

WPL The EXPLORER

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March

- 1 Open Art Studio, 2-4PM v ⊕
- 3 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
- 4 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
- 5 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
Writers' Group @ 7PM v ⊕
- 10 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
Guys Read @ 7PM v
- 11 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
Journal Making @ 7PM v
- 12 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
Tomato Lady @ 7PM v ⊕
- 14 Science Saturday, 1-2:30PM v
- 17 Board Meeting @ 7PM ⊖
- 19 Family Storytime @ 6:30PM v
- 21 Food for Thought @ 2PM v ⊕
- 23 4th Monday Book Group @ 7PM v
- 24 Video Game Day, 3-6PM ⊖
- 25 TAG @ 6:30PM ⊖
Anime Club, 7-9PM ⊖
- 27 Twilight Party, 7-10PM v ⊕
- 28 Fairy Tale Day, 1-2:30PM v

The Big Read 2009: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*

For the fifth year in a row, the Westmont Public Library has been proud to participate in the annual **Big Read**, a cooperative effort of ten area libraries. The book chosen for 2009 is ***Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*** by Barbara Kingsolver.

Kingsolver's narrative chronicles her family's decision to eat only locally grown and raised food for one year. The result is a book that appeals to a wide



range of people, from those interested in eating locally to people who want to learn a simpler lifestyle.

Join us for the next several months as we spend

time understanding the importance of living green and what we can do to make our world a safer, more sustainable place.

For **Big Read** programs offered at the Westmont Library, see the following page. Visit the library for an all inclusive program guide or log on to the **Big Read** website: thebigread.org.

Summer Read 2009: *Build Your Dreams*

This summer, as the Library embarks on a roof project, the theme of construction will be continued in our Summer Reading Program, ***Build Your Dreams***.

Summer Read has something for

everyone! Children and adults of all ages are encouraged to read every day throughout the summer and earn cool prizes! Special events and programs are also scheduled to help provide free entertainment for those long summer afternoons.

This year, the program begins on **June 6th and runs through August 8th, 2009**. Early registration begins on Monday, June 1st, with prizes for the first 100 people who sign-up.

Visit the youth department for more details.

Library Volunteer Spotlight: Nancy Miriani



In the year that she has been volunteering at the library,

Nancy has made herself indispensable to us!

Nancy does a little bit of everything here at the library and is always willing to help out with a new task. She spends three to four days a week with us and can be found doing anything from shredding paper to covering books. She also deletes withdrawn books from the computer and changes the status of books when they are no longer new.

When she is not at

the library, Nancy likes to get in touch with her creative side. Photography, floral arranging, and plastic canvas sewing are just a few of her hobbies.

Nancy has found her way into the hearts of staff at the library with her smiling face, willingness to do any odd job we ask her to do, and the boxes of donuts she brings us on a regular basis!

Thank you for all your hard work, Nancy!

April

- 1 Big Read Book Discussion @ 12PM v ⊕
- 2 Writers' Group @ 7PM v ⊕
- 5 Open Art Studio, 2-4PM v ⊕
- 7 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
- 8 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
- 9 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
- 11 Science Saturday, 1-2:30PM v
- 12 CLOSED ALL DAY
- 14 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
Guys Read @ 7PM v
- 15 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
- 16 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
Composting @ 7PM v ⊕
- 18 Art4Kidz, 1-3PM v
- 21 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
Board Meeting @ 7PM ⊖
- 22 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
TAG @ 6:30PM ⊖
Anime Club @ 7PM ⊖
- 23 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
Family Storytime @ 6:30PM v
- 26 Wild Animal Program @ 3PM v
- 27 4th Monday Book Group @ 7PM ⊖
- 28 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
Video Game Day, 3-6PM ⊖
- 29 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
From Sheep to Shawl @ 7PM v ⊕
- 30 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖

Did you Know?

You can access all kinds of information from the comfort of your home! The library subscribes to numerous databases that can help you find information quickly whether you are in the library or at home. All you need is your library card and an internet connection. By visiting the library's webpage at: www.westmontlibrary.org and clicking on the link "Reference Resources" you can gain access to information on genealogy, finance and investment, encyclopedias and dictionaries, and resources for school projects.

