer Reading Program Read and Grow @ Your Library. All we needed was some water and sunshine, and we got plenty of it this summer! Our little seedlings were nurtured with lots of arts and crafts and fun summer activities. Some crafts included making your own grassman, garden mobiles, seed mosaics, veggie and fruit paintings, and flowerpot wind chimes. We even made planters from old shoes – if the shoe fits, plant a flower in it! Beginning scrapbooking was a big hit too, preserving memories from birth to present. Kids really do grow like weeds.

Performers were plentiful – Mr. Malcolm presented Jack and the Beanstalk; Laura Kaighn presented Stories to Grow By, and Mothman John Laskowski exhibited live specimens from caterpillars to butterflies. He even brought four beetles with him – John, Paul, George, and, well you know!

Our summer program was in full bloom through August with Candy Bar Bingo, and finally a very successful Library Carnival. There was lots of fun sprouting up all over the place.

Now in October, we are harvesting the benefits of a successful summer program. Thanks to the NJLA for coming up with a wonderful statewide reading program. A great theme and so many great ideas! Can't wait to see what is in store for 2004!

Patti Forte, Children's Services Coordinator
McCowan Memorial Library, Pitman 08071
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SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE CAMDEN CITY LIBRARY

This year, the NJLA decided to implement a statewide summer reading program, Read and Grow @ Your Library. The idea of growth was open to personal interpretation: growing plants, the growth of cities, growth of people and animals.

I chose to concentrate on growing plants and animals because I felt it lent itself to more interesting stories and related themes. Plus, in my opinion, small children can relate more easily to plants and animals than urban growth.

My programs were held three mornings a week from 10-11. Most of the children who attended were from daycare centers. The YMCA, BPUM, Respond, CUI, and Head Start centers were the most active participants with attendance averaging 62 people per session.

I tried whenever possible to tie the stories, crafts, and coloring sheets together. Sometimes the cohesiveness was not as tight as I would have wished, but I always stuck to the ideas of growing living things.

These were some of my most successful programs:

My first program (which included a visit from the Courier Post's Spot the Dog) was about planting seeds. I read The Flower Garden by Eve Bunting, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss, and Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert. Movement and music activities included Ring around the Rosy and dancing and playing rhythm instruments to Raffi's song Everything Grows. We played a parachute game to the song He's Got the Whole World in His Hands, and made Earth Day crowns, to celebrate nature in general.

Another program concentrated on marine life. I read Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid and Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee by Chris Van Dusen. We sang and played instruments to Under the Sea from

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Disney's movie version of the Little Mermaid and learned a fingerplay called the Little Turtle.

A third program was all about frogs. I read, and the children participated in, a noisy rendition of The Cool of the Pool by Tony Mitton. This was, coincidentally, a reading suggestion from Deanna McGreevey. I also read Jump Frog Jump by Robert Kalan, and a wonderful pop-up book called The Wide-Mouthed Frog by Keith Faulkner.

It was not always possible to find age appropriate stories, songs, fingerplays, and crafts that all tied together, so some days I read books about animals or plants in general. One day we read about farmyard fowl – Petunia Beware! by Roger Duvousin, The Scarecrow's Hat by William Brown and the Little Red Hen (using stick puppets and volunteers). I taught the children a fingerplay called Five Little Kittens, did an action rhyme called Kitty Cat, Kitty Cat Turn Around. We sang Old MacDonald's Farm using a stuffed toy that I have and we played a parachute game to the song Hakuna Matata from the Lion King. Another day I read a story about Anansi the Spider, one about the true story of the Three Little Pigs, and a poem about George Washington's cows. That day we made Anansi the Spider stick puppets. One day we read about the Ugly Duckling and pigs in a pond, and the Three Billy Goats Gruff.

During one of my favorite programs, I read books about bugs including Old Black Fly, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, A Fly Went By, and How to Hide a Butterfly. We did fingerplays and had a parade using the rhythm instruments in time to Raffi's Everything Grows.

Another of my favorites involved stories about cows. I read Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin and after discussing the importance of being bilingual, we learned How To Speak Moo also by Doreen Cronin. I read about a new super hero, Super Moo by Babette Cole, and conducted a cacophony of animal noises with Barnyard Banter. Another day we read stories

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about planting including Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert and Tidy Tilda's Pumpkin Pie.

I tried to keep things alive and although not in keeping with the grow and read theme, all of my programs involved really fun things like dancing and singing. All in all, it was a very satisfying and educational month. I am already planning next year's program and I hope to make it even more successful.

Robin Guenther, Children's Librarian
Camden Free Public Library, Camden 08103
856-757-7640

CALENDAR

Book Evaluation – South Jersey Group (Wednesday, 3:30 pm):

Nov. 12 – Wildwood High School Library.

Contact person, Kathy Fulginiti, 609-522-7922x409.

Jan. 14 – Atlantic City Library. Contact person, Connie Swanson, 609-345-2269x3050 (snow date Jan. 21).

Mar. 17– Cape May County Library. Contact person, Judy Jarmer, 609-463-6360 (snow date Mar. 24).

Book Evaluation – West Jersey Group (Friday, 9:30 am):

Nov. 14 – Willingboro Library. Contact person, Jennifer Jacoppo, 609-835-1699.

Jan. 9, – West Deptford Library. Contact person, Diane Kelly, 856-845-5593 (snow date 1-16).

Mar. 12 – Haddon Township High School Library. Contact person, Arlene Baker, 856-869-7793 (snow date Mar. 19).

Nov. 15 thru Nov. 17: EMAnj 25th Fall Conference, Hilton East Brunswick.

May 14 – All Day Joint Book Evaluation and Giveaway, Atlantic County Library, Mays Landing.

South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative

YOUTH NEWS

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YOUTH NEWS is the newsletter of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative Youth Services Committee, Char: Denise Saia, Franklin Township Library, Franklinville. SJRLC Director: Karen D. Hyman. Telephone: (856) 346-1222, FAX: (856) 346-2839. The South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative is part of the New Jersey Library Network and serves the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem. SJRLC is supported from State funds appropriated for the New Jersey Library Network. YOUTH NEWS is published three times a year and is distributed to libraries as part of membership benefits. EDITORS: Ann Wodarczyk, Main Road School, Newfield, NJ and Denise Saia, Franklin Township Library, Franklinville, NJ. Design and layout by Peter Bromberg, Program Development Coordinator, SJRLC, based on a design by the Community Relations Department of the Atlantic County Library System.