

NEWSAMPLER



Fall 2010

Vol. 26, No. 4

Back to School = Back to Homework

Don't worry, **brainfuse** is here to help!
Live Online Homework Help

Need help with homework or a school assignment? Your own personal tutor is only a few mouse clicks away! *Brainfuse* offers live, on-demand online tutoring for students in grades four through college level. Students can get instant academic assistance from expert tutors throughout the week.

To use *brainfuse*, start at the library's "virtual" branch, alsiplibrary.info, and click *Use Research Databases*. Type in your library card barcode number, then click on *brainfuse*.

Once you've registered, simply log in, go to your own personal page, choose a subject for instruction, and enter a virtual tutoring room. In addition to our instant academic assistance service, students can sign up for pre-arranged sessions, as well as a variety of other services. So take the worry and frustration out of homework; help is as close as your computer!

Food and Toy Drive



Our ninth annual food and toy drive begins November 15th. Please bring new unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, or monetary donations to the library. Worth Township will distribute these items to area families in need.



The Haunting

A Thrilling Night of Supernatural Theatre for teens and adults

Do you remember turning off the lights, huddling under a blanket and watching some spooky, scary old black and white monster movies? William Pack will create that same spine tingling "lights out" experience here at the library on **Wednesday, October 13th at 7 p.m.** If you'd like to join us for this unique spooky, scary, suspense show, call the Adult Service Department to register.

WARNING: Ghosts sometimes leave the stage and sit with you in the audience.



State of Illinois budget shortfall

How will it affect the library?

The Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library is funded largely from local property taxes. This means that the State of Illinois budget cuts do not directly impact our budget.

However, library systems receive their funding directly from the State of Illinois. Our library is part of the Metropolitan Library System (MLS). When you request a book, CD or DVD from another library, MLS delivers the materials. Loss of state tax monies to fund MLS may impact this service. Loss of funding may also mean changes to special programs such as the Macy's Museum Adventure Pass program. We will do all we can to keep you informed of any changes that will occur at the system that may affect service to you.

While we all hope to see the State of Illinois and our economy recover from this downturn, with support from local property taxes, we will continue to provide our residents with the same materials and services that they have come to expect from the Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library.

Serving the communities of Alsip, Merrionette Park, and Garden Homes

Adult Services Fall Registration

Registration is required for all programs.

Call the Adult Services Department at 708-371-5666 (ext. 108) for details.



Book, Please! Back to School

by Jenny Cutshall
Adult Services Librarian



If all of the back-to-school fanfare has you missing your own school days, assign yourself some homework! Try out a book or two from this list of stories in academic settings and visit the classroom again, if only for an afternoon.

Evening Class by Maeve Binchy Schoolteacher Aidan Dunne organizes an evening class in Italian with the help of Nora O'Donoghue, an Irish-woman returning home after 26 years in Sicily. When the somewhat squashed-by-life denizens of the surrounding neighborhood take the unexpected step of enrolling in the class, they find their lives transformed. (F/BINCHY and LT/F/BIN)

My Latest Grievance

by Elinor Lipman

Frederica Hatch describes her life growing up living on a college campus in the dorms with her professor parents. (F/LIPMAN)

Straight Man

by Richard Russo William Henry Devereaux, Jr., the reluctant chairman of the English department of a badly underfunded college in the Pennsylvania rust belt, struggles with problems both at home and at work. (F/RUSSO)

Prep: a novel

by Curtis Sittenfeld Lee Fiora is a South Bend teenager who receives a scholarship to a prestigious Boston boarding school and struggles with coming-of-age issues in an unfamiliar place. (F/SITTENFELD)

White Teeth by Zadie Smith The story of an interracial family living in the university town of Wellington, Massachusetts, whose misadventures in the culture wars—on both sides of the Atlantic—serve to skewer everything from family life to political correctness to the combustive collision between the personal and the political. ~Amazon.com (F/SMITH and TEEN/F/SMITH)

Free Health Care for Kids in Illinois

Wednesday, September 22 7 P.M.

Do you know a child without healthcare coverage? Come to the library to learn about ALL KIDS, Illinois' no cost or low-cost health insurance for kids. Come learn more about ALL KIDS and get help enrolling.

