

Idaho Family Reading Week Program

2018 Activity Examples

Beyond the usual storytimes, games, crafts and child book-selecting, here are **some unique program activities** (and outcomes) that took place across Idaho during Family Reading Week 2018 – some with the “Find It at The Library theme” others without it:

- We offered a **special ocean-themed Preschool Storytime with two of the books: *Otis and Will Discover the Deep* and *The Brilliant Deep***. The librarian talked about how no one knew 100 years ago what the deepest ocean floor looked like or what was down there. The librarian projected an image on the big screen of the ocean floor and a modern deep-sea vessel and discussed how scientists take powerful lights and camera equipment to take pictures in the dark. **The children danced with scarves to *Under the Sea* and pretended the scarves were fish swimming in the deep.** They also sang the Slippery Fish song and used hand movements and a projected slide for each animal. Then they did a fish-eating-fish craft using paper plates. The children enjoyed the program and one of the **parents thanked the librarian for using nonfiction books in the Storytime.**
- **We offered a hot dog/chili feed to all students** at Upriver Elementary and also other local **(homeschooling) families.** We sponsored a **reading rally**, breaking kids up into groups with parent-led reading time. Kids earned a ticket for completing each reading station and then tickets were drawn for prizes (books). We were VERY happy with the turnout!
- We featured favorite storytime books, puppet play, and music and movement. Families were excited to participate, and we had over 15 families signed-up on the waiting list for the event. **Our storytime was performed by a retired librarian** whose extensive experience and talent engaged all the attendees. Families were invited to color together on library-themed coloring pages before storytime began which provided an opportunity for attendees to meet each other and socialize. There were enough books for every level of reader, which the kids were excited to take home. **Clean-up assistance was provided by five teens from our Teen Advisory Group**, further including community members of every age group. The event was a huge hit with the families who participated.
- The program was a great opportunity for families to get familiar with the library's children's collection; we primarily focused on various genres in our non-fiction section. **Lego night and Dino madness included a hands-on activity** that the children thoroughly enjoyed. The scavenger hunt included age appropriate challenges and proved to be a great opportunity for the participants to learn about the library, i.e., how to search for books, reading spine labels, etc. **One of our greatest success was seeing children inspired to check out books** - each day after the program children were excited to look for books to take home with them.
- We began the evening with a **scavenger hunt that helped the families to become more familiar with the library and where to find everything in it.** At the end of the scavenger hunt, each family filled out a brief questionnaire about who attended from their family, whether they had a library card, etc. so that we would have the information that we needed for reports. **The questionnaire, when turned in, became the family's prize drawing ticket.** We had 4

stations going throughout the evening including a station where the children decorated book bags with fabric markers and then chose the Idaho book that they wanted to take home, a station to listen to stories, a station with board games the families could play, and a station where they made binary code bracelets and key chain dangles. We concluded the evening with **refreshments and a prize drawing**. Everyone that attended said that they had a great time and thanked us for the going to the effort to put on the program. **We used the wooden tokens from the Summer Stem Grant** and had the children vote if they had fun and if they will return to the library or not. 100% of the votes were a YES!

- We divided our event into two different nights. It was a success because **one[event] was on sight and the other [event] was off library property. We decided to combine with another family event with the school.**
- We had a display of eagle books in our library. That was a great way to show beautiful books. With the help of our City Technology Staff and the generosity of Janie Veltkamp, Raptor Biologist with Birds of Prey Northwest, **we were able to visit "live" through a Skype session with Beauty (Bald Eagle) of Beauty and the Beak fame.** *Special note; this was EPL's FIRST Skype event!
- For FRW we once again had an **after-hours library pajama party**. storytime aged kids and their parents had the opportunity to get the whole library to themselves. This allowed us to take full advantage of our space, we did an inside "Going on a Bear Hunt" storywalk, read several bear books, sang, danced, **ate some snacks and did a craft**. Offering a children's program at night gives the families who can't join us during the daytime an opportunity to come in and sample our services. **We also see more dads participating at this special evening time.** We have been doing an after-hours family read night for several years now, and with this one, it really feels like it has gained enough momentum.
- We oriented the "Find it at your Library" theme to a "sleuth" focus. **Families came dressed in their "clever disguises" and the library also had a costume library available** for those who needed it.
- Our **"Dinner and a Book"** program was a big hit! We served up pizza, stories, a craft and more. Special guests from the Boise Fire Department and library staff read books that either featured fire fighters or tied into the theme After dinner and stories, kids enjoyed a library-themed I Spy challenge and **families created their own "I Spy" bottles** to take home.
- For our annual **"Book and a Cookie"** event, we had a **story walk outside** where families could participate together. We also had "Guess How Many" games outside too. It was fun seeing families playing on the lawn and reading together. Inside we had a popcorn walk, which is like a cake walk. In the Community Room, books were set on tables according to age as families picked their books and received a cookie and went outside. **In our story garden families were sitting on the benches reading books together and eating their cookies and popcorn.** Our director was at a computer helping everyone **sign up for our newsletter**. We also **highlighted our STEM kits and programs and our new Digitization Station**. We also had a Story Time where families listened to stories. It was so exciting to see families enjoying the different stations and just being together and reading in the Story Garden. That is what makes all of the craziness worth it.

- **A community read - we offered for the community to join us in reading "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane."** We had 100 books to give away to families that signed up. Each family was allowed to take 1 book or as many individuals that are in their family. We also had copies of the book available for check out for those that missed getting a free copy. Once the family read the book together they could come in and pick out a book prize.
- We held a extra story time after school and had **a special guest storyteller - our state representative** Christy Zito. We had her talk a little about what her job is and had her read stories about treasure hunt. For a craft, we had each participant **make a pair of binoculars out of toilet paper rolls** and then had them participant in a visual scavenger hunt around the stacks. The hidden message in the scavenger hunt was "Find it at your local library."
- When participating children completed our scavenger hunt challenge, they gave it **to a board member**. We also let all ages take a **book genre personality quiz** to let them see what type of books they most like to read, and then they were given a book mark describing their likes and book suggestions for their age and genre. They really had fun with this. The children also **decorated their own book mark with washi tape**. Very easy, not messy, and very personable. It was a great take home craft.
- We held an open house event at our Library, featuring special guest, **Geronimo Stilton (staff member in costume)**, who greeted and took pictures with the children. Prior to the event, we **we made a publicity visit at the school with the Geronimo Stilton character**.
- There was a **puzzle of the day** they came into the library. The puzzles were finding or discovering something at the library. Each person that participated got a little prize and got to put their family name in a drawing for that day. They all seemed to really enjoy the process. We provided **"Free Fine Week"** instead of our usual "Free Fine Night". It was better for our patrons, because there was no conflicts to participating.
- "Family Reading and Game Night", with stations and activities based around the "Find it at your Library" theme: 1) a **"Find It!" Station** where each age group had a different find-it activity sheet to fill out; 2) a **"Make It!" Station** where everyone could make fun jello playdough creatures; 3) a **"Build It!" Station** using wooden blocks for younger children and our Snap Circuit sets for older children and adults; 4) a **"Play It!" Station** for families to play "I Spy" board games and other board games; and 5) a **"Search It!" Station** where each age group did a scavenger hunt in the library looking for words or pictures in nonfiction books; we had a **"Book Walk"** where each person could play as many times as they wanted until they earned a book; and a **"Fish Pond"** where everyone could take the tickets they earned at the stations and "fish" for prizes.
- Our program celebrated shared reading by having **families build forts, choose a book and read together**. It was awesome for the families who attended. hey loved wearing their PJs to the library and snuggling together for cozy family reads.