

LIL'BITS

Summer Reading Program Wraps Up

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

Despite worries of rain, the End-of-Summer Reading party went on Monday afternoon at the Vermillion Public Library.

"We had about 150 kids there," said Children's librarian Beth Knedler. "We had 200 kids at the kickoff but we were happy with the 150 because everyone's on vacation now. I feel like we did well."

After devouring 16 extra-large pizzas and other treats, attendees received a t-shirt and had the chance to play with games and create some fun summer crafts.

"I took this piece of paper and I folded it back and forth," said Abby, 8, describing one of the crafts, a fan. "Then I folded it in half and then I stapled the middle and then I took two of these art craft sticks and I taped them onto the pieces of paper and then I taped the upper part up here and then I put a rubber band around it."

An easy craft that Abby said she will definitely replicate at home.

For Abby, the summer reading program has helped her get into reading a lot more.

"Because they let you do fun stuff and there's a lot of books and it's nice and quiet so it doesn't give you a headache," she said. "Sometimes me and my mom come here with my brother and we read and get books and sometimes we'll check out a movie to watch. Sometimes my mom has to come to the library and work on the computer."

Kids at the activity reported on their favorite books discovered throughout the program.

"My favorite book was probably, I don't remember the name but I like the Magic Tree House Series," Abby said. "I had Soccer on Sunday that I liked and I read some more. They have this cool tree house and they tap this picture of a place in a book and they get to go there."

"Mystery of the Lego Express," said Daxton, 6. "This girl lost her trophy but it was in her purse the whole time."

Tanvi, 6, preferred books all about Disney



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The Super Summer Reading Program went out with a bang as the Vermillion Public Library put on a Backyard Bash to celebrate the program's success.

Princesses, her favorite being Ariel.

"She's a mermaid and I like mermaids," Tanvi said.

Grant, 9, liked 'Diary of a Minecraft Kitten.'

"It's a kitten that goes exploring," he said.

The kids also found that reading sparked their interest to read more books.

"This year I'm going to try to read all the chapter books," Abby said. "Maybe the library or my school has them too."

"I want a learning book," said Colton, 7. "I want an Irish book. I want to speak Irish because I have some Irish blood in me."

According to Knedler this year's summer reading program (Superhero themed) was quite successful though some changes were made including the ending prizes chosen

through a drawing.

"We had some kids who felt they all should have won a prize," Knedler said. "I think they're used to all getting something and they didn't. I might have to put a disclaimer in next year."

There was good reason for the change according to Knedler, namely quality over quantity.

"I didn't want there to be just junk," she said. "This is stuff they'll actually use."

Knedler put a lot of thought into the prizes so even the weekly prizes were usable such as coupons for ice cream cones.

"All in all, I liked the way it went," Knedler said. "I want to do it again next year but maybe a little better. I think it got kids reading."



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Fellowship, Fun And Free Film

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

The Vermillion Police Department is set for a fun evening aimed at promoting community partnership and camaraderie between neighbors.

National Night will be on Tuesday from 5-9 p.m.

"National Night out is done nationwide and on this particular day," said Janna Mollet of Vermillion Police Department (VPD). "The VPD is having two different functions, which are also sponsored by the Vermillion Public Library and Vermillion Parks and Recreation. That's who are helping sponsor the free movie and the scavenger hunt."

Along with the city-wide fun, neighborhoods across Vermillion are invited to throw their own parties with a little help from the VPD.

"Starting at 5 p.m. there are various neighborhoods that are putting on block parties," Mollet said. "They invite their block to come and the police provides the hot dogs. They do a cook out and have an officer stop by that's an on-duty uniformed officer. He visits with them to kind of promote neighborhood watch and safety, trying to keep down crime and drug prevention."

According to Mollet anyone is welcome to host a block party by contacting her at 605-677-7070 and

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Learning To Serve, Serve For Learning

BY SARAH WETZEL
For The Plain Talk

While many University of South Dakota (USD) students are still enjoying their summer break, those in the School of medicine are getting an early start in both education and service.

Fifty-six students from the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy programs participated in a service project last Thursday as part of their orientation and helped the staff of Vermillion Elementary schools prep for the beginning of their school year.

"We just called the local schools and Sue Galvin said she actually needed a lot of help right now," said Lisa Inglis, instructor of Physical Therapy at USD. "We just jumped on that. She just planned the whole day what she needed done and how many people. We're trying to get as much done as we can."

