



## **Outreach Services to Local Schools within the West Bloomfield Township Public Library's Service Area**

### **Elementary Level**

**Kindergarten Kick-Off** is a special year-long program designed to help build reading skills in kindergartners. The materials include a parent guide as well as the colorful *100 Picture Books to Read in Kindergarten* poster. Children record their reading on the poster by placing a sticker next to each title. When children have completed the list they can visit the library to receive a certificate and a copy of a second poster, *100 More Picture Books to Read in Kindergarten*. In the fall a librarian from the Library visits each kindergarten class to introduce the poster and promote reading through an interactive storytime which brings four of the poster's titles to life.

**First Grade: Ready, Set, READ!** This literacy program is designed by the Library especially for first graders and their parents. This program will guide parents through the Library's Easy Reader collection and offer many suggestions to help children practice reading at home. A parent guide will help parents select quality, leveled books for their children. A poster will help children record their progress as their reading skills improve. A librarian visits each first grade class to introduce a variety of books including picture books, easy readers, early chapter books and non-fiction by presenting an interactive booktalk. The materials also include a bookmark listing all presented titles and additional reading suggestions.

**Second Grade: Understanding What We Read:** Second graders read books with more complex vocabulary and plots. They read books with more sophisticated ideas, views of the world and reasoning that may need explanation or clarification. The parent guide for second grade gives parents the information they need to help their children transition from a beginning to an independent reader. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's reading development. A librarian visits each second grade class to introduce a variety of books including easy readers, early chapter books, graphic novels and non-fiction by presenting an interactive booktalk. The materials also include a bookmark listing all presented titles and additional reading suggestions.

**Fourth Grade:** Each fourth grade class is visited by a librarian who will offer, through an interactive booktalk, a variety of reading suggestions including fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels and magazines. Homework resources including subscription online databases for homework support are introduced as well.

**Summer Reading Program:** In May and June, a librarian visits each elementary school to promote summer reading. This interactive program can be presented in large groups to multiple grades, or to individual grades — whichever is most convenient for the individual school. The Library's summer reading program offers incentives which motivate children to continue reading throughout the summer break; therefore, preventing a potential achievement gap in the fall. Children who complete the program are rewarded with their choice of complimentary books at

the Library's book fair held at the end of the summer. There is a "read-to-me" program that runs simultaneously for children who have not yet entered elementary school. The Summer Reading Program is open to all students and their families. In the fall, the top five readers from each school are awarded a medal. A library representative is available to present the medals at a school assembly if desired.

## **Outreach Services to Preschools, Nursery Schools and Daycare Centers Within the West Bloomfield Township Public Library's Service Area**

### **Preschool Level**

#### **Counting the Days 'til Kindergarten:** September through August

A year's worth of activities are presented in a calendar format to help prepare children for a successful kindergarten experience. The Library's early childhood specialist visits each preschool class, nursery school and daycare center within our service area at least once during the school year, including those affiliated with an elementary school, to conduct a storytime program.

### **Birth – Preschool**

#### **Grow Up Reading @ The West Bloomfield Township Public Library:**

The Library's Grow Up Reading parent kit is distributed to parents through childcare centers, home daycares and preschools, as well as direct mail. This spiral bound folder guides parents and caregivers through developing literacy skills during the early childhood years. This kit includes a book of nursery rhymes, a guide to choosing developmentally appropriate toys, a growth chart, guides to our youth rooms and at home activities for teaching letter recognition and phonemic awareness.

### **Additional publications:**

**60 of the Best Books for Babies:** These sturdy, brightly illustrated cards come on a ring which can easily be attached to a diaper bag or stroller. Tips for reading to babies are included.

**75 of the Best Books for Young Children:** This colorful poster encourages young children age two to four and their parents to read together. Stickers are provided for the children to record their progress. A tip sheet helps parents make the most of this shared reading experience.

### **Whiz Kid Quick Guides**

- **Reluctant Readers:** This brochure helps parents encourage reading with children who are otherwise reluctant readers. Tips for choosing interesting reading materials for even the pickiest reader are provided. Every child has the potential to become an avid reader with some help.
- **Kids Who Can:** Make the most of reading with your special needs child. This brochure helps parents and caregivers make reading a part of every child's life regardless of disabilities.

- **Boys Read:** Research shows that males and females brains are wired differently. This can affect how boys read and what they want to read. This brochure provides tips for encouraging boys to be lifelong readers and advice on how to select books for boys.
- **Girls Read:** This brochure offers tips for encouraging girls to read as well as how to use reading to inspire them to grow into strong, smart women.
- **Tweens Read:** Fourth and fifth grade is a time when many children lose interest in reading. This brochure helps parents keep kids reading during this critical time.
- **Reading on the Run:** Busy families may find it difficult to fit reading into their daily schedule. This brochure provides tips for incorporating reading into your day no matter how hectic it seems.
- **Math, Science and Reading Go Together:** Literacy is no longer limited to just reading. Math and science skills are essential for academic success. This brochure provides tips to parents and caregivers on how to use reading as a means of developing these important skills.
- **Grandtimes:** Grandparents can be key players in a child's development. This brochure offers ideas to help grandparents instill a love of reading in their grandchildren.