

Tots & Teens



LEFT: At the Boca Raton Library downtown, children are treated to a special program on Friday afternoons. Here, Bookworm Suzy Hammer of the Suzy Hammer Show entertains Maggie Dandrade and other children. **Photo provided**

ABOVE: Amber Prinkey, Palm Beach Zoo educational specialist, teaches children about the Florida pine snake at the Highland Beach Library. The zoo brings live animals for interactive, educational programs throughout Palm Beach County. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Summer reading at libraries encourages kids to 'Build a Better World'

By Janis Fontaine

Local libraries kicked off their summer reading programs in June, but it's not too late to join the fun. You might even win some prizes.

The Collaborative Summer Library Program is designed to keep kids reading through the summer. By sharing ideas and materials and working together, libraries get low-cost posters and promotional materials as well as reading logs and achievement certificates for their programs. This year, the summer reading theme is "Build a Better World."

Staff members at local libraries brainstormed and came up with some great books, imaginative activities and prizes for kids who read.

Each library's programs are a little different. At the

Boca Raton Public Library's downtown and Spanish River locations, tweens and teens who meet their reading requirements are placed in weekly drawings for gift cards when they log their books online. Each Friday, kids are invited to a weekly summer reading rendezvous held at 3 p.m. The family friendly event features a short show — a magician, a special guest, or a balloon artist — and a chance to check in with other kids on their summer reading accomplishments.

Most kids have summer reading lists from school, and the summer reading program give kids an added incentive to read. "They get a prize for doing something they have to do anyway," youth program director Amanda Liebl said.

The main reason summer

reading is so important is the summer slide, and it's not the kind you find on the playground. Learning experts estimate students can lose as much as two months' worth of learning over the summer if they don't practice their reading and comprehension skills.

"The summer slide is real," Liebl said. "You need to offer encouragement to keep their skills up."

Parents can help their children become happy readers, Liebl said, by offering them books about subjects they are already interested in or choosing books with familiar characters parents know they like. "Parents should share the books they loved as a child with their children, and set aside time for reading," Liebl said.

Parents who read are more likely to have kids who read.

Liebl says her two boys, age 4 and 7, "are both into silly books. If there's burping in it, they love that." The "Captain Underpants" books by American author and illustrator Dav Pilkey are popular with boys that age, and the first *Captain Underpants* movie, in theaters now, is sure to increase Pilkey's popularity with the pre-teens.

Also popular are books by *The Office* actor-turned-author B.J. Novak, Liebl said. His first offering, *The Book with No Pictures*, became a bedtime story favorite. For more serious readers, the "I Survived" series, true stories about amazing and harrowing acts of survival, by Lauren Tarshis, also is popular, Liebl said.

Libraries are devoting more space to kids, and all that shushing is a thing of the past. "We want the kids to be relaxed, to have fun," Liebl said. "We have a huge selection of books for kids and our library is organized by reading levels

to make it easy to find the right book."

Kids who need extra practice reading, especially if they're apprehensive about reading out loud, often excel in the Tail Waggin' Tutor program where they read aloud to certified therapy dogs, Liebl said. About 10 dogs participate in the program, and kids do need to sign up in advance.

Liebl said the library has added new classes and activities geared to middle and high school students, including the Maker Lab classes where kids learn about robots and computer coding in a hands-on environment. These weekly classes are made possible by the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library.

In Delray Beach

The Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Charities, along with the city of Delray Beach Education Advisory Board, have jumped on the summer reading crusade in a big way.

Suzanne Spencer, vice chair of education for the chamber, is leading the charge to face down the summer slide with a campaign she calls "our social media bucket challenge."

The idea of the Read, Rhythm and Rhyme Challenge is to encourage grown-ups to take video of themselves reading or talking about a favorite children's book, then challenge their friends to get involved. Adults can read with their own children, grandkids, friends of the family or the neighbors' kids.

The adults select a favorite book and come up with a short poem, rap, song or other creative way to express their love of the book.

They each make a 30- to 90-second video and post it

on Facebook with the hashtag #DelrayReadingChallenge. Then adults challenge three of friends to make videos as well.

Folks who are challenged but don't want to make a video are asked to make a cash donation instead.

