

Spring into Great Programs

The Rock Island Public Library

March 9, 2009



Free programs offer plenty to do during Spring intersession for Rock Island/Milan Schools

While Rock Island/Milan schools are on break March 16 through 28, embark on a new chapter of fun learning and family enrichment activities at your Rock Island Public Libraries.

Activities are free and open to children from pre-K through 6th grades and their families. "If your family is staying home this spring, we suggest you take a trip to your library. It's the perfect way to spend some free quality time together," notes Susan Foster, the director of children's service for all three locations. The options for families include:

Activities for little ones, ages birth to five:

March 17 St. Patrick's Day Stories and Fun program, Join us for a very green holiday full of Irish stories, crafts, music and fun, 10:30, Rock Island Main Library. Toddler through pre-school ages. Free.

Baby, Toddler & Preschool Storytimes: 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays at the 30/31 Branch, 3059 30th Street and 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at the Southwest Branch, 9010 Ridgewood Road, Rock Island. Five week session runs March 17 through April 17. Free weekly reading programs for babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

Bring Teddy to the Library for a "sleepover"

What kind of fun things are your favorite toys doing while you're asleep? The Children's Library will help kids uncover their own "toy's story" with a **stuffed animal "sleepover"** on March 20. Children can bring their stuffed animal to the Main Library Children's Room anytime before 5 p.m. on Friday, March 20 for "camper drop-off." The library's "camp counselors" will check in the stuffed animals and keep track of their activities at the library. Just the stuffed animal will be staying overnight, but they'll be in good hands. "It's a fun way to introduce the kids to the library by using a familiar friend," says Ranell Dennis, Children's Librarian.

Pick-up starts at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday morning, March 21. Children's librarians will serve donuts and juice and show pictures of the toys' adventures during their night at the library. Sign up is required, and space is limited. Call 732-7360 to register your stuffed animal friend.

Sharpen those library and research skills!

On March 23 and 25 at 4 p.m., kids can learn how to find everything they want at the library. Children's Librarians will demonstrate using the catalog and how to use special research tools to take full advantage of their library card. **Library Skills** will be offered for grades 3 through 6 in the library's Community Room. The class is open to anyone. Bring a library card, or (if your child is a Rock Island/Milan resident), apply for one at the library with two forms of ID. No registration is required.

Meet Junie B. Jones

Come to the library to meet Junie B. Jones, as played by Circa 21 actress Sunshine Ramsey, at 4 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 24** in the Rock Island Main Library's Children's Room. Based on the wildly popular children's book by Barbara Parks, Joan Cushing's *Junie B. Jones & A Little Monkey Business* is coming to the Circa 21 stage in April. Junie will visit the library in full costume, to read from her favorite story, and play a game with participants.

In the book and play, Junie, a spirited and sassy six year old, works through her feelings of frustration about having a baby brother and finding something great for show-and-tell at school. Hearing her grandma refer to her brother as the "cutest little monkey," Junie can't wait to tell her friends that she will have the best show-and-tell in class, a real live monkey!

Enjoy some creative courses

Looking for some free creative play and activity ideas? Children can stretch both their creative and technological muscles in two sessions of "**Make a Video/PowerPoint.**" Participants will make their own promotional video or slide show for Summer Reading using the Main Library's mobile computer lab. Make a Video/PowerPoint will be offered on March 24 (Session A) and March 26 (Session B) at 2 p.m. for children in grades 4-6. Space is limited, and sign up is required. Call 732-7360 to register for Session A, B or both. Participants may bring their own digital camera or use the library's equipment.

Other opportunities for free and creative play at your library include:

- **March 24 – Make-A-Book program**, 12:30 p.m., Rock Island Main Library. For grades 3 through 6. This craft requires scissors. Registration required. 732-7360
- **March 26 – Poetry Pizzazz**, 12:30 p.m., Rock Island Main Library. Be a poet and know it! For grades 3 through 6.
- **March 28 – Saturday Spectacular “Creative Critters” craft**. 11 a.m. at the Rock Island 30/31 Branch; 4 p.m. at the Rock Island Southwest Branch. Free make and take fun. Register by calling 732-7360. For grades K-6.

For questions about any of the above programs, please call the Children's Room at 732-7360. All programs are free and open to the public.

Libraries offer plenty of print, online, visual and audio resources, many of which are free with a library card. For money-saving entertainment, enlightenment and enrichment for all ages, visit the Rock Island Main, 30/31 and Southwest Branch libraries, or check the Rock Island Library online at www.ripl.lib.il.us for details about library cards, services and free events for the family.

