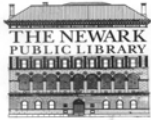


THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Newark's Students Encouraged to Get Their Free Newark Public Library Cards

As Newark's students return to their classes this fall, one of the most essential school supplies they can have is absolutely FREE; a card for the Newark Public Library! The NPL will be issuing cards at both its Main building, 5 Washington Street and at all 10 community branches throughout the city during September in its annual salute to National Library Card Sign Up month.

Easy to fill out forms are available at all libraries, according to Wilma Grey, director of the Library. "The library card opens the door to a world of knowledge, culture, literature, art and learning for people of all ages, from young children to senior citizens," she said, urging children, their parents and extended families to "share the back-to-school experience by signing up."

Having a library card means a lot to sisters, Ouarida and Rania Benatia, who are looking forward to classes at the Mt. Vernon School. Both participated in the Library's Summer Reading Challenge at the Main Library, reading more than 200 books each. They agree that having a library card is important. "I can't choose books without it," says seven-year-old Rania, who is entering second grade this year, is artistic and likes to read books that rhyme and are funny like *Stupid Fairy Tales* and anything by Dr. Seuss.

Her sister, nine-year-old Ouarida, concurs. "It's very important to have a library card because I get to take out all the books I want and I also can be part of the Library." The older girl is making her own book and says she finds that "characters come alive in books." She likes reading about animals and over the summer enjoyed reading *James and the Giant Peach*, *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom* and *Horton Hears a Who*, by Dr. Seuss. Their mother, Hayet says that she and her husband, Sami read to the girls each night and encourage them to explore books.

The Newark Public Library issues cards free of charge to students attending school in Newark, city residents, employees of local businesses, municipal workers, and property owners. For a \$50 fee, the Library will even issue cards to borrowers without a direct connection to Newark.

Children under 14 who apply for a card accompanied by a parent or guardian can get one immediately. Anyone 14 or older must present identification and proof of residency or employment in the city. That proof can be a school identification card, a report card, a driver's license, a utility bill, bank statement or other mail delivered within the last 30 days. Those working for a local business can present a company identification badge, a pay stub or a letter from their employer as proof of employment.

An additional advantage is that cardholders may reserve books using the Library's online catalog at catalog.npl.org and can access many of the Library's databases from home or work at www.npl.org.

For more information please call the Main Library Circulation department at (973) 733-7791 or log on to http://www.npl.org/Pages/AboutLibrary/library_cards.html