

The Voice of the Fond du Lac County Libraries

6 WAYS READING MAKES YOU BETTER AT LIFE

No matter what you read, the act of reading every day can help you in nearly every aspect of your life. It engages your mind in ways that no other activity does. Here are a few ways that reading can improve your quality of life.

1. Enhanced Smarts

This may be obvious, but reading helps in almost every area of smarts. People who read have higher GPA's, higher intelligence, and more general knowledge than those that don't. In Anne E. Cunningham's paper *What reading does for the mind* (found at <http://tinyurl.com/r7udqs>) she reports that in general, reading makes you smarter and keeps you sharp as you age.

2. Reduced Stress

When you read your mind shifts gears. If you've had a stressful day, a book can distract you from your worries and give your mind a rest.

3. Improved Analytical Thinking

Cunningham's studies have found that reading boosts analytical thinking. Readers improve their general knowledge and more importantly are able to spot patterns quicker. If you can spot patterns quicker, your analytical skills receive a boost.

4. Increased Vocabulary

It's no secret that reading increases your vocabulary and improves your spelling, but did you know that reading increases your vocabulary more than talking or direct teaching? Reading forces us to look at words that we might not have seen or heard recently. In fact, language in children's books is likely to be more sophisticated than your average conversation.

5. Improved Communication Skills

This isn't much of a stretch, considering that reading improves vocabulary and critical thinking. If you surround yourself with works from people who are better than you you'll write and speak better. That's why English classes in High School make you read "the classics". That's why art students learn to copy masterpieces, so they know what creating something incredible should feel like.



BRANDON

Brandon's National Historic Place to have \$8,000 in Renovations

History enthusiast and community supporters have raised over \$8,000.00 to be used toward interior renovations and restorations to their National and State Historic Brandon Public Library. Over one hundred donors across the country and businesses from small to large have given contributions towards these repairs. The new remodeling will include a refinished original hardwood floor, new carpeting and tile work as well as historic efficient lighting. Special gifts and purchases to the project will include a replica tin ceiling for part of the library, new woodwork, as well as a restored Brandon High School light fixture. "The support for this project is overwhelming. We could never have dreamed of the kindness and spirit of giving that was received," remarked Library Director Loest, "This truly will become a piece of living history for all those that visit our community." The planned renovations will cause the library to be closed to the public from July 30 to August 20. Library materials checked out from Brandon will have extended due dates, and may be returned at any Winnefox Library. Holds on the online catalog may be placed, but these items may not be available until after the library's renovations. The library asks for your patience and patronage during this closing and looks forward to serving you once again upon remodeling completion. Tax-deductible donations are still being collected and may be sent to Brandon Public Library, P.O. Box 208, Brandon, WI. A complete listing of donors is available on the Brandon Library website: www.brandonlibrary.net.



Barry Gatz, CenturyTel Area Operations Manager Presents Library Director Tylor Loest with a \$150.00 check.

OAKFIELD

The Oakfield Public Library completed its annual summer reading program with a picnic in the park for children and adults on July 30. About 65 people attended the event which featured food, games, face-painting by artist Laura Gephart and entertainment by the balloon girl.

About one week earlier, Mrs. Gephart had presented a program at the library on Ukrainian egg decorating. The session was attended mostly by adults who learned about the history and techniques of this unusual and meticulous activity.

During the middle of July, Kristia Wildflower entertained an audience of children with stories about nature and art. Her appreciation of nature came through strong and clear and hopefully inspired many in the audience to look at plants with greater interest.

Other programs, including regular storytimes on Tuesdays, kept children entertained and excited about reading. Participation by adults in the summer reading program was also very good.

The program received valuable support for prizes and programs from the Belle Reynolds Foundation, Wal-Mart Foundation, Stitches-in-Time, BFG service station and mart, Bank of Oakfield, Oakfield High School Tech-Ed Dept., Good Earth Farm, Elaine Wiese, and Cowles-Henke-Kemmel Insurance Agency. Their contributions were tremendous and greatly appreciated by everyone at the library.

