

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
Please Contact: Heidi Cramer 973-733-7837

Summer Reading Bug Coming to the Newark Public Library

It's nothing serious; just a summer reading bug that's popping up around New Jersey! Kids will be catching it at the Newark Public Library at a special program June 26 at 10 a.m. that kicks off the Library's Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge. The opening event will include a visit from the Library's mascot Corky, refreshments, and "Bugs and Books," an exciting musical performance by Beth and Scott and Friends.

"All youngsters who hold a Newark Public Library borrower's card are eligible to participate in the program," said Library Director Wilma J. Grey. "It is a great way to keep reading skills up during the summer break from school."

Preschoolers may participate with their parents or caregivers. A special program for teens returns to the Newark Public Library for a second year. The Challenge, which encourages participants to read at least five books over the summer, starts on June 23 and runs through August 2, 2008.

The Prudential Foundation has donated \$15,000 to the Library to promote the six-week summer reading challenge. The New Jersey Statewide Summer Reading Program is cosponsored by the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey State Library.

"Reading opens the door to additional learning opportunities and plays an essential role in the academic success of our schoolchildren allowing them to dream and discover new possibilities," said Gabriella Morris, president of The Prudential Foundation. "Prudential supports a number of education initiatives in Newark and has been a supporter of the Newark Public Library for many years. The Library's Summer Reading Challenge reaches children on many different levels and that's one of the reasons we've supported it for more than a decade."

Younger readers in grades Pre-K through seventh will "Catch the Reading Bug," and focus on the fascinating natural world of bugs and bug characters in picture

books and short stories. Participants may read and report on a maximum of 200 books.

Teens are encouraged to explore themes of change and transformation with the Challenge theme of "Metamorphosis." Students entering the eighth grade and older teens are invited to visit the new nplteenspace.blogspot.com to leave reviews of their summer reads. Teens may read and report on a maximum of 60 books for the Challenge.

"I hope all of our young readers, and all our teenagers too, sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge this year," said Grey. "Everyone who participates in the Challenge is a winner. Learning to love to read is the best prize of all."

Summer Fun Activities are held every day at the Newark Public Library. For a complete schedule, please visit kidsplace.npl.org.

For more information about the Prudential Summer Reading Challenge, please contact the Main Library children's room at 5 Washington Street, at 973-733-7797 or any of the ten community libraries in the city: Branch Brook branch, 235 Clifton Avenue, (973) 733-6388; Clinton branch, 739 Bergen Street, (973) 733-7754; First Avenue branch, 282 First Avenue, (973) 733-8091; Madison branch, 790 Clinton Avenue, (973) 733-8090; North End branch, 722 Summer Avenue, (973) 733-7683; Roseville branch, 99 Fifth Street, (973) 733-7770; Springfield branch, 50 Hayes Street, (973) 733-7736; Vailsburg branch, 75 Alexander Street, (973) 733-7755; Van Buren branch, 140 Van Buren Street, (973) 733-7750; Weequahic branch, 355 Osborne Terrace, (973) 733-7751.