



The EXPLORER

A Publication of the Westmont Public Library Vol. 2, Issue 3 December 2008-February 2009

The BIG READ is Back!

Coming this March-May, the annual **Big Read** program begins its fifth year. The featured book for 2009 will be announced in December. The official program guide for all ten participating libraries will be available in the Westmont Library in February. Register early for **Big Read** programs as seats fill quickly!

Children's programs this spring will be similar to the **Big Read** theme and will provide education and entertainment for all ages.

Remodeling Continues at WPL

Since June of 2007, the physical changes in and around the Westmont Public Library have been substantial. We began with a re-designed lobby area that features an often used coffee and tea bar, display cabinets, and new planter boxes.

The Youth Services Department went through a major updating that included adding a children's reading garden, opening up the Storytime Room for more frequent use, shifting the juvenile fiction and non-fiction areas, and adding modern furniture to the teen section. The

former help desk has been moved and resized to make more space for shelving and open study areas.

The next phase focuses on the adult area of the library. The former adult help desk was taken out and replaced with a smaller desk closer to the entrance.

In the coming year, you can expect to see the finishing touches put on our second floor remodel before embarking on changes to the first floor adult area.

See the director's column on page four for information on the roof replacement project.

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Congratulations!

Great job to everyone that worked toward the family reading prize this summer! Our top three families that read the most were:

Grand Prize Winner:
Lyght Family: 389 books

Czaplewski Family:
321 books

Steger Family:
310 books

Library Volunteer Spotlight: Marilyn Miklos



If you have been coming to the Westmont Public Library for the last five years, you may know one of our hardest working volunteers, Marilyn Miklos.

Marilyn is an asset to the library, and staff can't imagine what they'd do without her. Besides coming in every week to make phone calls for patrons with items on hold, she helps out at our busy circulation desk. She also helped paint the tree in our Children's Reading Garden!

Marilyn is the delivery person for our homebound service.

She cheerfully takes bags of library materials to nursing homes, assisted living, and individual homes of people who cannot come into the library. She also hauls all of the returns back with her.

In her free time, Marilyn enjoys reading, traveling, and gardening.

Thank you, Marilyn, for your dedicated service to the library.

December

- 2 Role Playing Games @ 5:15PM v ☺
- 4 Writer's Group @ 7PM v ☺
- 7 Open Art Studio, 2-4PM v ☺
- 13 Science Saturday, 1-3PM v
- 14 Harp Concert @ 3PM v
- 16 Board Meeting @ 7PM ☹
- 17 Anime Club @ 7PM v
- 18 Family Storytime @ 6:30PM v
- 23 Video Games, 3-6PM ☹
- 24 Closed All Day
- 25 Closed All Day
- 31 Closed All Day

January

- 1 Closed All Day
- 4 Open Art Studio, 2-4PM v ⊕
- 10 Science Saturday, 1-3PM v
- 12 Basics of Tea @ 7PM v ⊕
- 15 Exam Cram, 7-9PM ⊖
- 17 Art4Kidz, 1-3PM v
- 19 Jim Gill Concert @ 6:30PM v
- 20 Early Literacy @ 7PM v
Board Meeting @ 7PM ⊖
- 22 Early Literacy @ 6:30 &
7PM v
- 26 4th Monday Book Group
@ 7PM ⊖
- 27 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
Video Games, 3-6PM ⊖
- 28 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
TAG @ 6:30PM ⊖
Anime Club @ 7PM ⊖
- 29 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
Lincoln: Commander in
Chief @ 7PM v ⊕

Did you Know?

You can pay your fines online! Log in to your account on the SWAN catalogue by visiting the library's web site. You can then view all outstanding balances you owe for late fees, damaged books, and lost materials. You can then pay using a credit card, or wait and pay your fine when you visit the library.

Adult Winter Programming

Open Art Studio v ⊕
Sunday, 12/7, 1/4 & 2/1, 2-4PM
Bring your own supplies to this independent study opportunity and we will provide the space and models.

Roleplaying Games v ⊕
Tuesday, December 2nd @ 5:15PM
Plunge into the world of tabletop roleplaying games! Beginners and experienced gamers over the age of 12 are welcome to join.

