

The Voice of the Marquette 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.



(Continued on back page)

The Marquette County libraries and Winnefox Library System are happy to announce a new service program. Mary Anne Simpson has been hired for a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) grant project. She will be working with the county libraries and other agencies and organizations to help persons who are unemployed develop job search skills and improve employment skills.



ENDEAVOR

On July 19, 2009, the village of Endeavor held its grand opening ceremony for the new Ada Mills Donner and Melvin R. Donner Civic Center. The new building includes a new library, village offices, and civic center. The impressive dedication was conducted by the Freemasons, and included many speakers.



*Endeavor
Public
Library
July 19, 2009*



WESTFIELD

Summer Program Review

People of all ages have participated in the library's summer reading programs this year. Over 120 kids and dozens of teens and adults have handed in their reading slips for chances to win weekly drawings. Also, seven special events and presentations have averaged 50 participants per program. Pictured here is a Westfield favorite: Dennis "Dino" Tlachac. These kids are holding a Burmese Python named "Monty."



WESTFIELD MOOSINGS



Another highlight was the creation of a kid's newspaper, which was titled Westfield Moosings. Each child wrote a story or created a comic strip to put into the newspaper. Copies have been made available to the public until they run out.

Improved Accessibility

The library will be installing an automatic door opener to the front door this fall. A Library Services and Technology Grant has made the improvement possible. A new wheelchair accessible computer station will also be added at the same time.

PACKWAUKEE

Packwaukee library has had a busy summer with summer reading activities. In June, we had Mary Tooley and “Art in a Suitcase.” All attendees got to make a picture of their own, being creative as this year’s theme suggests.

In July ninety people packed into our meeting room to watch Jack Zolkowski, his wife, and the Soda Pups. The Pomeranians were in fine form and did many agility and amusing tricks. One dog rides around in a remote control toy Hummer. They all did the famous Green Bay Packer trick where no matter what temptation is put in front of them they don’t move until the magic words, “Green Bay Packers” is said.

We made a special effort this year to include all ages in Summer Reading with great success. Pictured is Ruth Walters with one of the Soda Pups.

Judy Johnson (library board member), Calvin Kelley (library supporter), and Candy Covington (library director) had fun passing out bookmarks at Packwaukee’s Heritage Day Parade on August 8. Some bookmarks were normal, but many had a coupon on the back for a free book. Lots have come into the library to redeem their coupon.



Jack Zolkowski & Soda Pups Green Bay Packer trick



Soda Pups Packwaukee Public Library Hummer rider



*Judy Johnson, Calvin Kelley, & Candy Covington -
Heritage Day Parade 8/8/09*



Ruth Walters Packwaukee Public Library & Soda Pups

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:

Winnefox Library System
Attn: Mark Arend
106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
920-236-5222 Email: arend@winnefox.org



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

Marquette County Libraries

ENDEAVOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

400 Church Street Endeavor, WI 53930
608-587-2902
www.endeavorlibrary.org
Monday 10-6
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 10-6
Friday 12-5
Saturday 10-1

ETHEL EVERHARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

117 East West Third Westfield, WI 53964
608-296-2544
www.westfieldlibrary.org
Monday 9-6
Tuesday 9-6
Wednesday 9-6
Thursday 9-6
Friday 9-12
Saturday 9-12

MONTELLO PUBLIC LIBRARY

128 Lake Court Montello, WI 53949
608-297-7544
www.montellolibrary.org
Monday 10-7:30
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 10-7:30
Friday 9-2
Saturday 10-1

NESHKORO PUBLIC LIBRARY

132 South Main Street Neshkoro, WI 54960
920-293-4026
www.neshkorolibrary.org
Monday 9-5
Wednesday 9-5
Friday 12-50

OXFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

129 South Franklin Ave. Oxford, WI 53952
608-586-4458
www.oxfordlibrary.org
Monday 10-12 & 2-5:30
Tuesday 2-7
Wednesday 2-5:30
Thursday 10-12 & 2-5:30
Friday 2-5:30
Saturday 9-12

PACKWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

N3511 State St. Packwaukee, WI 53953
608-589-5202
www.packwaukeeelibrary.org
Monday 12-7
Tuesday 12-5
Wednesday 12-5
Thursday 12-7
Friday 12-5
Saturday 10-2