For more information, visit www.mydelraybeach.com/transparency/read_rhythm_and_rhyme_challenge.php.

What else is going on at our local libraries

Boca Raton

For a full listing of summer classes and activities, pick up a Summer Reading brochure at either library, call 393-7852 or visit www.myboca.us/957/Library

Downtown Library: 400 NW Second Ave. Spanish River Library: 1501 Spanish River Blvd.

Youth Services at ysstaff@myboca.us or call 393-7968 (Downtown) or 544-8584 (Spanish River).

Summer Reading Age 8 And Younger: The program continues through the end of July with a winner of a new super prize chosen each week. Kids can log their books online, but it's not required to win. July's prizes are Finger Puppet Bees "BEE Safe on the 4th!" (July 4); Squirty Tools (July 10); Pixel Sunglasses (July 17) and Grab Bag with lots of choices (July 24).

Summer Reading for Teens and Tweens: Log your summer reading books with a review of 20 or more words to be eligible for weekly raffle drawings. The numbers in parentheses are the minimum number of books that must be logged (reviewed) to be eligible for the prize.

The more books you review,

See **LIBRARY** on page H13

FOR THAT
SUMMER
SPARKLE



Hy Pa - Hy Ma

CHIC • TRENDY • ELEGANT • UNIQUE

561-276-1444

900 E. Atlantic Avenue - Suite 19 (Just E. of Bridge)
Downtown Delray Beach
(Directly across from the Seagate Hotel)

LIBRARY

Continued from page H12

the more chances you have to win. Winners are chosen by random drawing. Upcoming prizes include: \$15 Whole Foods (3); \$15 Cinemark (3); \$20 Planet Air Sports (4); \$20 Barnes & Noble (4); \$50 Visa (5).

Friday Afternoons at 3: Gather at the library (either branch) for an afternoon show, games and fun.

New teen programming:

Summer Explorers: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays. July 3: Learn how to build a solar oven using a pizza box and other simple materials. July 10: Comics Pixton. Learn hands-on how to tell a story through comics using the Pixton program. Enrollment required. Downtown.

Summer Bunch: 4:30-5:30

p.m. Wednesdays at Spanish River. Enrollment usually required.

July 5: Screening the anime movie *Spirited Away* (PG). No enrollment required but space is limited.

July 12: Get slimed at this make-your-own slime lesson.

July 19: Perler Beads.

July 26: End of Summer Ice Cream Party

Delray Beach

100 W Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. 266-0194; www.delraylibrary.org

Earn community service hours by volunteering at the library. Middle and high school kids are welcome to participate in the Teen Advisory Board. Practice leadership skills as a board officer, enhance computer skills as a digital reviewer or collaborator on marketing strategies and materials. If you

love to write, a position as a writer or editor of the library's newsletter might be for you.

The library has a dedicated teen room for middle and high school kids, where they can read, study or just hang out. July programming for teens:

BeTween the Lines: A Readers Club meets 4:30-6:30 p.m. July 18.

The Anime Club meets 5:30-6:30 p.m. July 18.

Highland Beach

3618 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. 278-5455; www.highlandbeach.us/departments/library

The library offers books, DVDs, audio CDs and music for children of all ages. The Children's Room has two computers with educational games and software.

Ongoing children's programs (RSVP appreciated):

8883; spadymuseum.com

7/5 - Reading & Rhythm for 3s-5s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class with stories, music, movement. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Every W through 7/26 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 393-7968; bocalibrary.org

7/5 - Family Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S Seacrest Blvd. Age infant to 5 yrs. Every W 10-11 am. Free. 742-6380; boyntonlibrary.org

7/5 - Sensational Story 'n More at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Books come to life through interactive performance, singing, movement, props. Age 2-5. T 10:30 am & W 2 pm. Free w/paid museum admission. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/5 - Science Wednesdays at Boynton Beach City Library, 508 S Seacrest Blvd. Different subject weekly. Grades K-5. Every W 2-3 pm. Free. 742-6380; boyntonlibrary.org

