

Read to Me

A newsletter for families and others who care about the future of young people

Volume 3, Issue 3

Summer 2009

Special Points of Interest in this newsletter:

- Wild About Reading Events
- Make it a MediaWise Summer!
- MediaWise Tips
- Imagination Library Update



United Way
of Southwest Minnesota

Wild About Reading

Coming to a location near you this summer. Please join us!
9:30—10:15 a.m. at all locations

June

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thursday, June 4 | Lynd | City Picnic Shelter |
| Tuesday, June 9 | Marshall | Independence Park |
| Thursday, June 11 | Minneota | Riverside Park |
| Tuesday, June 16 | Clarkfield | Valhalla Park |
| Tuesday, June 23 | Wood Lake | Freedom Park |
| Thursday, June 25 | Cottonwood | City Park |
| Tuesday, June 30 | Hanley Falls | Centennial Park (softball complex) |

July

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Thursday, July 9 | Canby | Central Park |
| Tuesday, July 14 | Hendricks | Veteran's Memorial Park |
| Thursday, July 16 | Ivanhoe | East Side Park |
| Tuesday, July 21 | Marshall | Justice Park |
| Thursday, July 23 | Milroy | Milroy City Park |
| Tuesday, July 28 | Tracy | Sebastian Park |
| Thursday, July 30 | Tyler | Swimming Pool Park |

August

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Tuesday, August 4 | Marshall | Freedom Park |
| Thursday, August 6 | Lake Benton | Westside Field Park |

Listen to KMHL(1400 AM)/KKCK (99.7 FM) Radio
for weather related cancellations.

Featuring music, reading, activities, animal crackers.

Door prizes of children's books will be given to child care providers who attend with the children in their care.

All ages are welcome, however books and activities are directed to pre-school age children.



MAKE IT A MEDIAWISE SUMMER!

Fun summer activity ideas,
Family-friendly media tips,
Alternatives to television and more!

MediaWise is the website of Dr. David Walsh who presented this year's Wild About Parenting event on his book "Say Yes to No." The information presented here, along with other ideas and tips, can be found on his website: http://www.mediafamily.org/online/mw_summer.shtml

MediaWise Tip:

Turn off Baby Einstein and turn on reading! Reading aloud is one of the most important pre-literacy activities you can share with your children. Your kids will thank you later!!

Create your own media!

Why sit your kids down in front of the TV when they could be making their own media - exercising their imaginations and having fun!

This can be as simple as filming funny antics in the backyard to coming up with a full story line complete with plot, characters, and costumes!

All you need is a video camera and a little imagination! If you don't own a video camera, consider borrowing one from a friend or renting one for the weekend.

Some Ideas:

- Spoof a fairy tale
- Make commercials
- Film a puppet show
- Make a movie based on a book
- Try a video in Spanish
- Interview family and friends
- Create an original story line
- Create a news program

MediaWise Tip:

Talk to your kids about what they are doing online. The Internet is a vast world full of both promise and pitfalls. Make sure that your kids know what is safe and unsafe online!

So much sun....So many hours....TO READ!

Dr. Dave's Summer Reading Picks

Read-aloud books for babies:

- *Peak-a-Moo* by Marie Torres Cimarusti
- *Eyes, Nose, Fingers, Toes* by Judy Hindley
- *Good Night Gorilla* by Peggy Rathman
- *The Lady with the Alligator Purse* by Nadine Bernard Westcott

Read-aloud books for Pre-K:

- *Tell Me What We Did Today* by Rick Kupchella
- *Reading with Dad* by Richard Jorgenson
- *Jamberry* by Bruce Degan
- *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Virginia Lee Burton
- *Papa, Do you Love Me?* by Barbara Joose and Barbara Lavallee

Books for early elementary:

- *Strega Nona* by Tomie de Paola
- *One Grain of Rice* by Demi
- *The Big Orange Splot* by Daniel Pinkwater
- *Abuela* by Arthur Dorros

For more of Dr. Dave's reading tips go to: <http://www.mediafamily.org/family/ddffarchivepre.shtml>

MediaWise Tip:

Turn off the TV during meal times. Kids who watch a lot of TV are at higher risk for obesity and Type 2 diabetes than those who don't. Plus mealtimes are a great time to connect with your children!!

Everyone has a story to tell

- Draw a picture and write a story about it
- Write about a family of ladybugs or lizards
- Describe what would happen if aliens visited your house
- Keep an illustrated journal
- What if you had wings? Where would you go? How would it feel?
- Write a story about your family
- Write an alternative version of a famous fairytale. What if Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf became friends?
- What if your pet could talk? What would she/he say?
- What was it like when dinosaurs lived on earth?

Badminton Ball

MediaWise Tip:

Help kids learn more about technology and have fun! Being MediaWise doesn't mean throwing media out the window. It means learning how to use media responsibly!

What you need: Badminton racquet and birdie, small trash can or large bowl.

