



Timberland
Regional
Library

News Release

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February 12, 2010

Library's early learning program offers family fun

TRL annual Family Read-Aloud program begins March 2



Timberland Regional Library (TRL) announces its 2010 annual districtwide Family Read-Aloud program, connecting reading and early learning with family fun. Two nationwide reading initiatives bookend the program: March 2, which is Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America Day, and April 12, which is Beverly Cleary's Birthday and D.E.A.R. Day (Drop Everything and Read). Each Timberland library in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties will provide free Read-Aloud kits and most will also host one or more free related events.

“Reading aloud together is one of the most important gifts that a parent can give a child,” said Ellen Duffy, TRL Youth Services Coordinator. “Children learn best when they’re having fun and interacting with loving parents and other caring adults. Reading together nurtures family relationships and sends children a strong positive message about the value and fun of reading,” said Duffy.

Based on early learning research, the TRL Family Read-Aloud program promotes the educational, developmental and social value of families reading aloud together every day from the time children are babies. The program focuses on families, childcare groups and classrooms with children from infancy through grade three, but all ages are encouraged to join in the fun. One of the most entertaining aspects of the program involves families and classes reading aloud together in every room in the home—yes—that includes the basement, bathroom, kitchen, laundry space...

Make your house a read-aloud house

Families and childcare groups can pick up a free Family Read-Aloud House kit at any of the 27 Timberland libraries beginning March 1. Kits include:

- A new original drawing of a house and its rooms to color—this year’s house is a spaceship!
- A free paperback copy of *Read to Your Bunny*, by Rosemary Wells, compliments of the TRL Foundation, that charmingly depicts the special gift of reading aloud to a child
- Stickers to place on the drawing as the family reads together in rooms of their own home
- Program information and a reading log in English and Spanish
- A colorful Read-Aloud House door hanger
- A list of books that are especially good for reading aloud

- A prize drawing entry form

Online read-aloud materials and tips

Busy families, childcare providers and teachers who can't make it into their Timberland libraries in early March can begin participating online at www.TRL.org. By the end of February, the Family Read-Aloud webpage will include program information, printable materials and booklists. Then, when participants visit their Timberland libraries in person, they can enter prize drawings, check out children's books and talk with library staff about the whats, hows and whys of sharing books with children.

Finding Read-Aloud Books

Look for these booklists at your Timberland Library or online or ask a friendly library staff person to recommend a book that your family will enjoy reading together.

- 100 Books Every Child Should Hear Before Starting School
- 100 Favorite Children's Books
- Books to Read Aloud

Favorite Books ABOUT Reading Aloud

- *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever*, by Mem Fox, (2008 Revised Edition)
- *Reid's Read-Alouds: Selections for Children and Teens*, by Rob Reid, 2009
- *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, the classic, by Jim Trelease, 6th edition, 2006 and earlier editions

Prizes

- The Big One: Everyone wins good times, lifelong educational benefits and family bonding.
- Five grand prizes: A backpack or suitcase packed with books will be awarded to one family in each of TRL's five counties.
- Hundreds of books and other prizes provided by local reading foundations, Friends of the Library groups and businesses will be given away to children at local library branches at various times during the program.

Reading aloud is key in reading success

Research shows that young children who are read to each day subsequently perform better in school in all areas of learning. "Reading aloud together is one of the most important gifts that a parent can give a child. And the zany fun of reading in unusual spaces in the home motivates participation and reinforces the joy of reading," said Duffy.

For further details about the family Read-Aloud program, call or visit your local Timberland library or go to www.TRL.org.

Family Read-Aloud events at Timberland libraries

Unless otherwise stated, events are for all ages. At very popular events, children will be seated first.

Grays Harbor Timberland Libraries

Aberdeen, (360) 533-2360

- **Feb. 27, Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** Party and cake with the Cat in the Hat and a Reader's Theater Production of "Horton Hatches the Egg!" Free book for each child.

- **April 1, Junior PageTurners Book Group, 3:30-4:30 p.m., grades 1-3.** Book chat, games, craft and snacks. Preregister and pick up the book, “Ramona Quimby, Age 8,” by Beverly Cleary.

Amanda Park, (360) 288-2725

- **March 3, Celebrate Seuss! 4:30-5:30 p.m.** Join in a Dr. Seuss celebration with Seuss story DVDs and games. Win books, laugh, eat cake and check out a book.

Hoquiam, (360) 532-1710

- **March 4, 11, 18, 25, Four First Fifteens, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Librarians will read aloud the first 15 pages of four books each week to whet your appetite.
- **March 6, Reading Magic with Jeff Evans, 10:30-11:30 a.m.** Join in a performance that celebrates books and magic.

McCleary, (360) 495-3368

- **March 2-April 12, Mystery Jars** Figure out the titles of Beverly Cleary and Dr. Seuss books from clues in the guessing jar and enter a prize drawing.
- **March 13, A Dr. Seuss Birthday Party, 1-2:30 p.m.** Play games, hear stories and have some cake.

Montesano, (360) 249-4211

- **March 6, Reading Magic with Jeff Evans, 1:30-2:30 p.m.** Join in a performance that celebrates books and magic, and have some cake for Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Oakville, (360) 273-5305

- **March 13, Dr. Seuss Birthday Party, 10:30-11:30 a.m.,** Join in songs and games, enjoy some cake, and hear celebrity readers.
- **March 18, Family Night: Cowpokes, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Create your own brand and lasso a cow. Enjoy tall tales and cowpoke tunes and cookin'. Wear pajamas if you like.

