

News Release



Markham Public Libraries

A world of information and inspiration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2004

Catch a Dragon by the Tale @ your library™

School's out! Make sure reading is in!

Studies show that, during the summer months, children experience a loss in the skills acquired throughout the school year. By reading regularly during the summer holidays, students will maintain or improve their reading skills.

Markham Public Libraries (MPL) has planned a number of programs designed to sustain reading skills and to promote reading for enjoyment. Every summer we host a Summer Reading Program designed for children up to grade 8. Pre-readers may also participate if an older person reads to them, as long as they are able to report on the stories they have heard.

The theme of this year's TD Summer Reading Program is **Fire Up Your Imagination: Dragons, Books and Quests**, and we are offering it at Markham Village, Milliken Mills, Thornhill Community and Unionville Libraries. We invite young damsels and knights to enter the dragon's lair, leading to a world of reading adventures! Participants will receive an activity book and a poster designed by Paul Morin, a Canadian illustrator known for his vivid works. Dragon tales and literary adventures will enchant them, as they read their way to prizes and engage in a variety of fun reading activities. At MPL we're on a quest to read 18,000 books by August 20. Track our progress on our TD Summer Reading Program website. At Milliken Mills and Unionville Libraries we're also offering reading programs geared towards students in grade 7 and up.

Join us as we kick off the summer with a puppet show. The story of Robin Hood is a timeless tale of adventure that becomes even more fun when a dragon is thrown in. Look for dragon-themed adventures in our storytime programs. Learn about the use of dragons in decorating robes during the Qing dynasty. Visit any MPL library or our website for details on our fabulous line up of summer programs.

Our goal is to make reading enjoyable and to encourage all families to build reading into their daily routine. Choose a variety of reading materials for your child. Here are some ideas:

- Read a magazine or the newspaper
- Try a graphic novel
- Research new hobbies or your vacation destination
- Listen to a talking book
- Read the book then borrow the movie

Talk to the Library staff. We want to help your child to become a lifelong reader!

Markham Public Libraries. A World of Information and Inspiration™

www.markhampubliclibraries.ca

Diane Macklin
Marketing and Programming Administrator
Markham Public Libraries
905 513 7977 ext 3912
dmacklin@markham.library.on.ca