

Celebrate Hispanic Culture @ Your Library

The Rock Island Public Library

April 3, 2009



El Dia Celebrates Children's Reading and Hispanic Culture

Children's events at the Rock Island Public and Moline Public Libraries will take on a south-of-the-border flair from April 30 through May 2, with "El Dia," a mutual celebration of Hispanic arts, literature and culture.

The two city libraries are working together on *El Dia de los ninos/El dia de los libros*, or "The Day of the Child/Day of the Book." El Dia is a national day set aside to celebrate children, children's literature, bilingual literacy and the Hispanic culture. "Our goal is to encourage everyone to become library users, sign up for library cards and learn more about the art and customs of other cultures with free events for the whole family," says Susan Foster, Rock Island Library children's services director.

A wide variety of free events for children in kindergarten through 6th grades and their families are planned at both libraries. Programs include an art activity inspired by Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, bilingual puppet shows and storytimes, a cut-paper craft and Mexican folk dance. The library will give away bilingual books at a special "book sampling" to encourage bilingual literacy and the love of reading.

All programs are free and open to the public. Only the art program requires registration. All others are available on a walk-in basis.

El Dia events at the Rock Island Main Library, 401 19th Street, include:

Thursday, April 30:

4 p.m., Frida Kahlo Art Program. Children will create a relief-style painting inspired by Kahlo's "Self-portrait and Monkeys." Grades 3 through 7. Register by calling 732-7360.

6:30 p.m., De Colores Bilingual Puppet Show. Learn about nature in an interactive puppet show with Griselda, Betty and the puppets. Birth through 2nd grades.

7:30 p.m., Ballet Folklorico, performing traditional folk dances of the states of Mexico. All ages.

Friday, May 1:

10 a.m., Visit by Dora the Explorer! Ages 2 to 5.

10:30 a.m. Bilingual storytime with Miss Andrea. Ages 2 to 5.

3 to 5 p.m. Papel Picado craft program. Explore the traditional Mexican art of paper-cutting into elaborate designs. Designs are cut from tissue paper using a guide. Grades K-6.

4 to 5 p.m., Muestra de libros book sampling. Try a sampling of “delicious” stories and poems. Snacks provided. Each child will receive a free book to take home! All ages.

For more details about El Dia events, pick up a free schedule or call the Rock Island Children’s Department at 309-732-7360. This is the second year for the cooperative program, which was made possible by Arts Dollar\$, a Quad City Arts regranting program, with support from the Illinois Arts Council, the Doris and Victor Day Foundation, the John Deere Foundation and the Mary Iva Gittens Knouse charitable trust.

El Día is an enhancement of Children’s Day, which began in 1925 to bring attention to the importance and well-being of children. In 1996, nationally acclaimed children’s book author Pat Mora proposed linking the celebration of childhood and children with literacy to become “Day of the Child/Day of the Book.”

All of the above events 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.

For questions about EL Dia events in Moline, please see the free brochure available at either library. Or, call the Moline Public Library at 309-736-5739 or visit www.molinelibrary.com