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## SUMMER READING KICK OFF

### *NY Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education On Hand*

New York State Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education Jeffrey W. Cannell was at the downtown Central Library this morning to kick off the *2012 Summer Reading Program* for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. Hundreds of special programs and events are planned throughout the summer as part of the Library System's all-ages Summer Reading initiative.

"Last year, more than 39,000 children and teenagers took advantage of library Summer Reading programs right here in Erie County," said Mary Jean Jakubowski, Library System director. "Just because school is over doesn't mean reading should stop. In fact libraries provide tremendous resources and support all summer long. Summer Reading is a fun way to keep kids academically sharp for when they head back to school."

According to Commissioner Cannell, "The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System joins 1,100 public libraries and more than 1.65 million young people in New York State who are expected to participate in Summer Reading activities. I encourage families to use their libraries because they have so much to offer."

"**Dream Big, Read!**" is the theme for kids and "**Own the Night**" the theme for teens. Free activities centered on reading include a **Summer Reading Carnival on Saturday, June 16 from 1:00– 3:00 p.m. at Central Library**. Crafts, games, prizes, a magic show, movie and Zombie Walk will be featured. From one end of Erie County to the other, libraries this summer will offer free activities ranging from singers and storytellers to jugglers, the Zoo World Safari, Aquarium Touch Tank, mask making and more. See the complete schedule at [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org).

Two highlights of the Library's Summer Reading Program are the **Read Down Your Fines** program and **Battle of the Books**. **Read Down Your Fines** gives children ages 16 and under an opportunity to read-off overdue library fines. For every 15 minutes of reading, a child can earn library bucks toward reducing or eliminating overdue fines. All local libraries will be running the program through September 1. The 14th Annual **Battle of the Books** takes place on Saturday, August 4. This popular summertime team trivia competition is for youth entering grades six through nine. There are currently 35 teams from local libraries who are all reading the same books as they prepare for trivia questions about those books while vying for the coveted Battle title and trophy.

Participants in today's Summer Reading announcement event included local elected officials, the storybook character Maisy and 40 kindergarten students from Enterprise Charter School in Buffalo.

For more information on all of the 2012 Summer Reading programs throughout the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, visit [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org). For information about the importance of summer reading go to: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm>.

For an overview of Summer Reading at New York Libraries and additional information for educators, parents, and caregivers, go to [www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer).

Children, teens, parents, and caregivers can visit <http://summerreadingnys.org> for activities, games, links, information and ideas to keep children reading all summer

Summer Reading is funded in part by Federal Library Services & Technology Act Funds, awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Special thanks to WGRZ TV Channel 2, WSKE 98.5 Radio and Tops Markets.

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### HERE IS A SAMPLING OF SUMMER READING PROGRAMS AT BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES. ALL ARE FREE.

**Alden Ewell Free Library** – Hawk Creek Wildlife Program – July 12th at 6:30 p.m.

**Angola Public Library** – Glow in the Dark – fun for ages 6-10 – June 30th at 1:30 p.m.

**Audubon Branch** – Magical Campfire, August 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

**Aurora Town Library** – Buffalo Zoo "World Safari" Family Program, August 24th at 3:45 p.m.

**Boston Free Library** – Pet Show! June 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

**Central, Downtown Library** – Summer Reading Kick-Off Carnival – June 16th at 1:00 p.m.

**City of Tonawanda Public Library** – Firefighters visit the Library! July 12th at 6:30 p.m.

**Clarence Public Library** – Summer Reading Party – Mike Randall, June 21st at 6:30 p.m.

**Clearfield Branch** – Nickel City Reptiles and more, June 25th at 1:30 p.m.

**Collins Public Library** – Fun for everyone!

**Concord Public Library**- A Visit from the Niagara Falls Aquarium, July 19th at 10:00 a.m.

**Crane Branch** – A Clown is Born, August 21st at 2:00 p.m.

**Dudley Branch** – Beach Party in the Park with Nitro Magic Ice Cream, July 27th at 5:30 p.m.

**East Clinton Branch** – Dave Jeffers presents Reading Magic! August 29th at 6:30 p.m.

**East Delavan Branch**- African Drumming Workshop, August 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

**Eden Library**- Summer Kick Off- Singer/Storyteller Tiger Tom Walsh, June 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

**Eggertsville–Snyder Branch** – Tropical Treasures with the Buffalo Zoo, July 18th at 6:00 pm.

**Elma Public Library** – Glenn Colton's Summer Fun Show, August 16th at 2:00 p.m.

**Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Library** – Chess Club – Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

**Grand Island Memorial Library** – Glenn Colton Concert! July 18th at 2:00 p.m.

**Hamburg Library** – Zoomobile! June 20th at 3:30 p.m.

**Julia Boyer Reinstein** – Reinstein Woods: Nature Program, July 11th at 6:30 p.m.

**Kenilworth Branch**- Hidden World of the Pond, August 21st at 2:30 p.m.

**Kenmore Branch** – Snakes and Lizards, Big and Small! August 14th at 1:00 p.m. **Lackawanna Public Library** – Hawk Creek Wildlife Visit, June 30th at 1:00 p.m.

**Lake Shore Branch** – Hawk Creek presents Harry Potter's Owls! August 11th at 1:00 p.m.

**Lancaster Library** – Monkey Business! July 19th at 2:00 p.m.

**Marilla Free Library** – Fun Crafts with West Seneca Y.E.S., June 19th at 4:00 p.m.

**Newstead Public Library** – Explore & More Presents Illumination, July 24th at 2:00 p.m.

**Niagara Branch** – Summer Fun with Charlie & Checkers, August 13th at 2:00 p.m.

**North Collins Public Library** – Mike Randall & Friends, June 19th at 6:30 p.m.

**North Park Branch** – North Park's Annual Pet Show! July 18th at 4:00 p.m.

**Orchard Park Public Library** – Nitro Magic Ice Cream, July 13th at 2:00 p.m.

**Reinstein Memorial Library** – Science below Zero/Science Museum, July 16th at 2:00 p.m.

**Riverside Branch** – Survival Skills Workshop w/Beaver Meadow, July 26th at 6:00 p.m.

**West Seneca Public Library** – The Bubble Man, July 20th at 11:00 a.m.

**Williamsville Branch** – The Pinwheel Parade, July 17th at 6:30 p.m.

**Programs are subject to change - please call your library first to confirm.**

**For more detailed information, visit the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library website at [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org)**

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