

Make a Splash! Read @ Your Library!

It's June and that means one thing – summer! Summer at the library also means time for the Summer Reading Club! The Summer Reading Club theme is "Make a Splash! Read @ Your Library" and runs from June 21st to July 30st.

Summer Reading Club is for all ages and will be happening at the Main Library, Hope Branch Library, and the Bookmobile.

While the focus of the reading club is books, this year's theme celebrates the world of water. To kick off the reading club in Children's Services, we will have Travis Simms from Extreme Entertainment perform a magic show called "The Magic of Reading". The magic show will be Saturday, June 19th at 3:30pm in the Red Room. We will have a water week in July with the following activities: magic paper craft, fuzzy picture craft, fish squirter craft, and wiggly snake craft.

We still have our regular programming: Milk & Cookies storytime, storytimes for ages 1-2 and 3-5, computer classes, Webkinz Club, American Girl Club, Legends & Lore, Super Scientists, Sing-A-Long, Movie Night, Movie Matinee, and Girl Mania, and Teen Girls Only (TGO). For more information on any of our programs, please feel free to stop by, call, or email. And remember, all library events are FREE!

While you're at the library, don't forget to check out some great books! To celebrate the "Make a Splash" theme, here are a few books that have water as part of the story:

"The Sea Serpent and Me" by Dashka Slater – This picture book is one of my favorites! A little girl tells the story of the time a tiny sea serpent drops into her bathtub. As the sea serpent grows the girl realizes she must take him back to the ocean. The watercolor illustrations are done with lush greens and the underwater scenes are full of life. The text and illustrations create a beautiful and touching story of friendship.

"The Pout-Pout Fish" by Deborah Diesen – Brilliant colors fill the ocean in this picture book about a gloomy fish. His friends try to cheer him up but it seems as if he is doomed to spread "the dreary-wearies all over the place". But then a mysterious female fish swims up and kisses his ever-present pout away! His new goal is to spread "cheery-cheeries" among all his friends. A humorous story told with great repetitive text. This tale has been a big hit with storytimes.

"Shark in the Park" by Nick Sharatt – Timothy Pope decides to test out his new telescope at the park. Bright and cheerful illustrations are integral to the picture book and the repetitive text encourages children to play along as Timothy wonders if he sees a shark in the park. A black fin keeps popping up...what could it be?

"Ugly Fish" by Kara LaReau – If you're into dark humor here's a picture book for you. Ugly Fish is mean and doesn't like to share his tank with others. As new companions arrive he chases them and then eats them. Feeling guilty, Ugly Fish decides to be a better tankmate to the next arrival, Shiny Fish. Unfortunately, Ugly Fish becomes the prey when Shiny Fish decides he wants the tank all to himself! The quirky illustrations add to the comic appeal and keep the story from getting too dark.

"Dark Life" by Kat Falls – For fans of Percy Jackson, here's a good sci-fi adventure with lush descriptions of ocean life. This book is the story Ty, a boy who lives on the ocean floor and has no love for Topsiders, people who still live on land. But outlaws attack his land and he becomes friends with Gemma, a Topsider. As they search for her missing

brother, Ty and Gemma uncover dark secrets that could destroy everything. Ages 9 and up.

"The White Darkness" by Geraldine McCaughrean – Fourteen-year-old Symone is fascinated by the Antarctic, especially the explorer Captain Laurence Titus Oates. So when she has the opportunity to visit the South Pole with a family friend she is excited to go. But the seemingly normal trip turns into a secret expedition filled with terror. Will Symone survive the hostile elements and the threats to her life? Winner of the 2008 Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature. Grade 7 and up.

Jennifer Tchida is Children's Librarian for Bartholomew County Public Library