



Timberland
Regional
Library

News Release

(360)943-5001 - Fax (360)586-6838 - www.trlib.org - 415 Tumwater Blvd SW - Tumwater, WA 98501

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Free Community Event Kicks off Summer with a Splash!

The first annual

Imagination Celebration

Jump into reading, performing and creativity!



Jump into a summer of fun with reading, performing and creativity. The first annual Imagination Celebration, a new free community event, will be held on Saturday, June 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. The celebration is being launched as a block party in and around the [Olympia Timberland Library](#) by the [South Sound Reading Foundation](#) (SSRF) and [Capital Playhouse's Page to Stage Theatre-Literacy Program](#), in cooperation with the [Timberland Regional Library District](#) (TRL). Performances and most activities will be on 9th Street between Franklin and Adams.

“Imagination Celebration will ignite a passion for reading with reading-related activities, favorite authors, storytelling, summer reading sign-up, free books and so much more. It will be fireworks for the brain!” said Jennifer Williamson-Forster, the reading foundation’s Executive Director.

Magician Jeff Evans is first up on stage, followed by a presentation of the SSRF 2010 Literacy Leadership Award by Secretary of State Sam Reed and State Librarian Jan Walsh. The award goes to children of the City of Roy for raising funds to save their library. Next up is DougLuce Puppet Productions’ play “Treasure-Bound: Literacy on the High Seas”, Native American interactive storytelling by Harvey Whitford, Principal of Wa-He Lut Indian School, and Irish dance with the Comerford Dancers. Jay Sicilia of Planet Percussion will close the festivities for this year with a drum circle and a parade of everyone at the celebration.

Between acts, children can take part in lots of hands-on arts and activities at booths along both sides of the street. They can visit with six children’s authors who will also sign books. In the library meeting room, the PAWS to Read Pet Partner dogs and their handlers will listen to children read from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Kids and families can pick up their startup packets for summer programs at the library, “Make a Splash READ”(children) and “Make Waves @ Your Library” (teens). “Our hope is that children and families will find joy in, and a love for reading while letting their imaginations run wild. Summer is all about freedom to explore and what better way to do that than with our Summer Reading Program?” said Cheryl Heywood, the Olympia Timberland Library Manager.

Ann King, Capital Playhouse’s Education Director invites kids to step into the world of pure imagination, Willy Wonka style, at the Page to Stage Theatre-Literacy Program tent. “Be sure to stop by the tent and enter the raffle to win Wonka Golden Tickets to the playhouse’s summer production of Willy Wonka,” King said. “And you can also try your luck winning tickets that are tucked into some of the Summer Reading Program sign-up bags at the Olympia library’s booth” she said. In addition, the first 50 kids to sign up for summer reading will receive a free copy of the book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

“Parents looking for a special day to spend with the kids have found it,” said Ellen Duffy, TRL’s Youth Services Coordinator. “Celebrate Father’s Day one day early – share an afternoon at the Imagination Celebration, a family-centered community event that celebrates the joy of imagination!” she said.

Local vendors, non-profits and agencies will provide a variety hands-on crafts and activities for children from preschool through the school ages, many relating to books or water, the library’s summer theme. An information/first aid/lost child booth will be in service throughout the afternoon and favorite children’s characters, Clifford and Booker T. Bear, will be circulating and visiting with children.

“Imagination Celebration is for the kids and it is free! Our community needs more free local activities that are fun and family based. By combining performance, activities, crafts and reading the celebration will inspire a love of reading and the imagination for the summer and throughout the year. We promote reading because reading creates potential!” said Williamson-Forster.

The Olympia Timberland Library is located at 313 8th Avenue SE, 98501. The portion of 9th Street between Franklin and Adams will be closed to traffic for the event. For more information call the South Sound Reading Foundation at 412-4499 or visit www.TRL.org.

Schedule of performances and presentations:

1:00 Introductions by Greg Stevens of MIXX 96
1:15 Jeff Evans: The Magical Adventures of Aquifer Man
1:45 Presentation of SSRF 2010 Literacy Leadership Award to children of the City of Roy
3:00 “Treasure-Bound: Literacy on the High Seas!” DougLuce Puppet Productions
3:30 Native American Interactive Storytelling by Harvey Whitford
4:00 Irish Dance with the Comerford Dancers
4:30 Planet Percussion Drum Circle with Jay Sicilia
5:00 Closing Parade for all participants!

2:00-3:00 Visit with six children’s book authors

- Bonny Becker (A Visitor for Bear; The Magical Ms. Plum)
- Kirby Larson (Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle; Hattie Big Sky)

- Carmen Bernier- Grand (Shake it, Morena, and Other Folklore from Puerto Rico; Frida: Viva la Vida! Long Live Life)
- Dia Calhoun (Aria of the Sea; Avielle of Rhia)
- Patrick Jennings (Guinea Dog; We Can't All be Rattlesnakes)
- Nikki McClure (Mama, Is it Summer, Yet? All in a Day)

Ask the authors to sign your copies of their books. Books by each author will be available for purchase at the Barnes & Noble booth.

2:00-3:30 Children can read to PAWS to Read dogs in the library meeting room.

2:00-5:00 Community Partner booths and hands on activities. All are free of charge:

- TRL Make a Splash: READ! Summer reading signups, tattoos, and chances to win free books and "Golden Tickets" to Capital Playhouse's Willy Wonka
- SSRF Book Van: Free book distribution
- Capital Playhouse's Page To Stage Imagination Tent & Wonka Golden Tickets Raffle
- Hands on Children's Museum activity: Sea Life Prints
- Paws to Read Pet Partners: dogs listen to kids read (in the library meeting room)
- TRL, activity: Sink or Float Discovery Center
- City of Olympia Stream Team: water-themed activities and the Drain Dare!
- The Friends of the Olympia and Yelm Libraries, activity: Making Accordion Books
- Thurston Early Childhood Coalition (TECC): BlockFest, Play with Blocks
- TECC and Thrive by 5: Create a Book, a Family Treasure
- People for Puget Sound: Imagine Our Estuary art activity
- Olympia Early Learning Center, activity: Puppet Making Magic
- DougLuce Production: Puppets, Puppeteering and All Things Puppet
- Fertile Ground Guesthouse: Popcorn & green space for relaxing
- Family Support Center, activity: Make a Birdhouse
- Family Education and Support Services, activity

The following local sponsors are providing funding and in-kind support to the Imagination Celebration:

- Friends of the Olympia Library
- The Arc of Washington State
- Shea-Carr-Jewell
- Foundation for Early Learning
- McDonalds of Olympia
- Barnes & Noble, Booksellers
- Washington Business Bank
- DougLuce Puppet Productions
- City of Olympia Stream Team
- City of Olympia
- The Olympian
- Signs by Tomorrow