How to Play: Set up the trash can (removing any trash!) so that it is at a challenging height and distance from you. The goal is to get the birdie into the "basket" in as few tries as possible. You can also challenge a friend to see who can get it in the basket in the fewest tries. Change the height and distance as you get better at it!

Bocce Ball

What you need: 1 small ball (superball size works well); 2 larger balls for each player (tennis, baseball or softball size).

How to Play: Each player will need to make his/her balls noticeably different from the others (using different types of balls, different colors or writing names on the balls would help). Decide on someone to toss the Superball out in front of you. Each player in turn tosses one ball at the Superball. Whoever throws her/his ball closest to the Superball wins the round. This game is usually played on a grassy field, but you can also play indoors in a parent approved area.

MediaWise Tip:

Pay attention to the ratings. While kids are quick to say "It's just a game," research shows a relationship between playing violent video games and aggressive behavior.

MediaWise Tip:

An active child is a happy child. Statistics show a clear relationship between physical activity and child contentedness. Put a smile on your kids' faces - get them outside!

Field Day

What you need: Measuring tape; softball or baseball; Frisbee; stop watch or watch with seconds hand.

How to Play: Set up your own track meet. You can have a discus throwing contest with a Frisbee or shot put with a softball or baseball. Find an open area to do the long jump and set up start and end points for sprints. Use the measuring tape to see how far you can throw and jump! Time your sprints (or other distances) and challenge yourself or friends to beat your time.

Tune Your Kids Into Art

- **Paint/draw a self-portrait** and post it somewhere in your house.
- **Create personalized placemats** for each member of your family for dinner.
- **Make potato designs!** Cut potatoes into fun shapes, dip them in paint, and blot them on paper.
- **Make a collage** showing your favorite things. Use old magazines, newspapers, and catalogs.
- **Make a unique postcard by drawing a picture** (4x6) or using a photo and writing a message on the back. You can give it to someone or put it in the mail.
- **Create a sculpture** out of ordinary household things (or better yet, use things out of the recycling bin! Make sure they are clean and safe...no sharp edges).
- **Make an old sock into a puppet** using markers, old buttons or anything else you can think of for the face!
- **Gather outdoor items** (leaves, sticks, acorns, grass, etc.) Use them to make a collage on paper or make a sculpture.
- **Have your friend, sibling or parent trace an outline of your body on the sidewalk with chalk.**
- **Make a mask** out of items that you find around the house. Decide whether you want your mask to be a happy, sad, scary, friendly or evil face!
- **Make a calendar** (for the week, month or the year!) with your photos or drawings. Include holidays, days off from school and special family events.
- **Write and illustrate your own comic strip.**
- **Make a model of a planet.** Paper mache a balloon. Let it dry and paint countries onto the model. You can use real countries or create your own!
- **Make your own puzzle** by drawing a picture or design on paper and then cutting it into pieces.



United Way of Southwest Minnesota

109 S 5th St, Suite 300
PO Box 41
Marshall, MN 56258

Phone: 507-929-2273
Email: unitedway@unitedwayswmn.org

**This is a special
newsletter for families
who have children
enrolled in Imagination
Library.**



IMAGINATION LIBRARY UPDATE

As you may know, the Imagination Library program was founded in 1996 by Dolly Parton to get books into the hands of preschool children. The Dollywood Foundation negotiates the costs of buying and mailing the books that are selected by a panel of education and reading experts.

United Way of America and the Dollywood Foundation report that 40% of the more than 500,000 children who receive books monthly through the Imagination Library program are sponsored by local United Way organizations. Together, the United Way and Dollywood Foundation have set a goal to double the number of United Way sponsors in the next five years! This is an awesome goal!

United Way of Southwest Minnesota is pleased to be the "Local Champion" of the Imagination Library program in this area. Our sponsorship of the program began with the mailing of 244 books in October, 2005. That number grew to 871 books in November, 2005.

Since that time registrations have continued coming in and children have graduated out of the program, but over the past several months, almost 2400 children have received a book delivered to their home each month through our sponsorship of the program.

Imagination Library costs United Way of Southwest Minnesota \$30 per enrolled child, per year. This is the actual cost of the books plus bulk library rate postage. This is paid locally through contributions to the annual United Way of Southwest Minnesota campaign and by other special underwriters like area service clubs and interested individuals. **There is no cost for families with children enrolled in the program.**

Contributors and underwriters are welcome and appreciated at any time. Contributions can be mailed to United Way of Southwest Minnesota, PO Box 41, Marshall, MN 56258.

United Way of Southwest Minnesota is an independent, local organization working to create lasting changes in people's lives and the communities in Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Yellow Medicine and western Redwood Counties of Minnesota.

Learn more about United Way of Southwest Minnesota at www.unitedwayswmn.org

While you're there, sign up for our free e-newsletter

**Do you have a neighbor whose children are not registered for Imagination Library?
If they live in our service area, have them go to www.unitedwayswmn.org to register!!**