Westport, (360) 268-0521

- **March 6-April 10, Weekly Book Drawing.** For families who have registered for Read-Aloud at Westport library. Each child in the family through grade 6 will be able to select a book.
- **April 10, D.E.A.R.: Drop Everything And Read! 1-2 p.m.** Read aloud or listen at this D.E.A.R. event in celebration of Beverly Cleary's birthday. Cake and prizes for everyone.

Lewis County Timberland Libraries

Centralia, (360) 736-0183

- **February 27, Birthday Candle Guessing Jar.** How many birthday candles are in the library's jar? Closest guess wins a small prize.
- **March 13, Reading Magic with Jeff Evans, 2:30-3:30 p.m.** Explore the magic of reading with favorite book characters and enjoy a piece of cake for Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Chehalis, (360) 748-3301

- **March 13, Reading Magic with Jeff Evans, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.** Join in a performance that celebrates books and magic.

Salkum, (360) 985-2148

- **March 19, Dragon Daze Family Program, 10:30 a.m.-noon.** Stories, games and activities. Discover your royal name, jump the moat monster and pin the flame on the dragon.
- **April 16, Fun with Pharaohs, 10:30 a.m.-noon.** Write hieroglyphs, compete in a “cat mummy” race, craft Egyptian accessories and learn about a fascinating ancient culture.

Winlock, (360) 785-3461

- **March 18, Junior PageTurners Book Group, 1-2 p.m. and 3:30 -4:30, grades 1-3.** Book chat, games, craft and snacks. Preregister and pick up the featured book, “Ramona Quimby, Age 8” by Beverly Cleary.

Mason County Timberland Libraries

Hoodsport, (360) 877-9339

- **March 20, Creative Conjuring with Jeff Evans, 1-1:45 p.m.** Science stunts, wacky inventions and magical mayhem.

North Mason (Belfair), (360) 275-3232

- **March 4, Harmonica Pocket ‘s Dr. Seuss Birthday, 4-4:45 p.m.** Music and theater with lots of audience participation celebrates Seuss and some of his best-loved stories.

Shelton, (360) 426-1362

- **March 2, Dr. Seuss Birthday Party, 11-11:40 a.m. and 4-4:40 p.m.** Play games, listen to stories, and have a good time celebrating Dr. Seuss.
- **March 20, Creative Conjuring with Jeff Evans, 3:30-4:15 p.m.** Science stunts, wacky inventions, and magical mayhem.
- **April 6, Henry Huggins has a Dog and Ribsby is his Name, 2-4 p.m.** Dog-gone good art projects. Young children may need adult assistance.

Pacific County Timberland Libraries

Ilwaco, (360) 642-3908

- **March 2, Read-Aloud Guessing Jar, 1-1 p.m.** Make the closest guess to the number of fish in the guessing jar and win a prize.
- **March 13, Family Day at the Library, 1-2 p.m.** Join library staff for Dr. Seuss stories, games and crafts.
- **April 10, Family Day at the Library, 1-2 p.m.** Join in Beverly Cleary's birthday with cake, games and activities.

Naselle, (360) 484-3877

- **April 7, Beverly Cleary Scavenger Hunt, 1-1:45 p.m.** Join in a spring break scavenger hunt and find out where Henry, Otis, and Ramona are hiding.

Ocean Park, (360) 665-4184

- **April 7, Beverly Cleary Scavenger Hunt, 3-3:45 p.m.** Join in a spring break scavenger hunt and find out where Henry, Otis, and Ramona are hiding.

Raymond, (360) 942-2408

- **March 5, Harmonica Pocket's Dr. Seuss Birthday, 1-1:50 p.m.** Music and theater with lots of audience participation celebrates Seuss and some of his best-loved stories.
- **March 9, A Dr. Seuss Birthday Party, 3:30-5 p.m.** Play games, hear stories, and have a good time celebrating Dr. Seuss. Guess the story and win prizes!
- **April 1, Beverly Cleary Scavenger Hunt, 3:30-4:30 p.m.** What's that Ramona up to now? Join in a spring scavenger hunt and find out where Henry, Otis, and Ramona are hiding at the library. There will also be some egg dyeing.

South Bend, (360) 875-5532

- **March 6, Saturday Game Day Party, 1-2:30 p.m.** Play games and have cookies and punch to celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday.

Thurston County Timberland Libraries

Lacey, (360) 491-3860

- **March 6, Harmonica Pocket's Dr. Seuss Birthday, 2:30-3:30 p.m.** Music and theater with lots of audience participation celebrates Seuss and some of his best-loved stories.
- **April 6, Linda Severt's JuggleTunes, 11 a.m.-noon.** Circus arts, puppets and music including songs that inspire kids to read.
- **April 8, Family Game Day, 11 a.m., 1 p.m.** Drop in and play board and electronic games.

Olympia, (360) 352-0595

- **March 4, Harmonica Pocket 's Dr. Seuss Birthday, 10-10:50 a.m.** Music and theater with lots of audience participation celebrates Seuss and some of his best-loved stories.

Tenino, (360) 264-2369

- **March 24, Reading Magic with Jeff Evans, 4:30-5:30 p.m.** Celebrate reading with magic and favorite story book characters.
- **April 10, Beverly Cleary Birthday Party, 3-4 p.m.** Celebrate Beverly Cleary's birthday with cake, hats, singing and readings from her books.

Tumwater, (360) 943-7790

- **March 6, Harmonica Pocket's Dr. Seuss Birthday, 11-11:45 a.m.** Music and theater with lots of audience participation celebrates Seuss and some of his best-loved stories.

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and 7 library service partner locations. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's program may contact the library one week in advance.