7/5 - Lil' Explorers: Super Sensory Messy Play at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Explore, develop important readiness skills. Age 18 mos-5 yrs. Every W 3-3:45 pm. Per class \$3/member; \$4/non-member + admission. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/5 - Community Service Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 508 S Seacrest Blvd. Spend an afternoon each week doing something nice for different people in the community. Grades K-5. 3-4 pm. Free. 742-6380; boyntonlibrary.org

7/5 - Let's Get Building for 6s-8s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Spaghetti Building. Limit 2 classes in this series. 3:30-4:14 pm. Free. Registration: 544-8584; bocalibrary.org

7/5 - Singing Starz Group Voice Class at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd #73, Boca Raton. Age 4-7. Every W 4-4:45 pm. \$15. 394-2626; showtimeboca.com

7/5 - Culture Shock at Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S Seacrest Blvd. Build an ethnography about music, art, gaming, family, anything else that makes you who you are. Grades 6-12. Held again 7/12. 4-5 pm. Free. 742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/5 - Teen Gaming at Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S Seacrest Blvd. Video games use Wii, Wii U, PS3, PS4 or Xbox 360. Grades 6-12. Every W 5-6:30 pm. Free. 742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/5 - Soccer Shots at Boca Raton Children's Museum, 498 Crawford Blvd. Fundamentals of soccer, character development. Every W through 8/23. Age 2-3 5:15-5:45 pm; age 4-6 5:15-6 pm. \$112. 305-484-9143; southernpalmbeach.sreg.org

7/5 - Introduction to Tinkercad at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 8+. Every W through 8/2 6-7:30 pm. Free. 393-7852; bocalibrary.org

7/5-9 - Family Fun: Make a Tanabata Wish 2017 at Morikami Japanese Museum and Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach. Celebrate/learn about Tanabata, Japan's star festival. Make a wish to hang on bamboo "trees." Daily through 7/9 10 am-5 pm. Free w/ paid admission. 495-0233 x237; morikami.org

Thursday - 7/6 - Intro to Archery at Daggerwing Nature Center, 11435 Park Access Rd, Boca Raton. USA Archery and N.F.A.A. certified instructor. Bow and arrow safety, how to properly use equipment, practice on the range. Age 8+. 10 am. \$10. Reservations: 629-8760; pbccgov.com/parks/nature

Small Fry Story Time: 4 p.m. Tuesdays. For ages 4 and older. Listen to a story, sing a song, do a craft and make some new friends.

Craft Time: Meets the first and third Thursdays of the month for ages 4 and older. A story and a craft.

Baby Bookworm Story Time: 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Classic and new stories for ages 1-3.

Bookworm Story Time: 10 a.m. Saturdays. Classic and new stories for ages 1-5.

Boynton Beach

208 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. 742-6390; www.boyntonlibrary.org

Building a Better World Reading Club 2017: Meets at 2:30 p.m. Mondays through July 31 in the Youth Services Room.

Programs for kids in grades 6 through 12:

Teen Gaming: 5-6:30 p.m.

July 5, 12, 19 and 26. Play board and videogames using a Wii, WiiU, PS3, PS4 or Xbox 360.

Teen Book Discussion: 6-7 p.m. July 6. Chat about the latest YA book.

Teen Yoga: 3:30-4:30

p.m. July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.

Angelina Lucia from Bindu Yoga Studio in West Palm Beach leads.

No Filter Teen Group: 4:30-5:30 p.m. July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Mr. Mike leads a discussion of topics chosen by the group each week. Snacks included.

Unplugged: 3:30-4:30 p.m. July 11. Old school games.

Teen Zumba fitness class: 4:30-5:30 p.m. July 11.

Cut It: 3-5 p.m. July 25-26.

Create your own skit, then act it out, record it and learn to edit it using iMovie.

Brain Food: 5:30-7 p.m. July 25. Hands-on interactive, edible science experiments. ★

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 1

Saturday - 7/1 - Call for Entries: 6th Annual Kids' Spooky Film Festival at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Young filmmakers invited to submit a short "scary" film. Grand prize GoPro Hero Digital Camera. Age 6-17. Deadline for entry 9/23. \$5/film. Entry forms online: 347-3900; sugarsandpark.org/spooky-film-festival

7/1 - Diamonds & Pearls Dance Team at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Community dance team program prides itself on passion, dedication, excellence, respect; participates in local and collegiate homecoming parades and statewide special events. Middle, high school & college students. T/Th 6-8 pm & Sat 9 am-1 pm. Yearly \$30/resident; \$40/non-resident. 243-7356; mydelraybeach.com

7/1 - Sensory Saturday at Children's Science Explorium, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton.

