

Loud & Clear

Summer 2012, Volume 24, Issue 2

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Welcome Summertime! Dream Big!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Summer is here. School is out! (Duh!) The brain releases all of the past year's accumulated knowledge. Oh no! What can be done?

The Fairfax County Public Library invites kids and teens to participate in the 2012 Summer Reading Program. Held in cooperation with Fairfax County Public Schools, the library's Summer Reading Program, runs June 15-Sept. 1 and encourages students from preschool to high school to read for fun during the summer.

Earn a coupon book with free and discounted items by completing a reading log and returning it to a local library branch by September 1. Some

of the coupons can be redeemed for things like ice cream cones, pizza, miniature golf games and reduced waterpark admissions.

More than 25 businesses and organizations have donated over \$4.5 million worth of coupons for free and reduced priced items to reward Fairfax County students for reading during the summer.

Preschoolers through sixth graders read 15 books (young ones can have books read to them), and those in grades 7-12 read eight books. Kids can read any books they choose; those who want a list of reading suggestions can find them on the library's website or pick up recommended lists at a branch.

To participate, register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or visit your local library branch.

OTHER SUMMER PROGRAMS

There are also many entertaining and informative activities scheduled at the library branches throughout the summer. Kids can enjoy puppet shows, magic and improv theater, meet raptors, reptiles and other creatures, make jewelry, and much more.

For a schedule of events, stop by a branch and pick up a calendar or go to the library's website, (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) and under 'special interest' click on Kids. Click on 'All kids events at the library'. All events and activities are free, but often fill up quickly; registration is required for most. Please sign up online or at a branch beginning two weeks before an event.

Keep reading, have fun and enjoy.

Welcome Karen Keninger, New NLS Director

Karen A. Keninger was appointed the Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) and began her duties on March 26, 2012. She succeeds Mr. Frank Kurt Cylke. Ms. Keninger most recently served as the Director of the Iowa Department for the Blind and was previously the Director of the Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She is a daily user of the full range of information technologies for the blind and visually impaired, including Web-Braille, digital talking-book machines and books, and online download services.

Volunteers Needed

Please share this information from our friends at the Fairfax County Department of Family Services:

Fairfax County needs **Meals on Wheels drivers throughout the county**. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov , or visit [Volunteer Solutions](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices) at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on 'Volunteers'.

Books From BARD: Six Reasons to Register TODAY

Have you thought about opening a BARD account, but are still on the fence? The Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) database is an option to increase your reading choices. To use this database and download books, you or a member of your family need a computer with a high speed Internet connection, an email address and a blank cartridge or a storage device called a 'flash' or 'thumb' drive.

Six stupendous reasons why opening a BARD account is a GREAT idea. These are presented to you in reverse order a la The Late Show with David Letterman.

Number 6. No Returns. Once you download a copy of a book from BARD, it can be yours forever.

Number 5. Availability of Copies. When a new book is recorded by the National Library Service, it is usually posted on BARD before physical copies are delivered to libraries.

Number 4. Access Digital Books Anywhere. Are you on vacation? Visiting friends and/or family? Traveling for work? If you have access to any computer with high-speed internet access and a 'flash' or 'thumb' drive you can download a book.

Number 3. No Wait Lists. You can download any book in BARD that you want to. Right now.

Number 2. Books Arrive in Minutes. There is no need to wait for a book to arrive in the mail.

And the Number One reason for registering for a BARD account is...

It's FREE! There is no subscription fee, no charge per download. Free is our favorite word here at Access Services.

To receive step-by-step instructions to register for BARD, please call Access Services at 703-324-8380 or email us at access@fairfaxcounty.gov. Open an account and download books today.

Lending Library, Lending Cartridges

As soon as you have finished a book, please return it in its original container with the address of Access Services in the center of the postal card. We are a 'lending library' and other customers are waiting for the

books that have not been returned. Help us keep the flow of books going to all our customers by returning books in a timely manner.

Continuing in the same vein, we distributed the previous issue of LOUD & CLEAR, Winter/Spring 2012, to our customers on a digital cartridge. The cartridges are a light green color and came in a gray container. We hope you enjoyed this format for the newsletter. We do, however, have a limited number of cartridges available for this program and need to have the cartridges returned to us. When you are finished with the newsletter please return the cartridge to us so you will continue to receive future issues.

