

The Voice of the Waushara 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)

REDGRANITE

LOCAL TALENT enhanced our summer *Be Creative @ Your Library* reading program!

On July 8, Eileen McDaniel, Oakhaven Pottery artist, instructed our young patrons on creating their own terra cotta pinch pots and animals. She then took them home with her to dry and fire! Two weeks later, it was fun to see how delighted the children were to see their individual pieces become "works of art."



July 15 brought, Ashley Meyer, another talented Redgranite resident to the library to share her jewelry creations! Children were given beads and string to fashion their own necklaces and bracelets. At the end of this program, smiling and sparkling kids checked out their selections!



WILD ROSE

The Patterson Memorial Library has enjoyed having record numbers of tourists this summer. We hope to see them all back again next year!

Things are a little brighter in the library these days thanks to some new, energy-efficient lighting that was installed. We are grateful for a grant and rebate money to help pay for the new lights.

We want to thank our teen volunteers Izzie and Alayna for the wonderful job they did over the summer. We couldn't have done it without you!

Mark your calendars! Jerry Apps will be here to launch his newest novel "Blue Shadows Farm" on Saturday, October 24th at 1 PM. Jerry will tell about the book (as only Jerry can do) and a book signing and reception will follow. We will have copies of the books available for sale.

TEENS! Our annual teen lock-in will be held Friday, Oct. 30th from 8 PM till Midnight. There will be a costume contest, dancing and games. Don't miss it.....ages 13-17 are welcome.

Students: Homework help is as close as your library. Tutors available whether you need guidance every night or just a little help with a particular assignment, every school day from 3:45-5:30 PM

COLOMA

You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality.— Walt Disney

This summer at the Coloma Library young and old dreamed, created and had fun at the library. The summer was jam packed with lots of fun for everyone. Every Thursday there was a summer reading program performances. These programs varied from the Coloma favorite Soda Pups to the Art inspired CREATE classes.

Adults their share of fun with card making classes in June, a soap carving class in July and scrapbooking in August. Teens enjoyed their own summer reading program with the top two prizes being IPOD shuffles.

On August 18th and 19th, three different gaming sessions with the Nintendo Wii will be held in the Coloma Community Center. That should get everyone's creative juices flowing. On Thursday, August 6th was the finale



to celebrate another successful summer. Both children and adults learned origami from Ruthanne Bessman

Twenty three Children, 5 teens and 15 adults completed the 8 week program of reading 20 minutes a day. That makes a total of 6880 minutes read. That's a lot of pages.

HANCOCK

The summer not only went by fast, it was extremely busy! Items checked out in the Month of July alone broke past records by over 500 items! Books, CD's, Magazines, videos and Dvds... a lot of everything has been getting checked out.! Shadow the therapy dog still visits the library on Thursdays at 3:30. He has had a busy summer as well, with two dedicated readers coming each week to read to him. Not only are they improving their reading skills, Shadow really enjoys the stories, If you know someone that would like to read to Shadow, call the library 715-249-5817.

Now that the summer reading programs are over, the focus will turn to planning for the fall. Watch for the Hancock Public Library newsletter which will be out mid-September. If you are not currently receiving the library newsletter and would like to be on the mailing list, call the library and leave your address.

The friends of the Hancock library are finalizing plans for their annual holiday craft fair. As in years past, the event will be held at the Hancock Community center in November. This is the main fund raiser for the group. Details will be posted closer to the event.

BERLIN

The Berlin Library has been a busy place during July. We had 12,461 patrons come through the door to make use of the many things available to the young and old. The children's programs were very successful and many adults took part in the adult reading program. The adult program will continue until August 17th. We have been encouraging patrons to go upstairs and take advantage of all the wonderful fiction on the mezzanine. Select some books to read from upstairs and enter our drawing for business dollars. Some books from upstairs that have been enjoyed are Stephen Cannell's *The Plan*, Susan Phillips *This Heart of Mine*, Terry Pratchett's *Making Money*, James Rollin's *Deep Fathom*, and Tess Gerritsen's *The Surgeon*.

Our next program, "Using perennials, trees and shrubs for fall/winter interest", will be held Sept 26 at 10am. Marie Murphy assistant horticulturist from Bloch's Farm in Green Lake will be our presenter. October 22 at 6:30 Erika Jarik will present Odd Wisconsin. Strange but true stories of Wisconsin's past with a slide program and talk. November 15th at 6:30 Karen Schmidt of the Ladybug with helps you decorate for the holidays.



