

# ShelfLife

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

JUNE 2002

## Extreme Summer, Extreme Reads

### *County Teens Get Their Own Summer Reading Program*

Whether it's getting a job or getting into college, passing the ACT or passing your driver's exam, setting up a DVD player or setting out to be a scuba diver, teens need to be able to read and read well.

Yet with 66 percent of Oklahoma City ninth-graders reading below grade level (according to the 2001 Iowa Test), it's a safe bet that most local teens either aren't reading enough or could benefit from reading more.

But what's a library to do?

Staffers at the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma County started working on a summer reading program



just for teens. They gave it its own theme: "Extreme Summer, Extreme Reads."

They found hiphop artists and radio stations and extreme sport enthusiasts to headline programs just for teens. And they even lined up prizes with teen

appeal – from thousands of free burger and fry meals at Boomerang Grille, to a chance to be a DJ on WILD 97.9 FM radio or the opportunity to win two tickets to this summer's Britney Spears concert.

"This program is truly for the entire age range of 12 to 18 years," said **Heidi Daniel**, "and we have no doubt that once they cross the threshold into any of our libraries they will find plenty of reasons to stay involved (with their local library). We say we're hoping for a couple thousand teens; I'm personally pushing for 4,000!"

That could be attributed to **Daniel's** own affinity for the teen program lineup. "And I'm 26," she quipped.

"If I was a teen and sitting around during the summer doing a lot of nothing," said **Daniel**, "watching reruns on TV and waiting for school to start, I would jump at the chance to take a free

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dance class, a free art class or a free skate workshop in an air-conditioned, friendly place.”

“But even if that’s not your summer scenario, know this: ‘Extreme Summer’ is worth a teen’s time, because reading is one of the most important skills a person can have in this high-tech age,” said **Daniel**. “The better your reading skills, the better chance you have to master that video game, pass that history test, understand those song lyrics, get admitted to college or get any job.”

People work out their bodies all the time to keep them running smoothly, she notes, but often forget that “use it or lose it” applies equally well to reading skills. “If you’ve got great reading skills,” she noted, “you might just read something that could change your life. Books have that power.”

And in MLS’s 2002 teen summer reading program, teens can read almost anything – magazines, on-line articles, novels, mysteries, even art books — to qualify for the Extreme prizes.

As for the programs, well, they simply build on the great free cultural programs one has always been able to find at Oklahoma County libraries: Aspiring actors can try an improv workshop led by Comedy Commandos Director **Rosalyn Reeder**. Aspiring rap artists, a

hiphop dance workshop led by professional dancer **Shannon Colderon**. Aspiring artists can learn how to create edgy sketches with found objects from **Brian Dahlvang**. And extreme sport enthusiasts can learn the

basics of skateboardings (as well as the latest tricks on the street) from extreme sport entrepreneur **Steve McNutt**.

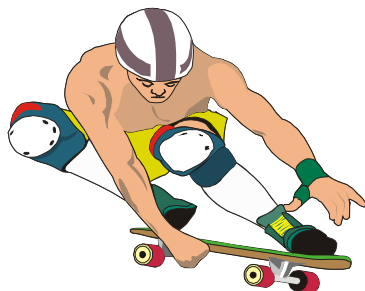
It’s a summer that once upon a time a teen could only hope to find on the

streets of New York or the boardwalks of Los Angeles.

But that this summer, will be only as far away as their local library.

For more information on how you can become an Extreme Summer reader or how you can sign up a teen you know for the program, call your local library or (405) 235-9223, ext. 30.

Sponsors for this year’s inaugural “Extreme Summer, Extreme Read” program for teens in Oklahoma County, include **Weokie Credit Union**, **Boomerang Grille**, **WILD 97.9 FM**, **Clear Channel Communications** and **Classic Printing**.



## ‘Read About It’ Producer Praised For Her Work

*“Read About It” producer, B.J. Williams received this note from an author she interviewed at the Oklahoma Writers Federation Conference BJ attended in May.*

*Dear B.J.,*

*It was a pleasure to meet you at the OWF Conference. I want to thank you for such a nice interview.*

*Your questions showed that you had taken some time with the novel, **The Thunder Keeper**, and for that, I am deeply grateful. It made the interview go very smoothly. I’m sure your viewers will also be grateful!*

