

2013 Summer Reading Program at the Municipal Library

Children from 0 to 18 years had been invited to participate in the 2013 Summer Reading Program at Bibliothèque Saint-Joachim Library. One hundred and twenty children registered for the program which included weekly crafts, along with French and English story times and games every Wednesday morning. Also included in our summer programming this year was Science with Samuel which was very popular with the kids (and some adults) and this segment proved to be a great success.

Children were encouraged to fill out tickets for every book read. The totals were tallied and by the end of the summer, 76 of the registered children had read the minimum required to be eligible for prizes and in all 2780 reading tickets had been returned.

Construction, construction, and more construction. That was the theme around the library all summer as roads were being redone and paved, new sidewalks were installed, and parking lots were being expanded and upgraded. Access to the library was an issue throughout the whole summer. Staff and clients never knew how they would get to the library as each day presented a different dilemma. There was machinery all over, constant noise from these machines, but our most daring clients managed to come in regularly to choose their favorite summer reads.

It's due to this construction that we thought it would be best not to have a BBQ lunch as we had anticipated for the windup for the Summer Reading Program.. It would have been impossible to park vehicles anywhere near the library, it would have been dangerous to have that many people outside the library and the noise would have made it very unpleasant, not to mention the dust in the air.

Instead, the participants were invited to come to the library, at their convenience, to pick up their prize and goody bags. Although some expressed disappointment, we did get some positive comments about distributing prizes this way.

The prizes were made available by sponsors from our community and surrounding ones. We wish to thank the following businesses for providing either prizes, coupons or gifts for the goody bags, or money permitting us to purchase prizes :

Subway - Steinbach
Caisse Groupe Financier
Canadian Tire
Hylife Ltd.
Staples - Steinbach
Superstore - Steinbach

Sobeys - Steinbach
Safeway - Steinbach
Manitoba Hydro
A&W
R Bistro
DC Steakhouse and Grill
LaVérendrye Golf
Coopérative de La Broquerie
Shoppers' Drug Mart
Raevin's Diner
Domino's Pizza
Gagnon Woodwork
Derksen Printers Ltd

We thank these businesses for investing in our youth by encouraging them to read over the summer. Research indicates that when children read over the summer they are able to maintain or improve their level of reading. This is the aim of this Summer Reading Program which is sponsored yearly by TD Bank and Library and Archives Canada. We hope to have been able to make reading a fun time for children.

All in all, it was a great summer at the library. The programs offered kept our clients coming back and, in fact, in spite of the construction issue, our door count was up by 9% over the summer. The number of participants registered for the Summer Reading Program, the number of children who qualified for prizes and the number of books read remained relatively the same as last year.

Please visit our website at www.bsjl.ca for more information about our programs and services, or call us at 424-9533. Serving you is always our pleasure.