

## **Norwalk Summer Reading for kids and teens**

This year, all children up to fifth grade are going to [Dig into Reading](#), and middle school kids (teens) are going [Beneath the Surface!](#) You must register online to participate. Once you've set up your account, you can log in anytime, anywhere to enter your books and track your progress. (*see more*)

This year in Norwalk, summer reading is going citywide! The Norwalk ACTS Literacy Committee\* has collaborated with organizations and sponsors from all over the city (and state) to put together a summer reading program to entertain and engage Norwalk youth and keep them reading even while school is out. The summer reading program is aligned with the Norwalk Public Schools summer reading list and also the Governor's Reading Challenge.

### **Events**

We kick off the summer at Stepping Stones Museum on Sunday, June 9, 5:30-7pm. Special appearance from WNBA Connecticut Sun professional basketball players! Register for the summer program and learn about the exciting challenges and prizes. Meet Ronald McDonald and receive a coupon for a free ice cream cone. Call 203-899-0606 for more information.

South Norwalk's branch starts the summer on Saturday, June 15, at 11am with Danny Magic, a magic show that includes music, audience participation, and a live bunny rabbit. Call 203-899-2790 x15903 for more information.

At the main library on Saturday, June 22, at 11:30am, CactusHead Puppets will present a family-friendly puppet show, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and then explain how the puppets are made and how they work. Call 203-899-2780 x15131 for more information.

Saturday, July 20, 10:30am-12:30pm, everyone who's registered for summer reading is invited to a beach party at Calf Pasture Beach! Kids should bring a piece of original artwork that represents their favorite book or reading activity. There will be games, prizes, frozen custard from Shake Shack of Westport, and buried treasure! Have fun in the sun and celebrate summer reading and literacy achievements. Artwork will be collected and displayed at the main library. Call 203-854-4148 for more information.

Summer wraps up at the main library with Jester Jim's Summer Reading Finale on Saturday, August 10, 3-4pm. Jester Jim does it all - comedy, juggling, balancing, and beat boxing. There will be lots of audience participation, and parents and children of all ages will be laughing out loud. Call 203-899-2780 x15131 for more information.

The South Norwalk Branch will finish out the summer on Saturday, August 17, 1-2pm with Hollydays face painting and body art. Refreshments will be served. Call 203-899-2790 x15903.

## **Prizes**

Everyone gets a bookmark and tattoo when they register.

- Up through kindergarten, kids win a prize for every 20 books that are read to them.
- Grades 1-3 win a prize for every 7 books they read.
- Grades 4-5 win a prize for every 3 books they read.
- Middle school students win a fast-food gift coupon after five books, then get a raffle ticket for every book after that.

The first prize for the first three groups is a Design Your Own Flower Pot, Paint Set and Seed Kit.

Grand prizes to be raffled include three learning tablets for children up to grade 3, three Kindles for children in grades 4-8, plus Barnes & Noble gift cards. Raffle tickets for the grand prizes are generated automatically. Winners will be notified after the final events.

## **Sponsors**

- Norwalk ACTS Literacy Committee
- Norwalk Public Library
- Norwalk Early Childhood Council
- Stepping Stones Museum for Children
- Literacy How
- Norwalk Recreation and Parks
- FactSet
- McDonald's of Norwalk
- The Norwalk Children's Foundation
- The Connecticut Sun
- Shake Shack of Westport

\*The Norwalk ACTS Literacy Committee is a part of Norwalk ACTS, an organization whose mission is to enrich and improve the lives and futures of Norwalk children and youth. The membership is an innovative support network of community leaders and organizations committed to taking collaborative action to achieve collective impact required to ensure the success of Norwalk children and youth from cradle to career.

The Norwalk ACTS Literacy Committee acknowledges the critical importance of early language and literacy to close the achievement gap. The committee connects with other Norwalk ACTS workgroups to ensure that effective language and literacy strategies are embedded in child- and youth-serving programs throughout the city. These include citywide events and activities that unite resources and raise awareness of the importance of childhood literacy.