

LIBRARY NOTES

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www.pontiacpubliclibrary.org

There are no story times scheduled for August.

Story times for preschoolers and school age children will resume in September.

EXTENDED SUMMER HOURS!

From June 1 to August 15 we will be open until 8 pm, Monday - Thursday.

Keep Reading All Summer Long!

211 E. Madison St.
Pontiac, Il 61764
(815) 844-7229

Mon-Thu 9am - 7pm
Fri-Sat 9am - 5pm
Sunday Closed

ATTENTION EDUCATORS: FIELD TRIP PACK AVAILABLE!

Pontiac Public Library is proud to offer a new resource for early childhood educators: The Field Trip Pack. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education provides educational materials and programs about Illinois' diverse natural and cultural resources to teachers and other educators statewide. These materials/programs cover a variety of topics and grade levels and are developed with the Illinois Learning Standards as their foundation.

The *Field Trip Packs* are designed to encourage and support educators of children from prekindergarten through grade three in taking their students outdoors to interact with nature. The packs are relevant to several components of Illinois' recently revised *Environmental Literacy for Illinois* strategic plan and to the recommendations of President Barack Obama's *America's Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Generations: Youth and America's*

Great Outdoors report that was released in February 2011. Particularly, the following recommendations relate to this project: make the outdoors relevant to today's young people; ensure that all young people have access to outdoor places that are safe, clean and close to home; and build upon a base of environmental and outdoor education. A vast amount of literature and research has demonstrated the many health benefits of connecting children with nature (*Health and Environment Fact Sheet: Children's Health and Nature*, National Environmental Education Foundation, Washington, D.C., 2011). Many early childhood educators, however, do not have resources or training for nature study and may be uncomfortable in taking the children outdoors.

Each *Field Trip Pack* is a backpack loaded with materials that can be used on nature walks, field trips or even in a yard. They include hands-on items as well as support docu-

ments for the educator. The contents include child-sized binoculars, magnifying glasses, plastic forceps, an aluminum pan, a large plastic sieve, a bird call, a bird call identifier, animal observation containers, a trowel, a compass, a dip net, a measuring tape, a plant press and nine "beginner" field guides. We also have "Natural Illinois Tip Sheets" from the Illinois Early Learning Project that provide age-appropriate activity suggestions on 10 nature-related topics. Publications regarding field trip etiquette and regulations related to possessing wildlife and wildlife parts in the classroom are also included.

To schedule a loan of the Field Trip Pack or for more information, call the library at 815-844-7229 or send a message to director @pontiacpubliclibrary.org.



Summer Reading Updates

Pontiac Public Library is pleased to announce the finish of our most successful summer reading program yet! Because of your support, we were able to serve the children of our community and keep them reading all summer long! Celebrate the close of a successful summer reading program by stopping by and picking up another good book to read!

70 participants: age 1- preschool
232 participants: kindergarten-5th grade
59 participants: Young Adults

2,300 participants in story times, activities, and evening programs
Over 2,100 hours of reading completed

August 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Adult Book Club 6:00 pm	2	3	4	5 Relay For Life PTHS	6 Relay For Life PTHS
7	8 Board Meeting 5:15 pm	9	10 National S'mores Day	11	12	13 Left Handers Day
14	15 Year 1945: Allies celebrate VJ Day	16	17	18	19 Year 1909: First Indy 500 Race	20
21	22	23	24 Year 79: Mt. Vesuvius Erupts, Italy	25	26	27 International Forgiveness Day
28	29	30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day	31			

Youth Services

I can't believe summer reading is already over! I hope everyone had a fun time at all the programs and activities! As summer starts to wind down and you begin to prepare for the start of school, don't forget to visit the library, too! With our new book collection always growing, we are the perfect place to check out some books and get you back in the school year groove!

For beginning readers, our blue stripe book section is an excellent stop for you! My personal favorite is the Elephant and Piggie series written by **Mo Willems**. Those books are sure to make you laugh! Look for his newest book *"Should I Share My Ice Cream?"* to hit the new book shelf later this month.

For more advanced readers, we have several book series that are sure to grab your interest! **Margaret Peterson Haddix's**

series, **The Missing**, is an excellent fantasy/mystery combination to look for next time you stop in. For a lighter read, check out **James Patterson's "Middle School, the Worst Years of My Life."**

Junior high and high schoolers will enjoy **Michael Grant's** new series, **The Magnificent 12**. His first book in the series, **"The Call,"** is located in the YA section's new book bin. Look for his second book, **"The Trap,"** to be arriving soon. If you enjoy magic, excitement, and adventure, this is a great series for you!

The library is always getting new material, so come in and check out the latest best seller! We can always help you find the perfect read. Remember, the library is open year-round, so you can stop in anytime!