Laughter, Meditation and Gratitude

Wednesday, September 29 7 P.M.

Om Jahari will talk about the health, psychological and spiritual benefits of laughter. He will discuss what meditation is, how to meditate and why people should meditate. He will conclude by relating meditation to gratitude which can lead to being happy all the time.

Cupcake Decorating

Wednesday, October 27 7 P.M.

Come join Sue Peltzer for an evening of family fun learning new ways to decorate cupcakes. Sue and her husband are the owners of *Delicious Creations* in Hickory Hills.

Alsip Library Antique Show 2010

Wednesday, November 10 7 P.M.

If you have always wondered how much your treasured antique is worth, this is your chance to find out! Rex Newell of *Rex's Antiques* will be at the library to give you the answer. The first 40 people to sign in at the reference desk after 6 P.M. on the day of the program can have one item appraised. While a limited number of items can be appraised, all are welcome to attend.

Goddesses

The Power of the Divine Feminine
Wednesday, December 1 7 P.M.

Angel Therapy Practitioner®, Denise Sutherland returns with her new program. The Divine Feminine is the unique wisdom and strength many women possess in abundance; a quality so powerful it can only be called divine. For thousands of years around the world, the Divine Feminine has been honored in the form of goddesses. In this lecture, Denise will introduce the Goddesses in order that you may embody their unique qualities within yourself.



Meetings begin at 7 P.M.

If you are interested in joining, please call or stop by the Adult Services Department.

September 2

Then We Came to the End

by Joshua Ferris

November 4

Tender Bar

by J. R. Moehringer

October 7

Broken for You

by Stephanie Kallos

December 2

Elegance of the Hedgehog

by Muriel Barbery



Fun Stuff for Kids!

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.

After School Programs

Preschool Programs

Mother Goose Time

Mondays 10—10:30 A.M.

This program is designed for babies, ages birth through 23 months, and a caregiver. It provides an introduction to the library through stories, music, nursery rhymes, and unstructured play.

Baby and Toddler Music Class

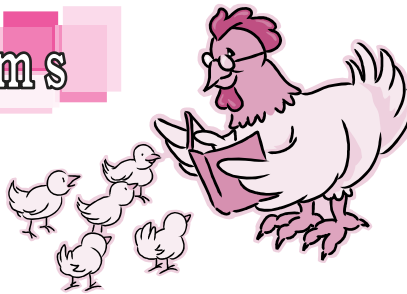
Fridays 11—11:30 A.M.
November 8th—December 10

Each week babies and toddlers (6 months — 36 months) and their caregivers will sing a storybook, play games, and enjoy a variety of small instruments while the instructor sings and plays guitar.

Toddler Time

Tuesdays 10—10:30 A.M.

Toddlers ages 2—3 years and their caregivers are invited to share books, songs, fingerplays, and sensorimotor activities.



Toddler Art

Thursdays 10—10:30 A.M.

Come join us with your 2—3 year old for a story, songs, and a process-oriented art project. Be sure to dress to get a little messy!

Story Soup

Wednesdays 10:30—11:15 A.M.

Preschoolers (2—5 year olds) will enjoy tasty stories and learn easy cooking skills while preparing a simple snack.

Story Time

Tuesdays 2—2:30 P.M.

Preschoolers (independent 3—5 year olds) can enhance pre-reading and social skills as they enjoy stories, music, and simple crafts.

Tale Time

Tuesdays 3:45—4:15 P.M.

Kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders will jump into the fall season with activities, games, songs, and crafts to encourage reading and language development.

Travel Club

Wednesdays 3:45—4:15 P.M.

Kindergarten through 5th graders can learn about different travel destinations around the world. We'll make a craft and sample food from other countries!

Kidzread Book Club

Thursdays 3:45—4:15 P.M.

Attention 3rd, 4th and 5th graders! Join us as we mix books, games, crafts and other hands-on activities each week.

Scrapbooking

Mondays 3:45—4:15 P.M.

Each week kids from 9 years old through 8th grade will bring their photos and their imagination to create a 12 x 12 scrapbook page.

Art Class

Wednesdays 6—6:45 P.M.

Kids in grades 5 and up can learn drawing, cartooning, and more in this fun class for kids.