Writer's Group v ⊕
Thursday, December 4th @ 7PM
This new group is for adults interested in the world of writing and publishing. Beginners to experienced writers welcome!

Holiday Harp Concert v
Sunday, December 14th @ 3PM
Laura Ann Fako brings her beautiful music to the library for an afternoon holiday concert.

The Basics of Tea v ⊕
Monday, January 12th @ 7PM
 Come learn about the benefits of tea and sample different varieties during a special presentation by the owners of Serene Teaz.

Lincoln: Commander in Chief v ⊕
Thursday, January 29th @ 7PM
Take a visual tour of the presidency of Abraham Lincoln with artist Jim Weren and his accomplished work.

International Cheese Tasting v ⊕
Tuesday, February 3rd @ 7PM
 Chef Michael Niksic will teach us his secrets for serving, handling, and storing the many types of cheese. Enjoy a generous portion of a variety of cheeses! Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of food.

Dream Interpretation for Self-Awareness v ⊕
Thursday, February 12th @ 7PM
Find out about nightmares, recurring dreams, why we dream and more! Bring in a dream and have it analyzed by expert, Pam Blosser!



Dates and programs are subject to change. Please check the library website for updated information at: www.westmontlibrary.org.

Registration Key: v Call ahead or register in person ⊖ No registration required
⊕ Children under 12 not admitted

Please note: Individuals requiring accommodation for a disability for any library program should contact the library at least five days before the program.

2009 Adult Winter Read: *Master the Art of Reading*



The Westmont Public Library is excited to announce our annual Adult Winter Reading Program for Westmont Library cardholders reading at an adult level. This year's theme is *Master the Art of Reading* and will run from **January 3rd-February 14th**.

Registering for the Winter Reading Program is easy! Just come to the Library and visit the Adult Services desk on or after January 3rd. You will be given a log sheet to track your progress. For each book you read, you will get a raffle ticket to enter in the drawing of your choice. On February 15th, staff will draw

winners.

If you have any questions or comments about the Winter Reading Program, please call 630.969.5625 or visit the library.

You can get great book recommendations from one of our reader's advisors or by visiting www.westmontlibrary.org and clicking on the "BookLetters" link.

Youth Winter Programming

Jim Gill Concert v

Monday, January 19th @ 6:30PM



Join us for an evening of family fun with musician Jim Gill. All ages are welcome to attend this interactive concert featuring music from Jim's award-winning recordings and sing-along books.

Lincoln's Birthday Party v

Saturday, February 21st @ 1PM

Ages 6-8

Celebrate the life of Abraham Lincoln with crafts, games, stories, and birthday cake!



Art4Kidz v

Saturday, January 17th, 1-3PM

Ages 7 & up

Get creative for a special day all about the artwork of Vincent van Gogh. Children will make a piece of art to take home with them.



Science Saturdays v

12/13, 1/10, 2/14

1-3PM, Ages 5-11

Learn cool new concepts with our science kits! Do experiments and take home your creations.

Family Storytime v

Thursday, December

18th @ 6:30PM

Join us for a night of family reading with books, crafts, and music.

Video Games @ your Library ⊖

12/23, 1/27, 2/24, 3-6PM

On the 4th Tuesday of every month from 3-6PM the meeting room is transformed into a video gamer's paradise!

Early Literacy Workshops

Parents of young children will gain valuable tips for encouraging reading.

• **Tues. 1/20 @ 7PM:**

Pre-Readers (4&5) v

• **Thurs. 1/22 @ 6:30PM:**

Early Talkers (0-2) v

• **Thurs. 1/22 @ 7PM:**

Talkers (2&3) v

Dates and programs are subject to change. Please check the library website for updated information at: www.westmontlibrary.org.