PINE RIVER

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

Excitement is in the air...celebrations are being planned. The Leon-Saxeville Library begins their 50th year celebration in October, 2009. The Library started as Darlene Taylor's 4-H project in October, 1959, with kids from the area going door-to-door collecting books. In June, 1960, following the construction of shelves in the Old Leon Town Hall, the doors to the library officially opened. Many people and groups contributed to the continued growth of the library property. We are proud of the support from the Towns of Leon and Saxeville for the library. The same values established in 1959 continue to be true today. We see our "roles of popular materials center, community information center, and preschoolers door-to-learning" as the best way to serve all people in the community and surrounding area.

"What are the celebrations?" you ask! I've been told that The Friends' of the Library are busy planning many special events. A 15-month calendar highlighting people and events from the past 50 years will be available for purchase this fall. I've also heard rumors that a hoedown is in the works! We're also planning a special evening with Wisconsin Author, Shari Anton ("Midnight Magic, Twilight Magic, and Sunset Magic") - who doesn't want to talk about romance! Trust me, many fun and exciting programs are being planned. Watch our website, www.pineriverlibrary.org for highlights of coming events!

POY SIPPI

Summer was busy at the Poy Sippi Library. We kicked off the Summer Reading program at the end of May with a performance by David Landau at the Elementary School. The reading incentive program followed early in June with approximately 60 children actively participating. There was a Game Night in June and August. The Balloon Girl visited the Library as well. Meanwhile, our Storytime for tots has been building and continues to meet regularly on Mondays.

Currently we are working on adult programming. August 10th we had a Pressure Canning Class presented by Jennifer Caravella of the UW-Extension. Jennifer will also be teaching a Slow Cooker class on Sept. 21st.

WAUTOMA

"After all the months of noise, dust, construction, moving, etc., our library is finally finished (almost)! We had our Open House on July 25th and it was a wonderful day. The Friends of the Library ordered 300 cookies for refreshments and we ran out! Everyone who has seen the end project has been so amazed and happy with it, and I hope all of you can come see us and view the results for yourselves. The local builder who made all our shelving, also donated a coffee table to us to put in front of the fireplace. He took it to the Waushara County Fair and won the Grand Champion Blue Ribbon for it. As you can see from the picture, it is breathtaking—a book in the center, surrounded by the words, Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding and Instruction. His name is Paul Soenksen and his company is Creation Woods, if any of you ever need anything built for your libraries, keep him in mind. His wife, Anne, is also pictured with him and she is an avid library user and has been for years.

It's hard to believe that summer is winding down and back-to-school days are upon us. We hope that all of you had a great summer and are looking forward to the blue skies and crisp days of fall. I know that we are! Don't forget—if you're in the area, stop by and we'll be glad to give you a tour of our new, improved library. It's been an exciting and exhausting journey, but well worth the trouble."



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
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Oshkosh, WI 54901-4985
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Waushara County Libraries

BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

121 West Park Avenue Berlin, WI 54923
920-361-5420 www.berlinlibrary.org
Monday 9-8
Tuesday 9-8
Wednesday 9-8
Thursday 9-8
Friday 9-6
Saturday 9-5 (Summer 9-1)

COLOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

155 Front Street Coloma, WI 54930
715-228-2530 www.colomalibrary.org
Monday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 10-7
Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-1

HANCOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

114 South Main Street Hancock, WI 54943
715-249-5817 www.hancocklibrary.org
Monday 12-6
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 12-6
Friday 12-6
Saturday 10-1

LEON-SAXEVILLE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

N4715 County Road E Pine River, WI 54965
920-987-5110 www.pineriverlibrary.org
Monday 4-7
Tuesday 2-7
Wednesday 10-7
Thursday 2-7
Friday 2-7
Saturday 10-1

PATTERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

500 Division Avenue Wild Rose, WI 54984
920-622-3835 www.wildroselibrary.org
Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 10-9
Friday 10-8

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

126 South Main Street Plainfield, WI 54966
715-335-4523 www.plainfieldlibrary.org
Monday 12-5
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5 & 7-8
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-12

POY SIPPI PUBLIC LIBRARY

W2251 Commercial Street Poy Sippi, WI 54967
920-987-5737 www.poysippilibrary.org
Monday 10-7
Wednesday 12-7
Thursday 3-7
Friday 3-7
Saturday 10-1

REDGRANITE PUBLIC LIBRARY

135 W. Bannerman Avenue Redgranite, WI 54970
920-566-0176 www.redgranitelibrary.org
Monday 11-6
Wednesday 11-7
Friday 11-5
Saturday 9-12

WAUTOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

410 West Main Street Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-2988 www.wautomalibrary.org
Monday 9-6
Tuesday 9-6
Wednesday 9-6
Thursday 9-6
Friday 9-6
Saturday 10-3