Adult Spring Programming

Open Art Studio v ⊕
Sunday, 3/1, 4/5 & 5/3, 2-4PM
Bring your own supplies to this independent study opportunity and we will provide the space and models.

Writers' Group v ⊕
Thursday, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7 @ 7PM
 This interactive group is for adults interested in the world of writing and publishing. Beginners to experienced writers welcome!

Big Read: The Tomato Lady Speaks v ⊕
Thursday, March 12th @ 7PM
Aggie Nehmzow discusses tips and tricks for successful organic and heirloom tomato gardening in an urban environment. Gardeners won't want to miss this entertaining event with ideas you can use in your own garden!

Big Read: Food for Thought: Lessons from an 1890s Kitchen v ⊕
Saturday, March 21st @ 2PM
Come meet two women from the past who each chose very different ways of eating, shopping, and living. Kline Creek Farm's Keith McClow will discuss how we can learn to adapt some farming and local eating practices to modern life in DuPage County.

Big Read: Book Discussion v ⊕
Wednesday, April 1st @ 12PM
Bring a brown bag lunch to this afternoon of discussion on Barbara Kingsolver's book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*.

Big Read: Composting v ⊕
Thursday, April 16th @ 7PM
Find out how you can use organic matter from your home and yard to improve the health and vitality of your garden.


Big Read: From Sheep to Shawl v ⊕
Wednesday, April 29th @ 7PM
 Expert weaver and knitter Mary Coen will take us through the process of creating garments using local resources. Learn about types of wool, spinning, dyeing, and using yarn in final projects.

Big Read program guides are available at the Westmont Public Library and include a list of all event locations and times for various libraries.

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.

Teen Scene

Teen Advisory Group (TAG) ⊖
Wednesday, March 25th, April 22nd, and May 27th @ 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!

Twilight After-Hours Party v ⊕
Friday, March 27th, 7-10PM
Ages 12-18
Come celebrate the DVD release of the movie *Twilight* with crafts, games, and drawings for prize packages including a copy of the newly released DVD!

Create a Craft v
Journal Making
Wednesday, March 11th @ 7PM
Learn a new skill and delve into your creative side as we learn how to make and decorate journals.

Tie-Dye Design
Wednesday, May 13th @ 7PM
Give life to an old piece of clothing while adding style to your wardrobe! Bring in old shirts, socks, or whatever you can find to tie-dye! Instructions and dyeing supplies will be available. Remember to wear clothes you can get messy!

Youth Spring Programming

Special Events

Eco-Friendly Fairy Tales v

Saturday, March 28th, 1-2:30PM

Ages 3-6



Plant a beanstalk with Jack and help Red Riding Hood deliver healthy food to her grandmother as we have fun with favorite fairy tales.

Art4Kidz v

Saturday, April 18th, 1-3PM

Ages 7 & up

Get creative for a special day all about art! We'll focus on a famous artist or illustrator and practice drawing and painting techniques. Each child will make a piece of art to take home.



Wild Animals @ the Library v

Sunday, April 26th, 3-4:30PM

Ages 5 & up

Get an up-close look at the wild animals from the Big Run Wolf Ranch! Along with their trainer, the animals will make an appearance in the library parking lot for an afternoon of fun and fascinating facts!

Mother's Day Craft v

Saturday, May 2nd, 1-3PM, Ages 5-12

Children make a memorable gift that mom is sure to love! All materials including wrapping paper will be provided.

Musical Storytime v

Monday, May 18th @ 10:30AM

Ages 0-6

Young children love to sing and dance along with our musical storyteller as she guides us through stories, interactive play, and more!

Backyard Safari Adventure v

Saturday, May 30th, 1-2:30PM

Ages 7-9

Get ready for a day of exploration and fun as we "rescue" endangered animals and learn how we can protect them in our own backyards! Crafts and snacks provided.



Monthly Events

Put these recurring events on your calendar so you don't miss out!

Video Games @ Your Library ⊖

Tuesdays, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26, 3-6PM

Ages 6 and up

Once a month the library offers hours of video game play on the big screen! Make new friends, munch on snacks, and play games like MarioKart, Rock Band, and Super Smash Bros. Brawl.