Share the Warmth of the Season

Please bring warm hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to our Youth Service Department for area children in need. All donations will be given to Worth Township for distribution to area families.



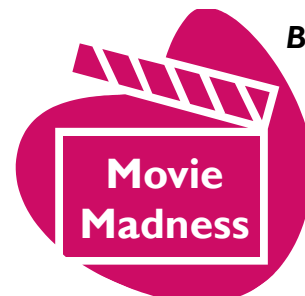
Come Play

BINGO

Fridays 3:45 - 4:30 P.M.

*September 24, October 8 & 22,
November 19 and December 3*

Kindergarten—5th Graders are invited to come and play BINGO at the library!



Bring your friends and enjoy a movie at the library!

**Saturdays, 10:30 A.M.
October 2nd and 16th**

Special Programs

Tickets are given 30 minutes before each show unless otherwise noted.

BMX Show



Saturday, Sept. 25 at 2:00P.M.

BMX Champion, Matt Wilhelm, will be at the library to perform amazing stunts while speaking about character building topics.

Dennis Watkins Family Magic Show
Monday, October 18 at 7P.M.



Dennis Watkins brings his award winning combination of comedy and magic to our library. This is one performer that is not to be missed!

Bump in the Night
Monday, October 25 at 7P.M.

Join us for a fun program starring Reid Miller. You'll hear songs like *Walking through the Graveyard* and stories that include *Wiley*

and the Hairy Man as well as *Jack and the Haunted House*.



Emerald City Theater School presents Peter Pan



Monday, November 8 at 7:00P.M.

Neverland beckons as Peter Pan and Wendy encounter fairies, mermaids and pirates.

Melikin Puppets presents Night Before Christmas
Monday, December 6 at 7:00P.M.

Join us for two special plays that celebrate the holidays! *The Shoemaker and the Elves* tells the classic tale of a poor shoemaker who is helped by elves to make it a Merry Christmas for all! *The Night Before Christmas* is told as never before by Woofer, the family's pet dog! Bring your family and get into the holiday spirit!



Youth Services Fall & Holiday Registrations

FALL registration begins **Saturday, September 4**, for residents of Alsip, Merrionette Park, and Garden Homes. Open registration begins Saturday, September 11.

HOLIDAY registration begins **Saturday, October 23**, for library district residents. Open registration begins Saturday, October 30.

PLEASE NOTE: Children must have a valid library card to register. A fee will be charged to all non-residents.

Holiday Sing-a-Long

**Saturday, December 11
3 P.M.**

Bring the whole family and join us for some holiday fun. We'll tell stories, sing songs, make ornaments, and enjoy refreshments.

Family Fun Nights

Mondays 7—7:30 P.M.

Come join us each Monday night as we present a different activity, theme, or event that everyone in the family can enjoy.

Drop In Craft

**Tuesdays 6—9 P.M. OR
Fridays all day long**

Stop by the Youth Services department and pick up a craft to make on your own in the library—while supplies last.



Parents

who do not wish their children (under age 18) to have access to the Internet at our library may sign a form to that effect and the child's Internet access will be blocked. The forms can be obtained in the Youth Services Department on the lower level of the library.

Coming Attractions **Books • Music • Movies**

September Books

Clive Cussler	<i>Lost Empire</i>
Janet Evanovich	<i>Wicked Appetite</i>
Christine Feehan	<i>Dark Peril</i>
Ken Follett	<i>Fall of Giants</i>
Sara Paretsky	<i>Body Work</i>
James Patterson	<i>Don't Blink</i>
John Sanford	<i>Bad Blood</i>
Nicholas Sparks	<i>Safe Haven</i>
Danielle Steel	<i>Legacy</i>
Stuart Woods	<i>Santa Fe Edge</i>

October Books

M.C. Beaton	<i>Busy Body</i>
Barbara Taylor Bradford	<i>Playing the Game</i>
George W. Bush	<i>Decision Points</i>
Lee Child	<i>Worth Dying For</i>
Michael Connelly	<i>The Reversal</i>
Catherine Coulter	<i>The Valcourt Heiress</i>
Vince Flynn	<i>American Assassin</i>
John Grisham	<i>The Confession</i>
Iris Johansen	<i>Chasing the Night</i>
Jan Karon	<i>In the Company of Others</i>
John Le Carre	<i>Our Kind of Traitor</i>
Elmore Leonard	<i>Djibouti</i>
Robert B. Parker	<i>Painted Ladies</i>
Anne Perry	<i>A Christmas Odyssey</i>

