

Looking Forward to the New Year? Celebrate at the Library!

Winter is here, providing the best excuse to stay home and read a book. But I want to share with you the great new things coming up in the New Year at the Bartholomew County Public Library. So while you are here to pick up some books, why not check out a few of the great events we have planned!

Want a chance to earn really cool prizes? Sign up for the Winter Reading Club! Just like the Summer Reading club, adults, teens, and children can sign up at the library during the months of January and February and earn cool prizes for books they read. Audio books, magazines, picture books, fiction and non-fiction all count. Children can even get points if someone reads to them or if they read to someone else. The library will have special programs for everyone to enjoy during the months of January and February to highlight this year's theme, "Rocket into Reading".

The Winter Reading Club theme is the library's chance to celebrate winning the "Visions of the Universe" grant. The grant is made possible through the American Library Association, NASA, Space Telescope Science Institute, and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. The grant includes an exhibit of images that will tell the story of our universe over the past 400 years. In conjunction with the exhibit the library will have special programs celebrating the amazing world of astronomy. As a selected library, we will receive \$250 for purchasing books and other materials for our collection and \$500 for programming support. While the exhibit is here we will have some fantastic programs planned: making solar system mobiles, making tin can planetariums, a model rocket launch, and creating our own craters.

Another event we have at library is "Picturing America". The library received a collection of 40 high-quality reproductions of American artwork from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The reproductions include the famous Lansdowne portrait of George Washington, Grant Wood's painting "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere", N.C. Wyeth's cover illustration for "The Last of the Mohicans", and Alexander Gardner's photograph of Abraham Lincoln. Other artists represented: Mary Cassatt, Edward Hopper, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Norman Rockwell, and Dorothea Lange, just to name a few. For the next several months these beautiful pieces of American art will be on display in the Children's Department. In the fall, the collection and a teacher's resource book will be available for teachers to check out for classroom use. The resource book, additional lessons plans and detailed information are currently available online at www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov. The NEH believes the artwork will help students creatively explore and provide teachers an opportunity to engage students in American history and culture. We hope all educators will want to take advantage of such a valuable resource.

Even with all of this exciting news, don't forget about the excellent programs we have every month in the Children's Department. Not only do we offer storytimes for all ages, but we offer craft programs for K-6th graders, a Webkinz Club, an American Girl program, Legends & Lore program, Super Scientists program, computer classes for children, sing-a-longs, and movie nights. So, embrace the New Year and the winter weather by joining in the fun at the library!

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