Ten of the USD students served at Austin Elementary while the rest tackled the bulk of the work at Jolley Elementary, where principal Sue Galvin put them to work.

"They're assembling student desks, putting the legs on," she said. "There were four sections of second grade and now we have a fifth. They're setting up that classroom."

The USD students also helped rearrange the library which recently acquired a new circulation desk and furniture.

"We're getting the furniture set up in there," Galvin said. "We're looking at strategies to make the



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

USD students served their community this week by helping prep Jolley and Austin Elementary Schools for the coming school year including organizing new curriculum material.

building more manageable. We got more square footage by moving the bookshelves back. They're reorganizing all the books. There's going to be a little Lego land there."

Teachers and students also worked side-by-side organizing learning materials.

"We have some new curriculum materials and they're putting them in book sets, stamping them and labeling them," Galvin said. "It saves time for teachers and makes it more efficient."

According to Inglis, the service project is meant not only to benefit the Vermillion community but to inspire the students to continue to serve throughout their careers.

"A couple of the missions in the school of Health Sci-

ences at USD are to enhance interprofessional collaboration and to teach them about service," she said. "We need professionals who not only make money but also serve their community. We teach them that by engaging in service activities throughout their schooling. They're learning by doing and they're starting week one."

The students in the OT and PT programs are strongly encouraged to continue to participate in service projects throughout their time at USD according to Inglis.

"They usually like the opportunity to get out of the classroom and do something," she said. "We strongly encourage them to do this. We do keep a record of their service and that definitely factors into their consideration for things like scholarships and awards. The more service they provide the better that looks. Most of them like to go above and beyond the call of duty."

Service seems to be an aspect of their education that many students seem to enjoy according to Inglis.

"They're usually excited," she said. "We usually

try to engage them at the organizational stage. This organization was actually started by one of our second year students."

Much of the organization comes from a group known as the University of South Dakota Student Physical Therapy Association.

"It is modeled after the national organization," Inglis said. "They have a couple of jobs. They organize fundraising that we have to do. They help with things that are educational like if they want to learn things that we're not teaching in class they'll bring in guest speakers. They raise funds to help them to each other's national conferences. They also organize community services so we expect them to organize several service opportunities per year. They pick what they want to do and they do it."

The service projects happen about once per month according to Inglis.

"They recently started one going into the Vermillion Care Center just a few at a time just to chat with the seniors," she said.

"That's a great skill for them to learn because they're going to work with seniors."



COURTESY PHOTO

Dakota Hospital Foundation Grant Awarded To Vermillion Music Boosters

Dakota Hospital Foundation has awarded the Vermillion Music Boosters a \$5,000 grant to partially fund the purchase of a new equipment trailer.

The Music Boosters applied for grant funding to Dakota Hospital Foundation (DHF) during the open grant period in April of this year. The grant requested funds to assist with expenses related to the equipment trailer and needs for new or replacement instruments in the VHS Music Department.

"My favorite thing to do as a parent is support my kids in what they love to do— Music Boosters has been a great place to join other parents in doing just that. And now, seeing this kind of support from the Dakota Hospital Foundation makes me so proud to be a part of this community."

"We are so excited that this request became a reality so quickly. The new trailer will not have time to gather dust—can't wait to break it in for marching band season," said Lisa Swanson, President, Vermillion Music Boosters

"DHF is very pleased that our contribution resulted in the Music Boosters being able to purchase the trailer. We are happy to support the young musicians in our community," said Lisa Ketcham, President, Dakota Hospital Foundation Board.

Funds for this grant were payable through the Vermillion Public Schools Foundation for benefit of the Vermillion Music Boosters.

Dakota Hospital Foundation held an open grant period from April 1 – 30, 2015. Five grants applications were received and three were awarded for a total of \$9,500. The next open grant period for DHF will be October 1 - 31, 2015. Learn more at sanfordvermillion.org/foundation.



SHAUNA MARLETTE/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

HyVee Donates To Main Street Center

The Vermillion HyVee donated the proceeds from the coupon fundraiser held in July to the Main Street Center.

"The Main Street Center is honored to be able to work with Josh and the staff of Hy-Vee on the coupon fundraiser that was held in July," said Main Street Center director Crystal McGuire. "It is necessary for the Center to work with other businesses and organizations to raise funds to help with the daily operation of the Center. The Center is so thankful that Hy-Vee and the community participants were willing to donate so generously to our cause."

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