Reading Roundup

Books for our younger readers

Check out these latest recordings, old favorites, and neat series for your summer reading fun.

Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream by Jenny Han **DB 73619**

Korean American third-grader Clara Lee enters the Little Miss Apple Pie contest to ride a float in the town parade. She worries, however, that she is not American enough to win and wonders if she can make a speech in front of the whole school. For grades 2-4.

Ruby Lu, Star of the Show by Lenore Look **DB 73723**

At first, Ruby Lu knows everything about third grade, especially coming home to her new dog Elvis. Then her dad loses his job, her teacher says Ruby Lu needs tutoring, her mom goes to work and a man claims that Elvis is his circus dog, Thunder. For grades 2-4.

Max and Maddy and the Chocolate Money Mystery by Alexander McCall Smith **DB 74294**

Young detectives Max and Maddy Twist travel to Switzerland to investigate a series of bank robberies committed by Saint Bernard dogs. The siblings discover that the man behind the robberies is none other than the families' nemesis, Professor Sardine. For grades 2-4. This title is available through the FCPL branches as a CD.

It's the First Day of School...Forever! by R. L. Stine **DB 74242**

Everything goes wrong for sixth-grader Artie Howard on his first day of school at Ardmore Middle School. From the moment his alarm goes off, Artie's day is filled with embarrassing, unlucky, and painful things. And the next morning it is Monday again and the entire day repeats---only worse. For grades 3-6. This title is available through the FCPL branches as a CD.

Hothead by Cal Ripken Jr. **DB 73910**

Twelve-year-old baseball phenom, Connor Sullivan has a terrible temper, which is aggravated by money worries at home. When Melissa Morrow, sports editor of the school paper, threatens to publish an embarrassing story about his tantrums, Connor knows he needs to make a change. For grades 4-7. This title is available through the FCPL branches as a CD.

One Hundred Cupboards, Book 1 by Nathan Wilson **DB 66869.**

While visiting his cousins in Kansas, Henry York discovers small knobs protruding from the plaster of his attic room and uncovers many different cupboard doors--portals to other worlds. Henry and his younger cousin Henrietta explore some worlds and realize that other doors should not be opened. For grades 4-7. This title is available through the FCPL branches as a e-book, e-audiobook and a CD.

Checkmate: The Cruisers by Walter Dean Myers **DB 74230** Assistant principal, Mr. Culpepper, asks Zander to find out if the gifted student and chess champion, Sidney Aronofsky, has a drug problem. Zander and his friends from **The Cruisers (DB 72019)** search for the truth. For grades 5-8.

SERIES

The Dragon Keeper series by Kate Kilmo features 10 year-old cousins, Jesse and Daisy, who find an egg that hatches into a dragon. These are for grades 3-6.

The Enola Holmes series by Nancy Springer that feature Sherlock Holmes' much younger sister, Enola Holmes in London in the late 1800's. These books are for grades 6-9.

Hardy Boy mysteries by Franklin Dixon are being re-released as digital books. Ask your mom and dad or even your grandparents about these timeless adventures.

FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH READERS

Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins

In a future North America, Panem's rulers maintain control through a televised survival competition pitting teens from twelve districts in a fight to the death. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen from the poorest of the districts, District 12, is the narrator and the protagonist of the series.

Hunger Games DB 68384, Catching Fire DB 69689, and Mockingjay DB 71734. These titles are available through the FCPL branches as an e-audiobook and as a CD.

More Topical Reading

Celebrate the Upcoming London Olympics July 27- August 12, 2012 with these DREAM BIG reads. (from Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library)

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

Women Olympic Champions, DB/RC 54640 by Nathan Aaseng. For grades 5-8.

The Story of the Olympics, DB/RC 50298 by Dave Anderson. For grades 5-8.

Jim Thorpe, Original All-American, DB/RC 68057 by Joseph Bruchac
For grades 6-9, Fiction.

On the Field with... Mia Hamm DB/RC 57997 by Glenn Stout For grades 4-7.

FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT READERS

The Naked Olympics: The True Story of the Ancient Games DB/RC 58757 by Tony Perottet

The Olympics: A History of the Modern Games DB/RC 36082 by Allen Guttmann

American Son: My Story DB/RC 67784 by Oscar de la Hoya

No Limits: The Will to Succeed DB/RC 68428 by Michael Phelps

Call us at 703-324-8380 for other possible titles.

Staff News

We are excited to welcome a new volunteer to our Access Services family. **Jim Rowland** will be our technology volunteer. Anyone who needs help operating the digital player or using the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) database may call Access Services, 703-324-8380 for an appointment. Jim may also be able to provide a basic computer skills demonstration.

Jim is a computer consultant who works from home. He has downloaded books from the Library of Congress for his father, who is legally blind. Jim's experiences include working with people with disabilities, volunteering as a host parent for international students, and

serving for three years as Chairman of the Arlington Sister Cities organization. Welcome Jim!

Access Services welcomes **Meghana Kurup** to our page staff and bids farewell to **Doris Gonzalez** who has accepted a full time position at a local day care center.

NOTES FROM THE NLS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Access Services Branch Manager, **Janice Kuch**, recently attended the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) National Conference in Newport, Rhode Island. She returned with good information on all aspects of the Talking Book program. A few notes are highlighted here:

Karen Keninger, the new Director of NLS, stated in her opening remarks, that her guiding principle is "Patrons first." She also had four goals for NLS: 1.) Find more and better ways for patrons to take advantage of technology, 2.) Revive Braille, 3.) Have an increased scope of materials and 4.) Increase readership by twenty per cent in five years.

Interesting numbers from the conference.

394,000 customers throughout the United States have a Digital Talking Book player.

30,000 people receive magazines on cassettes through NLS. Magazines will become available in the digital format at some point in the future. The cartridges would have to be returned.

As of May 1, 2012 there have been over 6 million titles downloaded from the BARD site. There are now 48,761 active patrons registered for BARD and 25,970 titles available on BARD as of May 22, 2012.

Web Corner: Four for Information

www.SeniorNavigator.org

SeniorNavigator, a statewide non-profit, provides free health and community support information and guidance to seniors, caregivers, and adults with disabilities – supporting independence, dignity, and quality of life. The SeniorNavigator website (features a database of over 24,000 programs and services, 800+ educational articles, an ‘Ask an Expert’ feature, a Community Calendar, and much more. A wide variety of topics are included, such as: health and aging issues, financial concerns, legal questions, caregiver support, housing and assisted living facilities, and transportation options.

www.VisionAware.org

VisionAware helps adults, who are losing their sight, continue to live full and independent lives by providing timely information, step-by-step daily living techniques, a directory of national and local services, and a supportive online community. VisionAware combines two stand-alone resources from AFB and Partners for Sight (Senior Site and the former VisionAware, respectively) into a single, comprehensive website.

The cost of medications can be burdensome even with the help of health insurance. The following sights may be able to help people reduce the cost of their medications. (Thanks to the Prevention of Blindness Summer 2012 newsletter).

Benefitscheckup.org

National Council of Aging- Benefits Checkup This is a free and confidential service that provides information on various medication assistance programs. Users fill out a short online questionnaire and receive information about programs for which they may qualify.

www.needymeds.org

Needymeds provides a clearinghouse of information on state and local assistance programs as well as drug company discount prescription programs.

Upcoming Holiday Closings

Fourth of July Wednesday, July 4

Labor Day Monday, September 3

Columbus Day Monday, October 8

NFB-Newsline

This is a free electronic service that gives any print-disabled person access to 316 newspapers, including four Spanish language newspapers, and 38 magazines. There are also TV program listings and searchable job listings. People can access this service 24 hours a day via a touch-tone phone, the Web, or via download to a digital Talking Book player or MP3-playing device. Every day a subscriber can choose that day's, the previous day's or the previous Sunday's issue of any newspaper in the service. For more information call us here at Access Services or call the National Federation of the Blind toll-free at 1 (866) 504-7300 to request an application.

Contact Us

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning the *Loud & Clear* newsletter, please call Ken Plummer at 703-324-8389. You may also e-mail him at access@fairfaxcounty.gov.



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