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Baltimore County Public Library

News Release

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SUMMER READING CLUB 2009: SNEAKS SEEKS 'MASTERY OF ARTS'

Sneaks invites preschoolers, school ages and teens to join his nine-week mission this summer to explore the arts at the Baltimore County Public Library. The creative whirlwind of visual and written arts, rhythm and music, drama and stories, and hands-on crafts begins Monday, June 15 and lasts until Saturday, August 15.

Multiple opportunities for self-expression are offered in three age-appropriate programs: "Be Creative @ Your Library" for school ages (kindergarten through grade 5), "Express Yourself @ Your Library" for teens (grades 6-12), and "Read-to-Me" (ages birth through 5 years). After visiting the library to pick up the packets of a Reading Log and Program Guide (a game board for preschoolers), the fun begins.

For school ages, there's sleight-of-hand artistry by magician Mike Rose, face-painting storytelling, workshops to create works of art like the masters, lively song and dance, and hands-on crafts for making pipe cleaner creations, friendship bracelets, collages and magic masks to take home. Teen pursuits of the arts include live rock 'n' roll band performances or otherworldly music-making on a didgeridoo, hands-on crafts, such as silk screening a T-shirt or making a wallet out of duct tape, and creating anime drawings.

Registration was never simpler. New this year, optional online registration is available anywhere there's computer access to the Internet. Volunteers at the branches provide assistance with registration as well. It's an easy way to keep track of reading activities and become eligible for prizes in branch and systemwide drawings.

Activity awards of stickers and gifts from the Prize Box are ongoing weekly for elementary/preschool ages. All registered participants become eligible for the July 15 branch drawing for a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card. Completion prize branch drawings take place at the branches on Friday, September 4 for a \$50 Target gift card. At the systemwide completion Grand Prize drawing which follows, lucky elementary school ages can win a bicycle and helmet, or a Wii, and teens can win a mini-notebook PC, an Xbox 360 with Rock Band 2 (special edition), or an Apple iPod Touch.

Besides prizes, fun and self-expression, summer reading provides long-term benefits. Joining Sneaks to become “masters of the arts” builds reading skills development in school ages and motivates teens to read for pleasure and develop into lifelong readers.

To enjoy an artful and creative summer, register for “Mastery of Arts” at BCPL.