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Ferndale Library Summer Reading 2020 - Virtual Kickoff

“Imagine Your Story” - Programs & Events for Kids of All Ages

June 20 - August 31

Online Reading Logs, Reading Challenges, Prizes, and Educational Entertainment

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Ferndale Library’s Virtual Kickoff on June 20 for Kids Summer Reading Challenge

New Reading Website ‘Wandoo Reader’ Makes Virtual Participation Easy for 2020’s “Imagine Your Story”

FERNDALE, MI (May 28, 2020--) The Ferndale Library will continue to reliably serve local families as the primary community space where kids of all ages can access free educational activities and culturally enriching events during the summer months between school semesters. With safety and public health concerns front and center, the library’s annual Summer Reading Program will be entirely virtual this year. On Saturday, June 20, Ferndale’s Librarians will keep their track record of delivering engaging and fun literacy-centric programming for young readers when they host a virtual sign-up service and Facebook Live kickoff party with a magic show.

Each year, Ferndale’s Youth Services Librarians sign up hundreds of youngsters for their Summer Reading series of activities and events, adopting a unique theme for each new season’s programs. This year’s “Imagine Your Story” theme provides a perfect opportunity for kids who are eager for a bit of escapism and revelry, emphasizing the inspirational elements found in the adventurous and heroic stories of mythology, and the parables found in fairy tales.

The best thing about this year is that kids can still engage with the same quality content that the Ferndale Library would otherwise have coordinated for in-person events inside the library, through video services like ZOOM and Facebook Live. Along with Rufus the Dufus performing juggling and comedy on June 20, the Science Storytellers will feature scaly tales of fire-breathing **dragons** on July 18, followed by a virtual Meet & Greet with **Harry Potter** on July 25, and a performance of **Sleeping Beauty** by the Black & Brown Theatre on August 1. And finally, on August 8th the library will be hosting a virtual talent show for kids 5 and up. Video submissions should be less than 2 minutes in length and be sent to jordan@ferndalepubliclibrary.org before August 1. Aside from the kickoff event, registration will be required for these virtual events.

Plus, the new Wandoo Reader website, courtesy of the Library of Michigan, will assure that all participating kids can keep track of their progress through various reading challenges so that they can collect raffle tickets that build their way toward winning prizes, many of which will be purchased from local businesses this summer. With help from parents and caregivers, kids can utilize this new app to track their progress and receive notifications when they’ve completed one of the 10 challenges.

Kids logging their summer activity aren’t required to exclusively read library materials -- they can count any available books they have at their home, or, they can also access ebooks through digital media apps like **hoopla**, **Libby** or **RBdigital**--as well as through the Michigan Electronic Library, online at mel.org/kids.

Two more new summer features include take-home craft bags and a Baby Sign Language series. The craft bags will be available through the forthcoming Curbside Pickup service. Stay tuned for more information on this. Baby Sign Language is a six-week virtual series, with registration required, starting July 9. Librarian Jordan Wright, Head of Youth Services, will be coordinating registration via email for Baby Sign Language, as well as for the scheduled Summer Reading events:

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The Ferndale Library believes that reading is like exercise for the mind! Each year, the Summer Reading Programs aspire to keep kids on track for their academic success by avoiding a slide in their literacy engagement between school years. The aforementioned reading challenges with the Wandoo app, along with the virtual programs and the take-home craft bags, aim to encourage kids to continue activating their curiosity and creativity, as well as cultivating a broader perspective and understanding of the world through stories and non-fiction reading material. In 2020, the Ferndale Library wants its young patrons to imagine their own story and realize that, when it comes to reading, anything is possible.

<https://www.facebook.com/ferndalekids/>

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