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THE SMARTEST CARD IN YOUR WALLET A LIBRARY CARD

September is National Library Card Sign-up Month

As local students head back to school this week, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System wants to make sure that all children have the most important school supply of all – a free library card. During a media event held today at the downtown Central Library, System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski reminded the community that a library card provides all of the resources students and their families need to be prepared academically. On hand to get their own new library cards were local sports celebrities – Sabretooth from Buffalo Sabres Hockey, Buster T. Bison from Buffalo Bisons Baseball, and Rax from Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse. Students from Buffalo’s Enterprise Charter school also participated.

"This year, our 175th year of free library services, we encourage you to join over 250,000 others who have the smartest card in their wallets – a library card," said Ms. Jakubowski. "Free access to databases of news articles, encyclopedias and test preparation materials, as well as homework help and foreign language and employment resources provide young readers with exciting and engaging programs that make learning fun."

Because the Library System is celebrating 175 years this year, a splashy new card has been designed that represents everything libraries have to offer. Director Jakubowski also announced that the Library is looking to recognize the person who has been a proud library card-carrying member the longest. The winner will receive a new card and a Library tote bag filled with goodies. Contact our Communications Department at 858-7182 for details, the deadline is October 15, 2011.

Getting a library card is easy. Library card applications are available at all 37 local libraries. Just bring a valid form of identification and proof of address to any library branch. Those under 17 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with valid identification.

Last year alone, 8,097,152 items were borrowed through the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. Over 470,500 reference questions were asked, 860,500 computer hours logged and 2.9 million online database searches took place. During the first six months of this year, the Systemwide door count was 1,804,158.

Later today, in Erie County Hall, County Legislator Barbara Miller Williams will present a resolution recognizing Library Card Sign-up month. To learn more about the advantages to a free library card, visit the Library System website at www.buffalolib.org.

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