

Ruth Gilbert, Youth Services Librarian

Happy summer! The school year is behind us, and I hope everyone is ready to celebrate the warm weather and gradual return to normalcy. We have lots to celebrate at the Kirkland Town Library, but one of the biggest things is welcoming back children and families we haven't seen for more than a year. Things are still not quite back to normal, but here at the library we're getting closer. We're offering in-person summer programs while still being mindful of the safety of our youngest friends, and we'll continue to offer take-home activities as well. However you take part in this year's summer reading program, we're eager to welcome you back!

If you do visit the library for a program, you'll find that all our summer activities for children and teens will be held outdoors. Starting next week we'll have a big tent set up over our front lawn, and we'll be offering programs for all ages underneath it. You'll see yoga, animals from the Utica Zoo, book discussions, LEGO demonstrations, arts and crafts, storytimes, and more.

Kids ages 8-12 can participate in programs created just for their age group, like our Tween Book Club, which will meet in July and August. We're reading two fantastic books: "Saving Winslow" by Sharon Creech, and "Out of My Mind" by Sharon Draper. Older kids can also sign up for our Tween DIY Club. We'll be doing exciting STEM and craft activities, like extracting the DNA from a strawberry and making glittery sensory bottles.

There are special programs just for teens, too. We're forming a book group to read "World of Wonders" by Aimee Nezhukumatathil. Teens can also sign up to receive a Teen Lit Bag full of hand-picked library books, a craft, snacks, and other goodies.

And we're taking library programs on the road! The Young Hikers Club will meet at different local trails for easy walks in the woods with activities to keep us motivated. You'll also find storytime at the Clinton Elementary School playground, and a StoryWalk on the Kirkland Trails.

To encourage leisure reading we're offering our usual summer reading challenge for kids with the chance to win a prize in our raffle. And we've brought back our Read & Bead program, which lets kids build a personalized necklace by earning beads while they read.

Grown-ups can participate in reading challenges alongside their kids, and everyone can join our "Clinton vs. Clinton" reading competition. We've challenged the town of Clinton, NJ to see whose patrons can read the most this summer.

There's a lot going on! You can receive all the latest information from the library by subscribing to our e-newsletter - just shoot us an email at [clinton@midyork.org](mailto:clinton@midyork.org). You can find more information about all of our summer events and programs by visiting our website at [kirklandtownlibrary.org](http://kirklandtownlibrary.org).