Guys Read v

Tuesdays, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12 @ 7PM

Grades 4-6

Come find out what other guys your age are reading during this fun, laid back evening that allows guys to choose what they want to read. Have a fun reading experience with avid reader Rob Thomas as he leads you through comics, graphic novels, magazines, standard novels, and non-fiction books.



Family Storytimes v

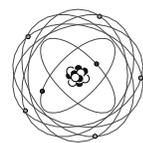
Thursdays, 3/19, 4/23, 5/21 @ 6:30PM

Join us for a night of family reading with books, crafts, and music. Monthly themes are as follows: March: Spring, April: Spring Animals, May: Family.

Science Saturdays v

Saturdays, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9, 1-3PM

Ages 5-11



Learn cool new concepts with our science kits! Do experiments and take home your creations. Learning has never been so fun!

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

May

- 2 Mother's Day Craft, 1-3PM v
- 3 Open Art Studio, 2-4PM v ⊕
- 5 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
- 6 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
- 7 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
Writers' Group @ 7PM v
- 9 Science Saturday, 1-2:30PM v
- 12 Storytime @ 10:15AM v
Guys Read @ 7PM v
- 13 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
Tie-Dye Design @ 7PM v
- 14 Storytime @ 10:15AM ⊖
- 18 Musical Storytime @ 10:30AM v
4th Monday Book Group @ 7PM v
- 19 Board Meeting @ 7PM ⊖
- 21 Family Storytime @ 6:30PM v
- 24 CLOSED ALL DAY
- 25 CLOSED ALL DAY
- 26 Video Game Day, 3-6PM ⊖
- 27 TAG @ 6:30PM ⊖
Anime Club @ 7PM ⊖
- 30 Safari Adventure, 1-2:30PM v

Storytimes this Spring!

April 7th -
May 14th, 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

Your Library: A Solid Investment

by Christine Kuhn, Director

I recently sat next to a man at a village event who asked "Why support libraries?" His eyes glazed over as I talked about civic and educational contributions and positive impacts on the quality of community life. When I mentioned up to a four to one return on investment of tax dollars he lit up. This was the language he understood. How, you may wonder, does the library provide a return on my investment when I don't put money back into my pocket?

In 2008, Westmont Public Library received \$1.5 million in taxes, grants, fees and miscellaneous revenue. The patrons of the library checked out 160,000 items. Most of those items were

books, which cost, on average \$18 if you shop at a discount store or Amazon. Residents saved \$1.3 million by checking out materials from the library instead of purchasing them individually.

I could fill this column with statistics about average cost savings for each format the library has in its collection, but a library does more than supply books, DVDs, CDs, video games, and computer resources.

Through our Early Literacy Program, we support parents encouraging their children's development of reading skills.

Through our Summer Read program, we offer incentives to keep children reading all summer

so they maintain their reading levels at the start of the school year.

Through our many programs for adults, people are entertained and educated for free. They can also meet others in the community and network.

Through our Homebound Outreach Program for the elderly and the disabled, people stay connected to the outside world as well as to the world within the pages of a book.

And in tough economic times, we can even save you a few bucks on fancy coffee in our little self-serve café. What could be better?

4th Monday Book Discussions

This discussion group meets the 4th Monday of every month at 7PM in the library's meeting room.

- March 27th: ***The Red Leather Diary***
By Lily Koppel
- April 28th: ***The Ride of Our Lives***
By Mike Leonard
- May 18th: ***Shadow Catcher***
By Marianne Wiggins

Lincoln Douglas Exhibit Travels to Westmont

The 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln was cause for celebration at the Westmont Library this winter and spring. In late January we learned about the presidency of Lincoln with artist Jim Weren and in February our youth had a special birthday party for our 16th president. Stop by the library between March 1st- April 15th to view a display dedicated to remembering and explaining the Lincoln-Douglas Debates.



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



The library will be closed the following dates:
Sunday, April 12th
Sunday, May 24th
Monday, May 25th
Friday, June 5th

Postal Patron
Westmont, IL 60559

Visit us online at:
www.westmontlibrary.org