November Books

David Baldacci	<i>Hell's Corner</i>
Steve Berry	<i>The Emperor's Tomb</i>
Lois Bujold	<i>Cryoburn</i>
Patricia Cornwell	<i>Post Mortuary</i>
Clive Cussler	<i>Crescent Dawn</i>
Jeffery Deaver	<i>Edge</i>
Robert Jordan	<i>Towers of Midnight</i>
Stephen King	<i>Full Dark, No Stars</i>
Dennis Lehane	<i>Moonlight Mile</i>
Robert B. Parker	<i>Xmas Spenser</i>
James Patterson	<i>Cross Fire</i>
Anne Rice	<i>Of Love and Evil</i>
J.D. Robb	<i>Indulgence in Death</i>

New Music

Christina Aguilera	<i>Bionic</i>
Bon Jovi	<i>The Circle</i>
Jim Brickman	<i>Never Alone</i>
Eminem	<i>Recovery</i>
Melissa Etheridge	<i>Fearless Love</i>
Alan Jackson	<i>Freight Train</i>
Carole King	<i>Live At the Troubadour</i>
Sarah McLachlan	<i>The Laws of Illusion</i>

New Music

Natalie Merchant	<i>Leave Your Sleep</i>
Kylie Minogue	<i>Aphrodite</i>
Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers	<i>Major</i>
Soundtrack	<i>Glee: The Music, the Power of Madonna</i>
Soundtrack	<i>Glee: The Music, V. 3 Showstoppers</i>
Soundtrack	<i>The Twilight Sage: Eclipse</i>
Straight No Chaser	<i>With a Twist</i>

New DVDs

- *Brooklyn's Finest*
- *Chloe*
- *Date Night*
- *Death at a Funeral*
- *Furry Vengeance*
- *The Ghostwriter*
- *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*
- *The Joneses*
- *The Last Song*



Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District

11960 S. Pulaski, Alsip, IL 60803
Phone: 708-371-5666
www.alsiplibrary.info

Library Hours

Monday — Thursday 9 A.M.— 9 P.M.
Friday & Saturday 9 A.M.— 5 P.M.
Drive-up book return open 24 hours

Library Closed

Labor Day

Monday, September 6, 2010

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 25, 2010

Library Board

Mary E. McKendree, President
Judy Buergel, Vice President
Mary Jane Schneider, Secretary
Sandy Cerretto, Treasurer
Marilyn Engelbrecht, Trustee
Kevin Pickar, Trustee
John Woodville, Trustee

Ruthann Swanson, Library Director

Library Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of at 7:30 P.M., each month. Minutes and agendas are posted on the library's website. Library Board members are elected by residents of Alsip, Merrionette Park and Garden Homes. All library board positions are unpaid. The public is welcome.

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Alsip, IL 60803**

Any individual who needs a special accommodation for a program should call the library (708-371-5666) at least 5 days in advance.

Library Card Sign-up Month



Alsip Mayor Patrick Kitching, Library Director Ruthann Swanson, and Librarian Maritza Ruiz want to remind everyone that September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. If you don't already have your library card, sign-up and receive a coupon for a free DVD rental plus a chance to win our gift card drawing!



Fall Computer Classes

Computer instructor John Hojek will be back again to teach beginning computer, Internet, and email classes beginning in September. All classes are on Fridays from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M.

- **Beginning Computers** - September 17
- **Beginning Internet** - October 15
- **Beginning Email** - November 19

Classes are offered on a first-come, first served basis and cost \$10. The first 15 people to register at the Adult Reference Desk on the day of the class will attend.

The Society of Lifetime Readers

Congratulations to our readers who achieved new levels! **Sidney Adams** read 25 books and received a mug.

Barbara Bell, Sherrie Jankowski

and **Nancy Swistowicz** all read 100 books and received tote bags.

Remember all library district residents age eighteen and over are invited to become Society members. Just stop by the Reference Desk to sign up.