A scavenger hunt was held by the library on August 5 and motivated 65 participants to form teams and search the community for common and unusual items. Prizes were awarded to the winning team and all participants received a treat to cool them in the hot weather. Thanks go to library staff members Lori DeHaan and Tarah Birschback for presenting this fun activity.

Use of the library's wireless internet has been exceptionally heavy this summer as Seneca Food Corporation employees from foreign counties, including many from Romania, Turkey and Mexico, have used their laptop computers to connect to the internet. Frequently, 10 to 20 persons use the service daily. Users sit at the picnic table on the patio in front of the library, at the tables and chairs in the library and in the village community room. Seneca also provides a library card so these employees are able to borrow books, CDs and DVDs from the library.

NORTH FOND DU LAC

Spillman Public Library's Autism Collection Continues to Expand

A gracious thank you goes to the Fond du Lac County and Beyond's Autism Support Group and the Walleye Weekend Strongmen competitors for continuing to build Spillman Public Library's autism collection. Recently, Fond du Lac County and Beyond's Autism Support Group donated over 130 books to add to Spillman Public Library's special collection of books on autism. For the past three years, the Strongmen have donated funds to the group for the purchase of new materials to add to the library collection.

(North Fond du Lac continued on following page)

Spillman Library offers an autism collection that is available to library patrons in North Fond du Lac as well as any library of the 30 libraries in the Winnefox Library System. Based on prevalence statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2007), as many as 1 in every 150 children are diagnosed with autism, this collection is meeting the needs of many families in our area.

For questions on title availability, please visit www.northfonddulaclibrary.org to check our newly updated list.

FOND DU LAC

The Fond du Lac Public Library has received two full-time VISTA volunteers for a year. The volunteers will work with FDLPL and other libraries and organizations in the area to provide assistance to the unemployed and the children of the unemployed. Projects the volunteers will coordinate include offering basic computer classes, tutoring, how to write a resume, and more.

FDLPL will be celebrating Money Smart Week, October 10-17. The event is a series of free programs and activities designed to help consumers manage their personal finances. Events are planned by local community groups and businesses. The program is funded by the Federal Reserve. The library will host the kickoff on Saturday, October 10. A Ben Franklin impersonator will present a program for children. There will also be several other classes for adults and children to attend throughout the day.

As a result of receiving a **Smart Investing@Your Library** grant from FINRA the library is creating a *Money Smart Neighborhood* which will contain a collection of financial related materials in a variety of formats including books, DVDs and audio books. On Friday, October 9, the library will host a "Library after Hours" event to unveil the new resource. Also, as part of the grant, starting October 20, the library is offering a free program every Tuesday night for a year. The classes will be on a variety of investing and personal finance topics.

Recently the library cosponsored a "Visitors from Germany" event that attracted over 350 people. Other sponsors were the Malone Historical Museum and the FDL County Genealogical Society. The program was held at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary. Three visitors from Germany presented a program on the history of the Eifel area in Germany. The ancestors of many Fond du Lac County "Holyland" ancestors migrated from this region. The migration from the Eifel area forged the identity of east-central Wisconsin.

CAMPBELLSPORT

Volunteer Opportunities at the Campbellsport Public Library

The Campbellsport Public Library has been a place of constant activity this summer. Our summer reading activities in June and July attracted more than 700 participants. In July, we loaned out 5,900 items to library users and the public computer stations were used 800 times. Besides this commotion, we also had many volunteers in the building working on projects around the Library.

The volunteers have helped us with big projects such as; labeling children's books so our collection corresponds with the Accelerated Reader program that is used by area schools, weeding the non-fiction collection, shifting books and setting up for our annual book sale. Many small projects were also completed by people who stopped by to give us a hand. These people performed activities such as; filing miscellaneous papers, proofing reading records and cleaning DVDs.