Explore the museum in a sensory modified setting with sound/light adjustments. 1st Sat 9-10 am. Free. 347-3912; scienceexplorium.org

7/1 - Tiny Toes Ballet/Tap Class at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd #73, Boca Raton. Age 3-7. Every Sat 9:30-10 am. \$10. 394-2626; showtimeboca.com

7/1 - Little Wonders at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Age 3-4. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 8/5. 10-11 am. Free. May-Aug 2017. Reservations: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

7/1 - Tot Time at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Enjoy crafts, snacks, indoor play stations. Drop in anytime during the program. Age 2-5. 10 am-noon. \$5/child. 347-3900; sugarsandpark.org

7/1 - Read Dog Program for Children at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Children read aloud to specially trained therapy dogs. Every Sat through 7/22 10am-noon. Free. 266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/1 - Drop-in Craft at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 3 & up. Every Sat 10:30-11:30 am. Free w/paid admission. Registration: 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/1 - Story Time at Boca Raton Children's Museum, 498 Crawford Blvd. Stories, songs, fingerplays parents and children enjoy together. All ages. T-Sat 11 am. Free w/paid admission. 368-6875; cmboca.org

7/1 - All Art Class at Boca Raton Children's Museum, 498 Crawford Blvd. Age 2-9. Every Sat 11:30 am. \$5/member; \$8/non-member. 368-6875; cmboca.org

7/1 - Tea Time With Mrs. Potts at The Wick Theatre and Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Delicious tea-time treats, magical arts & crafts project, sing-a-long. more. Age 5-12. Every Sat through 7/8 noon-2 pm. \$40/child. Reservations: 995-2333; thewick.org

JULY 2-8

Sunday - 7/2 - Science Make & Take at Children's Science Explorium, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. 1st Sun 11:30 am. \$5/project. 347-3912; scienceexplorium.org

7/2 - Jr. Shark Biologist at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray

Beach. Age 5-12. W/Sun 3:15 pm. Free w/\$5 admission. 274-7263; sandowayhouse.org

Monday - 7/3 - Oh Baby at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Pre-literacy class: music, stories, rhymes, lap bounces. Age 3 months to not-yet-walking. Every M 10 am. Free. 266-0798; delraylibrary.org

7/3 - Tales for Tadpoles at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Music/movement rhymes. Age walking-24 months. Every M 10:45 am. Free. 266-0798; delraylibrary.org

7/3 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Age 3 months to walking. Every M through 7/24 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 393-7852; bocalibrary.org

7/3 - Healthy Eating at Boynton Beach City Library, 508 S Seacrest Blvd. Learn how to make good food choices, how to prepare snacks that are healthy/easy. Grades K-5. 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. 742-6380; boyntonlibrary.org

7/3 - Kids Activity Lab at Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S Seacrest Blvd. Board/video games using Wii, Wii U, PS3 or Xbox 360, or make wearable art. Grades K-5. Held again 7/10 & 24. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

7/3 - Teen Yoga at Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S Seacrest Blvd. Grades 6-12. Every M 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/3 - No Filter Teen Group at Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S Seacrest Blvd. Keep it real with Mr. Iriah; talk about issues that matter to you and your friends. Topics/activities change each week; snacks served. Grades 8-12. Every M 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/3 - Delray Divas Step Teams at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Organized, structured step team performs at local events & statewide competitions. Program reinforces role of youth as positive members of the community. Grades K-12. M/W 6-8:30 pm. Yearly \$30/resident; \$40/non-resident. 243-7356; mydelraybeach.com

7/3 - Summer Explorers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. Every M through 7/24 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 393-7852; bocalibrary.org

7/3 - Fencing/Epee Class at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Learn fencing skills, forge new friendships, have a blast. Beginners M/F 7-8:15 pm \$90-\$112.50/monthly; intermediate/advanced M/W/F 7-10 pm \$135-\$168.75/monthly. 954-854-7843; sugarsandpark.org

