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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 14 no. 12 — August 2019



KIDS' EVENTS

Garden Reads with Katie RAH!

Thursday, August 1 at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Story Time with Miss Margaret

Saturday, August 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Teen Advisory Group (TAG)

Wednesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Baby Story Time with Miss Phyllis

Thursday, August 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 22 at 9:30 a.m.

LegoMania!

Saturday, August 10, 1:30 -
3:30 p.m.



Back to School Snow Cone Party!

Saturday, August 17, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Donate school supplies and get a free snow
cone!

Story Time with Katie Rah!

Tuesday, August 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, August 29 at 9:30 a.m.

JR Bulletin Board Club

Wednesday, August 28 at 3:30 p.m.

Bread Making Class (12 - 18 year olds)

Saturday, August 31, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

(REGISTRATION REQUIRED)



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

EBOOK EMBARGOES

In the past few months we have received news of two major publishers who intend to limit, in one way or another, public library access to new eBooks. The Hachette Book Group will make all of their titles available on a metered basis, meaning after two years, libraries must buy the book again if they want to continue circulating it. Changes at MacMillan Publishers are even more constraining, limiting us to buying only one copy of a new title for the first eight weeks it is available—and then metering that title once we do have it. These changes limit our ability to have new titles available for patrons, and erode our buying power, if we have to keep buying popular books to maintain a good collection.

Concerned about such changes, libraries across the country are talking about boycotts of publishers whose sales policies to public libraries are too constricting. But it's hard to see what effect a boycott will have. Pressure is good, but a boycott only further limits what we have available for readers. The libraries of the Municipal Library Consortium have not formally

discussed joining any boycott.

Wondering about these changes, I was investigating the current status of the eBook market. It is not good. Last year saw a 3.9% reduction in sales of eBooks, and the first quarter of this year saw a further 4.5% reduction. Another survey estimated that eBook sales have declined 17% this year so far. What is happening?

There are several theories. One is that it has been so easy and inexpensive to purchase eBooks that many readers have a backlog of unread books on their devices. Another is that people who like to use technology rather than old-fashioned means for reading like to see innovations in those technologies—and there have been no innovations in e-readers lately.

Whatever the reason, it seems that publishers are focusing on restricting libraries and their generous lending models to help solve the problem. We hope it does not impact our offerings too much, and we hope these constraints on our purchasing don't last long.

tcooper@wgpl.org

NEW FACES, NEW JOBS

Webster Groves Public Library has seen more than the usual number of employee changes in the past few months—particularly since we rarely lose full-time employees.

Beginning in May of this year, Julia Peters, our Reference Assistant, resigned to take a position in Fiji (of all places!). She was replaced by Jeraca Fite, who comes to us from the Quincy, Illinois public library. You will see Jeraca (rhymes with 'Erica,' she tells us) mostly on the Lower Level and at the Reference Desk, where she is coordinating the Book-A-Librarian service, test proctoring, archiving of historical documents, and much more.

At the beginning of August, we are also losing Emily Pedersen, who has been our Teen Librarian for several years. Her job duties will be tak-

en over by Caitlin DeRoy. Caitlin is familiar to many of you: she has been with us for several years, but has been working mostly on the Lower Level taking care of interlibrary loans. But due to her keen interest in young adult literature and youth programming, we have chosen to move her to the Children's Room.

Caitlin will be replaced at interlibrary loan by another new hire, Michelle Batterson. Michelle is a native St. Louisan who has been working for a while at Richmond Heights Memorial Library and Kirkwood Public Library, and we are lucky to have someone of her experience coming to work for us.

If you see any of these new employees, or encounter old employees in new places, be sure to say hello and make them feel welcome.

TOP REQUESTS

1. *Where the Crawdads Sing*,
by Delia Owens
2. *The Nickel Boys*,
by Colson Whitehead
3. *Under Currents*,
by Nora Roberts
4. *The Most Fun We Ever Had*,
by Claire Lombardo
5. *City of Girls*,
by Elizabeth Gilbert
6. *The New Girl*,
by Daniel Silva
7. *One Good Deed*,
by David Baldacci
8. *The Silent Patient*,
by Alex Michaelides
9. *Evvie Drake Starts Over*,
by Linda Holmes
10. *Summer of '69*,
by Elin Hilderbrand
11. *Mrs. Everything*,
by Jennifer Weiner
12. *Three Women*,
by Lisa Taddeo

BACK TO SCHOOL SNOW CONE PARTY!

Join us Saturday, August 17 from 1:30 to 3:30 for our Back to School Snow Cone Party!

Donate school supplies (pencils, paper, notebooks, crayons) or \$2.00, and get a free snow cone! All proceeds from the donations go to the Great Circle Academy in Webster Groves. We will also have sidewalk chalk, water squirters, and bubble play (all weather permitting!)

We ended our Summer Reading Program with a bang, with the number of minutes read by participants in the children's program up by 15%!

Children: 361 registered

- * Completed 500 Minutes of Reading: 219
- * Completed 1000 Minutes of Reading: 176
- * Completed 1500 Minutes of Reading: 154
- * Completed 2000 Minutes of Reading: 102

Teen: 71 Registered

- * First Level Completed: 43
- * Second Level Completed: 36
- * Third Level Completed: 30

Adult: 155 registered

- * 83 people read at least 5 books
- * 669 books were logged as read

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, September 3 at 6 p.m.



One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest,
by Ken Kesey

Saturday, September 7 at 2 p.m.



Washington Black,
by Esi Edugyan

BINOCULARS AT THE LIBRARY

A few years ago, our friends at St. Louis Astronomical Society had the brilliant idea of making telescopes available at local public libraries. Since then, almost all libraries in the area have been circulating telescopes so families can spend time learning to use them and watching the night skies together.

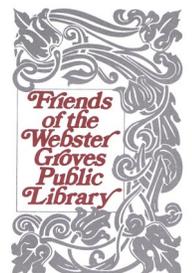
Now, they have started a program to help us circulate binoculars. Binoculars can also be very effectively used to look at the stars. What's more, they are good for watching birds. Our binoculars check out for three weeks, and come with both a star chart and a field guide to birds. Check them out soon!



FRIENDS NEWS

The Friends are taking the month of August to cool off and plan for fall activities. We are at work on our next Beyond the Page event and will post more information as details are confirmed.

You can always remember or honor someone you love with a paver in the Library Reading Garden. We had several new pavers carved in July. Brochures with information and pricing are available at the Library.



301 E. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314.961.3784
www.wgpl.org

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