*Again, my thanks. Or as the Arapahos would say, Ho’ Hau.*

**Margaret Coit**



## JUNE Anniversaries

CONRAD J. DOTY	6/1/68
DONNA L. MORRIS	6/1/69
CHERYLA. MANN	6/21/73
B.J. WILLIAMS	6/3/74
LAURIE F. MACK-CLARK	6/9/75
SELMA ZUHDI	6/17/77
SUSAN STINSON	6/25/80
EBRAHIM EJTEHADI	6/24/82
SHEILA D. FIXEL	6/7/83
ANN G. ALIOTTA	6/4/84
DEBORAH MONTGOMERY	6/2/86
LANNY B. MYERS	6/8/87
JOAN WILLIAMS	6/15/87
RANDY L. KNUTSON	6/25/90
JULIE A. SCHOFIELD	6/24/91
ABOLGHADEM SIAVASHI	6/27/94
TONICE T. WOODS, SR.	6/10/95
DONALD F. UPDEGROVE	6/26/95
AMY S. POWELL	6/26/95
PHYLLISA. DAVIDSON	6/27/95
JEAN E. JOHNSON	6/10/96
BARBARA L. MCDANIEL	6/3/97
CHARLEEN K. MILLER	6/23/97

LINDA S. WINN	6/1/98
JOSHUA H. WELLS	6/30/98
KIMBERLY A. EDWARDS	6/14/99
RAMON LIRA	6/14/00
VICKEY K. DOOLEY	6/23/00
ALEX P. POWERS	6/26/00
SHELLIE ZEIGLER-HILL	6/4/01
DEREK J. CASH	6/4/01
PATRICIA MARABLE	6/4/01
DAWN M. HALL	6/4/01
MICHAEL J. TORTORELLI	6/11/01
RONALD L. KEYS	6/16/01
SCOTT CARTER	6/25/01
LAQUETA L. LEWIS	6/25/01
CHRIS W. SMITH	6/25/01
ANGELA D. GREEN	6/26/01

## Welcome To

James Anderson	Maint. Tech, MTC
Keri Cloud	Page, ED
Jeff Robertson	Page, SO
Cara Peters	Page, CH
Darlene Brickly	Page, SO
Kristina Robertson	Circ Clerk, BI
Linda Armstead	Circ Clerk, MWC

## Goodbye

Sheldon Moglia	Page, MWC
James Williams	Page, CH
Alice Collinsworth	Page, BI
Tyler Skelton	Page, ED
Sally Epp	Mat. Selector, MSL
Sharrolyn Reed	Page, MWC

## JUNE Birthdays

JEANNE M. DEVLIN	6/01
NINA M. GINSTERBLUM	6/02
DARLA J. MCGUINNESS	6/03
SHELLIE ZEIGLER-HILL	6/04
MICHAEL MILLER	6/10
GALEN R KURTH	6/11
CLYDE D. HERROD	6/11
JEAN E. JOHNSON	6/11
LOUISA M. SMITH	6/14
OLIVIA SAMMONS	6/17
MARILYN E. BACKUS	6/17
LUIS A. MUNOZ	6/17
EBONY J. WERYACKWE	6/18
CONRAD J. DOTY	6/19
DANA L. MORROW	6/20
JENNIFER M. HUNTER	6/21
TIERRA RENEE YOUNG	6/23
PATRICIA A. MARABLE	6/23
LISA J. PREBLE	6/23
ZIRONYA LEWIS	6/24
DAWN M. HALL	6/24
SAMANTHA DEARMAN	6/24
PAULA A. HANNAPEL	6/25
CHRISTINE R. BASSETT	6/25
DARCUS D. SMITH	6/25
MANDANA ROSHAN	6/25
JIMMY C. WELCH	6/28
D. DIANE SHARP	6/28
BARBEE STUEVE	6/30

## Retired

Ann Simpson, librarian at the Del City Library, retired May 31.

# People

Edmond Library

## May 1, Wacky Wednesday For Edmond

It was a MAY DAY, and it was NOT our day. At 10 a.m., a 4x4 decorative ceiling tile suddenly fell down right in front of **Ronna Davis** at the reference desk. Luckily no one was injured.

Maintenance was called, and **Don Updegrove** declared the whole area with similar tiles unsafe. Of course this included seven pac terminals, three Internet terminals and both our public printers. (***Abe** suggested we close but, **Karen** nixed that idea.*)

So chairs were collected, and **Don** supplied yellow caution tape, and the whole area was cordoned off just like a crime scene. In fact so much like a crime scene, **Nathan Leonard** could not resist. A masking-tape outline of a sprawled body soon appeared in the forbidden area.

Of course many signs were posted explaining the actual problem which was obvious once people looked at the ceiling.

**Don Updegrove** told the weary staff (who were doubly burdened with looking up every book request and ducking under the yellow tape to retrieve copies when any of the

remaining usable Gates computers printed) that repairs would be done in three WEEKS. Fortunately he was kidding, and the maintenance team finished the task early the next day.

– **Karen Bays**

### Del City Page Honored At Graduation Ceremony

Del City Page **Erica Burton** graduated in May along with 80 other homeschooled seniors as part of the Oklahoma Homeschoolers graduation ceremony.