7/3-7 - Mermaid & Pirate Camp at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa, 100 S Ocean Blvd, Manalapan. Part of AquaNuts Summer Camp series. Age 5-17. M-F 8 am-5 pm. \$350/week; \$45/optional meal program. eventbrite.com/e/eau-palm-beach-aquanuts-and-coast-camp-tickets-34661701081

Tuesday - 7/4 - Inspired Art at Boca Raton Children's Museum, 498 Crawford Blvd. Age 2-11. T/W/Th 11:30 am-noon. \$5/member; \$8/nonmember. 368-6875; cmboca.org

Wednesday - 7/5 - Youth Cultural Empowerment Camp at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 6-week program focuses on building self-esteem, cultural identity, social and civic responsibility. T/W/Th through 8/10 9 am-noon. \$50/enrollment fee. Reservations: 279-

Demands quick reflexes, fast thinking, pinpoint passing. Every Th through 7/27. Age 4-8 6:30-7:30 pm; age 9-14 7:30-8:30. \$40/resident; \$50/non-resident. 347-3916; sugarsandpark.org

7/6-7 - Karate/Martial Arts Classes at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Karate and blend of other combat martial arts. Age 9 to adult. Every Th/F 6-7:30 pm. Per month \$10/resident, \$12/non-resident; \$25/one-time uniform fee. 243-7356; mydelraybeach.com

Friday - 7/7 - Choo-Choo Train Time at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Children read stories, have open interactive train table play time. Pre-K. Every F 11 am-noon. Free. 266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/7 - Sensory Art for Tots at Boca Raton Children's Museum, 498 Crawford Blvd. Age 1-4 w/parent or caregiver. Every F 11:30 am. Per session \$3/member; \$5/non-member. 368-6875; cmboca.org

7/7 - Children's Special: Tampa Taiko Drumming at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Grades K-5. Child 8 & under must be accompanied by an adult. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 393-7968; bocalibrary.org

7/7 - Safari Nights at Palm Beach Zoo, 1301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach. Games, crafts, DJ dance party, keeper talks and training sessions, different theme each week. Every F through 8/25 4:30-9 pm. \$15.95/adult (age 13+); \$13.95/senior (age 60+); \$11.95/child (age 3-12); free/child age 0-2.

547-9453; palmbeachzoo.org/safari-nights-2017

7/7 - Unity Dance Team at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Enhances balance, provides exercise, teaches how to gracefully dance, execute interpretive movement. Age 7-15. Every F 6:30-8:30 pm. Free. 243-7356; mydelraybeach.com

Saturday - 7/8 - Lil Sluggers Baseball at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Specially designed to introduce children to baseball. Every Sat through 8/5. Age 3 9-9:45 am; age 2 10-10:45 am; age 4-5 11-11:45 am. \$90/resident; \$112.50/non-resident. 347-3900; sugarsandpark.org

7/8 - smART: African Masks at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Studio workshops: families/intergenerational groups focus on artistic family fun; learn, create, enjoy the visual arts. Family fare. 10-11 am. \$5/family; free/member. Reservations: 392-2500 x106; bocamuseum.org

7/8 - Open Lego Time at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 6 & up. Held again 7/22. 10 am-noon. Free. 266-0798; delraylibrary.org

7/8 - Cultural Folk Tales Day at Morikami Japanese Museum and Gardens Oki Education Center, 4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach. Explore countries around the world through interactive folk tales. Family fare. 10 am-5 pm. Free w/paid admission. 495-0233 x210; morikami.org

7/8 - Group Swim Lessons at The Swim Center, 21618 St. Andrews Blvd, Boca Raton. Level 1, 2, 3, 4 & adult classes. Every Sat through 8/26 11 am, noon & 1 pm. Per session \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 544-8540; myboca.us

7/8 - Group Swim Lessons at Meadows Park Pool, 1300 NW 8th St, Boca Raton. Level 1, 2, 3 & 4. Every Sat through 8/26 noon & 1 pm. Per session \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 393-7851; myboca.us

7/8 - Family Date Afternoon: The Lego Movie (PG) at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 2:30-4 pm. Free. 393-