

# 2013 Children's Summer Reading Program Report

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## Goals of the Summer Reading Program

1. Advance elementary school children's literacy and academic performance by engaging them in reading and reading-related activities during the summer.
2. Foster a love of reading through public library programs and services.
3. Promote positive reading experiences through librarian-supported, self-selected, voluntary reading.
4. Involve parents and family members in the library summer reading experience.
5. Improve children's access to library materials and activities, which will encourage them to become lifelong library users.
6. Increase the number of children completing the library's summer reading program.

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## The statistics indicate . . .

- **Students who do not read over the summer lose 22% of their reading level.**
  - **Students who do not read over the summer fall ten weeks behind their classmates.**
  - **This loss is cumulative - so by the time a student enters high school, he or she could be years behind grade-level standards.**
  - **Reading over the summer will prevent this summer slide, and can increase a student's reading level.**
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**“More than any other public institution, including the schools, the public library contributed to the intellectual growth of children during the summer.”**

Barbara Heyn *Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling*

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## Highlights of the Summer of 2013

- 2,394 children participated in this year's Summer Reading Program—29% of Oshkosh's school aged children. National standards consider 10% participation successful.
- Each child is encouraged to read at least 20 minutes a day for at least 4 weeks of the summer. 53% completed this goal. (National standards consider 50% successful.)  
43% went on to read for 6 weeks and 30% of participants read for 8 weeks to earn over 1,622 book prizes.  
Overall, Oshkosh children read 62,157 days this summer.
- The Friends of the Library donated \$4,800 in support of the Summer Reading Program providing performers and book prizes.
- 3,558 children attended literacy related programs and activities sponsored by the Oshkosh Public Library.
- OPL offered 3 programs to increase access to materials and encourage children's participation.
  - A fine forgiveness program—327 children had an average of \$4.96 in fines forgiven.
  - Free replacement library cards—88 cards were replaced.
  - Free bus rides on GO Transit for all school-aged children, using their library card as a bus pass. 1,446 rides were provided.

## Thanks to our community partners-

Volunteers, Friends of the Library, Oshkosh Street Dept., GO Transit, Grand Opera House, Boys & Girls Club, Wisconsin State Parks, Cave of the Mounds, Crystal Cave, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, The Paine, Hardees, Pizza Hut, Culvers, Winnefox Library System, and Wisconsin DPI.