

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartford Public Library's Summer Program Prevents Learning Loss in City Students

Library Celebrates Summer Learning with June 7 Kickoff Festival



Over 900 children and families enjoyed free entertainment and information about summer learning at Hartford Public Library's Summer Learning Kickoff Celebration in 2013

HARTFORD, Connecticut (May 29, 2014) – The start of summer may be a highly-anticipated break for all kids, but research shows that low-income students that do not continue educational programming during the summer suffer greater achievement losses, gain more weight, and become less likely to graduate high school than their more affluent peers. In order to fill this critical learning gap, Hartford Public Library's Summer Learning Program encourages reading and enrichment throughout the hotter months with a citywide educational events, activities, and prizes. To celebrate the start of the 2014

Summer Learning @ HPL Program, **the public is invited to attend an outdoor kickoff festival on Saturday, June 7 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Library’s Downtown location!**

The festival will incorporate the theme of this year’s Summer Learning Program, “Fizz Boom READ!” with science activities, crafts, games, and a special 3:00 p.m. *Mad Science* show. A bounce house, giant slide, face painting, airbrush tattoos, snacks, music and more will be free for all. Last year’s kick-off broke attendance records with 900 kids and families having a blast! **The festival will stretch from the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street to the Burr Mall, and free transportation will be available throughout the city via buses that will run between Library branches and Downtown Hartford.**

In addition to the festival fun, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about and register for the Summer Learning Program and how to win prizes for reaching summer reading goals. Designed to maintain yearlong learning in an attempt to reduce summer learning loss in students of all ages, students move directly from school-year activities into Summer Learning @ HPL so that the “learning ball” is never dropped, and parents with limited skills or access do not need to actively pursue educational opportunities in order for their children to achieve success. Program participants are challenged to read daily and log their participation in order to win prizes. **Hartford Public Library’s Summer Learning Program has seen huge success in recent years - participation increased from 300 students in 2011 to over 6,500 students in 2013.**

This year, in partnership with Mega Education, a series of 10 Summer Learning registration ice cream parties will be held throughout the summer, where two lucky registered participants at each Library branch will win brand new Android tablets!

Mega Registration parties are held from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the following locations:

Tuesday, June 24 - Mark Twain Branch, 55 Forest Street

Friday, June 26 - Barbour Branch, 259 Barbour Street

Thursday, July 3 - Blue Hills Branch, 649 Blue Hills Avenue

Tuesday, July 8 Ropkins Branch, 1750 Main Street

Tuesday, July 15 – Camp Field Branch, 30 Campfield Avenue

Friday, July 18 - Albany Branch, 1250 Albany Avenue

Tuesday, July 22 - Downtown Library, 500 Main Street

Wednesday, July 30 - Park Branch, 744 Park Street

Thursday, July 31 - Dwight Branch, 7 New Park Avenue

Friday, August 8 - Goodwin Branch, 460 New Britain Avenue

Registration for the Summer Learning program can also be completed at the June 7 kickoff, or online at www.hplct.org by clicking on the summer sun.

Library Offers Adult Summer Reading Events!

Hartford Public Library's summer programs and prizes are not just for the school-aged! Adult readers are invited to participate in Library Book Club summer discussions:

Thursday, June 19, 12:30 p.m. – Book Talk with James Rouman, author of *Uncertain Journey*

Thursday, July 17 – Book Club Discussion – *Delicious! A Novel* by Ruth Reichl

Thursday, August 21 – Book Club Discussion – *Aya of Yop City* by Marguerite Abouet

Registered participants are eligible to win prizes at each event! Adult readers may register for the Summer Reading Program online at www.hplct.org or at any Library branch.

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](http://www.hplct.org)

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit hplct.org.

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