School/Public Library Partnerships for Family Reading Week

Schools and public libraries are natural partners when it comes to working with families to help their children become strong readers. Families are a core constituency for public libraries, and FRW ties nicely to the school's mandate for parent involvement and family literacy.

Three key components of collaboration for Family Reading Week
1) Advance planning
2) Focus on family and children's literacy
3) Leverage each organization's unique pool of resources and patrons to plan a wide variety of activities and entertainment appealing to all participants

- As soon as you receive your Family Reading Week postcard, call your public library and make an appointment to discuss what you can do to reach families in your community.
- Decide on a joint activity or multiple activities that complement one another. Look at your schedules and make sure your events are not conflicting.
- Decide on roles. Who will take the lead? How and when will you communicate?
- Come up with a realistic timeline for activities, decide on tasks and assign responsibility for completing them.
- If costs are involved, who pays for what?
- Do cross promotion. Use the school newsletter, put up promotional posters in the school, and ask the school to send home an invitation to parents in children's backpacks.
- Coordinate and collaborate on a display to promote Family Reading Week. Come up with an idea and then implement it in both locations.
- Display some of the books that fit with the FRW theme in the school library.
- If you rent a book character costume or hire a storyteller, can you use these resources for both school and public library events?
- Use both the school and public library's websites to promote FRW events.
- After the event(s), meet to debrief and plan future joint activities. Now is the time to begin working together for summer reading.

(Adapted from interview of Hope Crandall, Washington Elementary School in Woodburn, OR)

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF READERS AT YOUR LIBRARY

IDAHO FAMILY READING WEEK *November 16-22, 2014*