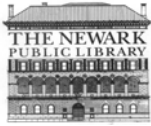


THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Summer Reading Magic Coming to the Newark Public Library

This will be a magical summer at the Newark Public Library for area youth as they “get creative” and “express themselves” with special activities and crafts through the annual Summer Reading Program that starts June 22 and runs through August 1.

To kick off the season’s activities, magician Mark Wurst brings his comedy magic show to the Main Library Tuesday, June 23, at 10 a.m. The show, written to encompass the slogans for this year’s New Jersey Statewide Summer Reading Program, explores the magic of books and encourages children to read.

Cosponsored by the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey State Library, this summer’s program has two themes: *Be Creative @ Your Library!* which is directed at children five through 12, and for teens, *Express Yourself @ Your Library!*

“The Newark Public Library has had a summer reading program for more than 40 years,” said Library Director Wilma J. Grey. “And for more than 15 years, the Library has gratefully accepted a grant from the Prudential Foundation that supports the program.

“All young people who hold a Newark Public Library card are eligible to participate in the program,” Grey said. “It is a great way to keep reading skills up during the summer break from school.”

Crafts range from recycling trash into treasures, to poetry and coloring. Participants will get a chance to write creatively and tell their stories. New components to the summer challenge include blogging and gaming for participating teenagers and a teen film series centered on dance.

“We introduced the gaming component last summer, and found everyone, particularly the boys, enjoyed it very much,” said Michele Cappetta, the Library’s Youth Services Coordinator.

Gaming has a literacy component that fosters a child's desire to read, Cappetta said, explaining that the sport includes video games, use of the Wii system, puzzles and even old-fashioned board games like Scrabble, Monopoly and Bingo.

Participants are encouraged to read as much as possible, with an upward limit of 200 books. Children check out books, read and report on them, either orally or in written form. There's a daily six book limit; written reports can be submitted in the form of a picture, poem, one page report, an art and craft, or artifact.

Award-winning publications such as books receiving the Caldecott, Newbery or Coretta Scott King awards, count as two titles in the young person's reading log, as will titles relating to the summer themes of creativity, expression and the arts. Only titles reported on and accepted by the librarian or designated staff will be entered in the log.

Every child who reads and reports on at least five (5) books will receive a Summer Reading Challenge certificate at the Awards Ceremony on August 15.

"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."

For more information about the Prudential Summer Reading Challenge, please contact the Main Library children's room, 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.

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