February

- 1 **Open Art Studio, 2-4PM v ⊗**
- 3 **Storytime @ 10:15AM v**
Cheese Tasting @ 7PM v ⊗
- 4 **Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖**
- 5 **Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖**
- 10 **Storytime @ 10:15AM v**
- 11 **Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖**
TAG @ 6:30PM ⊖
Survivor @ 7PM v
- 12 **Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖**
Dream Interp. @ 7PM v ⊗
- 14 **Science Saturday, 1-3PM v**
- 16 **Board Meeting @ 7PM ⊖**
- 17 **Storytime @ 10:15AM v**
- 18 **Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖**
- 19 **Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖**
- 21 **Lincoln Party @ 1PM v**
- 24 **Storytime @ 10:15AM v**
Video Games, 3-6PM ⊖
- 25 **Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖**
Anime Club @ 7PM ⊖
- 26 **Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖**

Teen Scene

Anime/Manga Club ⊖

12/17, 1/28, 2/25 @ 7PM

Watch and discuss anime with other fans of the genre. Snacks and video games round out the evening.

Exam Cram ⊖

Thursday, January 15, 7-9PM

Ages 12 and up

Come to the library for a quiet place to study and a nice supply of brain food! Call ahead to reserve space for study groups.

Survivor: Library Island v

Wednesday, February 11th @ 7PM

Ages 12 and up

Will you survive Library Island? Come find out at this night of crazy games with prizes for the winning team.

Teen Advisory Group (TAG) ⊖

Wednesday, January 28th @ 6:30PM

Wednesday, February 11th @ 6:30PM

If you are interested in getting more involved in the library, come to one of our TAG meetings. Share your ideas and eat free pizza!

Storytimes this Fall!

January 27th -

February 26th, 2009

Pre-Reader Storytime v

Tuesdays @ 10:15AM:

Four- and five-year-olds explore with books, crafts, and songs.

Early Talkers Storytime ⊖

Wednesdays @ 10:15AM:

Ages 0-2 enjoy books, action songs, and other musical activities.

Talkers Storytime ⊖

Thursdays @ 10:15AM:

Two- and three-year-olds learn with books, flannel boards, and music.

Registration Key: v Call ahead or register in person ⊖ No registration required ⊗ Children under 12 not admitted

♿ Please note: Individuals requiring accommodation for a disability for any library program should contact the library at least five days before the program.

The Explorer is a Westmont Public Library quarterly publication intended to offer current and updated library information to Westmont patrons.

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The Friends of the Westmont

Public Library is a non-profit organization that supports the library by raising money to help subsidize the cost of programs and special events. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Library, please email: friends@westmontlibrary.org or call (630)969-5625.

Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday	10AM-9PM
Friday-Saturday	10AM-5PM
Sunday	1PM-5PM

For more information about the Westmont Public Library, please contact us at:
630.969.5625
630.969.6490 fax
westmontlibrary@westmontlibrary.org

Up on the Roof

by Christine Kuhn, Director

Many of you witnessed roofers recreating a rain storm over our building this summer and fall. They did this to determine why so much rain water is finding its way into the Children's Library. The key finding is that the roof needs to be replaced before the metal decking, which protects much of the library's collections, furnishing and equipment, is damaged beyond repair.

The Library Board is exploring all options for a long-term, environmentally friendly and cost effective solution. For such a

large roof, it will not be cheap to tear off the old tiles, battens and insulation and replace it. All of this must be done while protecting patrons, staff, collections, and equipment.

The library board honored the voter's request of limiting the library's taxing rate to 19 mils. This means the library will seek a bond or loan that will be paid back over 10-15 years, depending on the ultimate cost of the project. We estimate the average homeowner will see an increase of \$9 in their

tax bill as the library has not been collecting the full amount approved by voters in 2005.

With library use and visits up more than 20 percent this last year, it is hoped that the new roof project can be accomplished without significant cuts to the increasingly popular library collections, programs and services.

If you have questions regarding the roof project, please attend one of the monthly board meetings or visit our web site where the report and photos will be available.

4th Monday Book Discussions

December-February

This Book Discussion Group meets the 4th Monday of every month at 7PM in the library's meeting room.

December : Off Site

January 26th: *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan

February 23rd: *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman



Westmont Public Library
428 N. Cass Ave.
Westmont, IL 60559
www.westmontlibrary.org



**The Library will be closed:
December 24th & 25th
and
December 31st &
January 1st.**

Postal Patron
Westmont, IL 60559