

The Friends of the Library have generously supported Summer Reading '24 in the Children's Department with financial support for eight raffle-winning prize bundles, "Treasure Chest" reading incentive prizes, and program/presentation supplies. The theme this summer is "Adventure Begins at Your Library!" and we have focused our programs and events on Vermont adventures.

Summer reading programs are all about preventing the loss of reading and math skills during the summer months when kids are out of school. Participation in the SBPL program is for three age groups: ages infant to 4; grades K-5 and grades 5-8. Our youngest patrons receive a goody bag with incentives purchased by FOL funds: chalk, bubbles, and a rubber duck, as well as a calendar of early literacy activities. Readers in grades K-8 earn incentive prizes by reading for twenty minutes--which earns a raffle ticket. Then, kids can either choose a treasure chest prize with one ticket OR drop it into one of eight raffle ticket prize buckets. All of these incentives are funded by the FOL, and we have heard from parents that the prizes really do incentivize reading!

Our eight prize bundles are already generating a lot of attention thanks to the FOL's generous support! Additionally, this year for the first time we are offering special "middle-grade only" prizes for kids in grade 5-8. These special "after-hours events" for a winner and five friends will include a pizza and movie party, an escape room party, and a jewelry-making party in the library after-hours—all generously supported by the Friends of the Library.

The FOL has also funded supplies for all of our programs this summer. Summer "Craftytown" projects include indigo dying with color farmer, Karen Cornish; creating a bird identification book; decorating a Vermont adventure box; crafting a "bug hotel"; sewing rock bags after our VT Geology program with Fred K.; and making seed bombs with local wildflower seeds. Other FOL funded programs include a Board Game Club for grades 4 and up on Tuesday afternoons, and a Middle School cooking club on Thursdays.

Our kick-off event is on Saturday, June 15 with **author, Amy Huntington** sharing her brand-new book **How to Build a Mountain**. Summer Reading participants can work on our summer-long mountain mural project; take a walk along the "Vermont Adventure Trail"; discover the actual size of a variety of Vermont animals, birds, and fish; or find the scavenger hunt photos. And, of course, register for summer reading!

We are grateful for the Friends of the Library's support. We simply could not attract the numbers of participants without the funding and support of this most generous organization! We hope that members visit the Kidspace, so that we can cheer for you!

With gratitude,

Kelly Kendall

Children's Librarian

June 3, 2024