There are still a few finishing touches that need to be done to complete the Campbellsport Public Library's spring cleaning. A few of the shelves still need to be washed and some books need to be moved to a different spot. But our biggest challenge is going to be making sure that all the library books are in their proper place.

We are hoping that volunteers will stop by to help us read the shelves. The only skills that are needed to do this chore is knowing your ABC's and 123's. This project can be done anytime the Library is open. Training will take a matter of minutes. Volunteers will be able to stop by at their leisure.

If you have any questions about volunteer activities at the Campbellsport Public Library please don't hesitate to ask. You can contact staff members at the Campbellsport Public Library by calling (920) 533 - 8534 or by emailing director@campbellsportlibrary.org.

The Library is located at 220 North Helena Street, Campbellsport WI 53010. During the summer, the Library is open Monday and Tuesday from noon until 8 pm, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am until 6 pm and Friday from 10 am until 5 pm.



Kelley Klotz sorts through children's videos as she and Marissa Blackmore (not pictured) move the children's videos to a more convenient location.

Knowing what other people are saying, and using the perfect words to convey your feelings is a critical part of being a better human. Better listeners are more successful in life.

6. Goal Achievement

Information is the key to success. No matter what you want to do or become, you can't do it without information. And you need to know more than just your core subject; if you want to open a business you need more than a thorough knowledge of what your business is about. You also need to know things like good business practice and basic bookkeeping. Reading is an excellent way to get where you want to go.

No time? No money?

If you think that you don't have enough time to start reading, you're wrong. We make time for the things that are important to us. How much TV do you watch? How much time do you spend trawling the web? You could easily replace reading with those activities.

If you're worried about the cost of books, check 'em out at your local library. Our libraries have access to the interlibrary loan system, so you can check out nearly any book on the planet.

There's really no excuse not to start reading on a regular basis. The benefits far outweigh the costs, and more knowledge never hurt anybody.

This article was adapted from a blog posting by Glen Stansberry at <http://lifedev.net/2009/06/reading-makes-you-better/>

Shhhout! is published quarterly by the Winnefox Library System to provide news for and about its member libraries in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago counties. Direct comments and inquiries to:

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WINNEFOX LIBRARY SYSTEM

Fond du Lac County Libraries

BRANDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

117 E. Main Street Brandon, WI 53919
920-346-2350
www.brandonlibrary.net

Monday 2-6
Tuesday 2-6
Wednesday 2-6
Thursday 2-6
Friday 11-5
Saturday 9-12

CAMPBELLSPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

220 North Helena Street
Campbellsport, WI 53010
920-533-8534
www.campbellsportlibrary.org

Monday 12-8
Tuesday 12-8
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 12-5
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-12

FOND DU LAC PUBLIC LIBRARY

32 Sheboygan Street Fond du Lac, WI 54935
920-929-7080

www.fdlpl.org
Monday 9-8
Tuesday 9-8
Wednesday 9-8
Thursday 9-8
Friday 9-6
Saturday 9-4
Sunday 12-4 (Summer-closed)

SPILLMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

719 Wisconsin Avenue North Fond du Lac, WI 54937

920-929-3771
www.northfonddulaclibrary.org

Monday 12-8
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 12-8
Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-1 (Summer-closed)

OAKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

130 North Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
920-583-4552

www.oakfieldlibrary.com
Monday 1-8
Tuesday 9-2
Wednesday 1-8
Thursday 1-8
Friday 1-5

RIPON PUBLIC LIBRARY

120 Jefferson Street Ripon, WI 54971
920-748-6160

www.riponlibrary.org

Monday 9-8
Tuesday 9-8
Wednesday 9-8
Thursday 9-8
Friday 9-6
Saturday 9-4 (Summer 9-1)
Sunday 1-4 (Summer-closed)

Winnefox Library System
106 Washington Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901-4985
www.winnefox.org