

# Mid-Hudson Library System

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 1, 2004

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### Summer Reading Programs **@your library™** Help your child be ready for school in September (and have fun!)

(Hudson Valley, NY) – Summer reading programs in public libraries are one of the best bargains around! They are offered free of charge to all children from toddlers to teens. Parents are encouraged to participate as well. Summer reading programs help children advance their literacy skills and they encourage a life-long love of reading and libraries. Over the summer young people can choose whatever reading materials interest them—from fiction books to magazines to books about their favorite sports figure, animal or hobby—all waiting to be explored at the library! Many libraries offer prizes to children and families who make the effort to read, either by themselves or as a family activity.

You as a parent can nurture a love of reading in your child in many ways: by taking them to the public library on a regular basis and letting them pick appropriate materials *they* want to read (not what *you* think they should read); by reading to them and letting them read to you; by being a reader yourself and modeling reading at home. What better parenting experience than to sit with your child on your lap or next to you, letting your imaginations take a journey together into the world of the book!

This summer libraries in our area will be taking part in the Statewide *New York Is Read, White and Blue* summer reading program. Young people will be exploring their home

state, working with patriotic themes and a wide variety of other activities. At many libraries, magicians will be dazzling families with feats of magic, storytellers will take their audiences on fantastic imaginary voyages and children will be making amazing crafts and projects and exploring topics of interest to them.

Major research studies have shown the following positive results from summer reading programs:

☞ Free voluntary reading has a huge impact on reading, writing and language comprehension. (From *The Power of Reading* by Stephen Krashen)

☞ The number of books read during the summer is consistently related to academic gains.

☞ Children in every income group who read six or more books over the summer gained more in reading achievement than children who did not.

☞ The use of the public library during the summer is more predictive of vocabulary gains than attending summer school is.

☞ The major factors determining whether a child read over that summer were: 1) whether the child used the public library; 2) the child's sex (girls read more than boys but also watched more TV); 3) socioeconomic status; and 4) the distance from home to a library.

"More than any other public institution, including the schools, the public library contributed to the intellectual growth of children during the summer. Moreover, unlike summer school programs, the library was used by over half the sample and attracted children from diverse backgrounds." (From *Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling* by Barbara Heyns)

Watch for publicity in your community about the local library's summer reading program. Go to the library or call them to ask what programs will be offered for your children. If you don't already have a library card for each family member, make a trip to the library with photo ID and get cards. They're free and will open up a whole new world to you and your children. Remember

This summer NEW YORK IS READ, WHITE AND BLUE!

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