Del City Library Assistant **Annika Thornburg** graduated in April from Oklahoma Christian University with a B.A. in Advertising Design. **Annika** will marry **Cale Bryant** on June 8th and honeymoon in Montana. (Sounds like a song doesn't it? "Honeymoon in Montana"!)

Goodbye to **Ann Simpson**, librarian, who is retiring at the end of May.

– **Katrina Prince, DC**

## ShelfLife

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System

ShelfLife, the official newsletter of the Metropolitan Library System, is published electronically each month by the **Public Relations Division**.

Written and graphic contributions are welcomed. Please forward all comments to: Nancy Lytle, editor.

**Nancy Lytle**

Editor

**Wanda Scott**

Graphic Design

For more information contact: Public Information at **405.231.8618**.

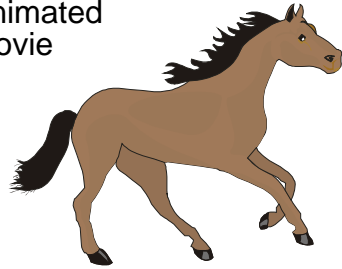
### Shannon Honored by VICA

My son, **Sean Shannon**, spent three days at the end of April competing against other students in the State VICA competition. I am very proud to say that he took third in his competition area (Computer Maintenance Technician), brought home a bronze medal and, even more to the point, a sizeable scholarship from Metro Tech. All this, and he graduated, too. Way to go, **Sean!**

– **Karen Bray, Maintenance**

## Movie Sponsorships, ALA Award Highlight Public Relations' Year

***Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron***, an animated DreamWorks movie that hit the theaters May 24, had free ticket preview screenings at Tinseltown Theater, 63<sup>rd</sup> and Martin Luther King.



And MLS was a part of it.

At the direction of PR Director **Scott Carter**, **Doug Bentin** contacted the **George Grubbe Advertising Agency**, which handled the film, to see about MLS teaming up with GGAA for a mutually beneficial sponsorship.

**Doug** made the contact and on Thursday, May 16, and Saturday, May 18, in free preview screenings, not only did kids get to see a free movie but also received a free MLS bag with goodies inside promoting the library system. (Thanks to **Doug**, and **Heidi Port** and her very good friend **Chuck**.)

Our system received 450 passes, which translated into 900 seats (one pass equals two tickets) **Doug** sent 100

tickets each to BI, ED, RE and SO libraries. Managers were asked to distribute the passes to customers as they wished.

Belle Isle decided to offer tickets to only adults who asked for them – thinking they would be the most likely to show up with their children.

Tinseltown folks originally told **Doug** that ***Spirit*** would be shown in its largest theater of 560 seats. But, because ***Star Wars*** opened that same weekend, the largest theater went to ***Star Wars***.

So the Thursday night *Spirit* showing was moved to two screens and the Sat. morning showing was moved to three screens.

All showings were full.

At each screening **Doug** or **Scott** welcomed the audience and promoted the library system. They also gave away copies of the ***Spirit*** book supplied by **DreamWorks**.

The cost to the library system was staff time. The benefit was good will and high visibility of the Metropolitan Library System.

The event was so successful, **Doug** said, “the ad agency wants to negotiate another working relationship with MLS.”

“The movie we are discussing now is ***Like Mike***, about a kid who finds magic shoes and wants to play basketball like Michael Jordan. He ends up playing with a semi-pro basketball team.”

“The agency has offered us 500 seats – a smaller amount than for ***Spirit***,” said Doug, “but we’ll see what happens.”

We’ll keep you posted.

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## MetroLibrary Mag Earns National Prize In ALA's Best of show Contest

The Metropolitan Library System won honorable mention in the calendar of events division for libraries with budgets above \$6,000,000.

The calendar is part of the monthly *MetroLibrary* magazine.

The award will be presented June 16 at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta.

# Class Report on Introduction to Child Development

*The following are evaluations from staff who attended the child development classes held recently at Belle Isle Library.*

## **Student #1**

Professor **Jane Humphries** was great! This class, more than other developmental classes I have had, has brought the importance of knowing the developmental "state of mind" to a concrete, understandable, usable level. As a Master's student, I often struggle with using what I know in "real-life" situations, and this class made it very clear how to do that. Professionally, this was useful for me because the examples brought to light new ways for me to interact with children - especially toddlers.

More than being just theory, the combination of personal examples from Jane and the Touchpoints video gave a fluid and applicable way to deal with various developmental stages.

I can't say enough how much I loved the Touchpoints video. I cried during the baby deliveries (is that my biological clock I hear?), and during the toilet training. I felt enlightened knowing that the child should direct it.

Overall, stupendous job!

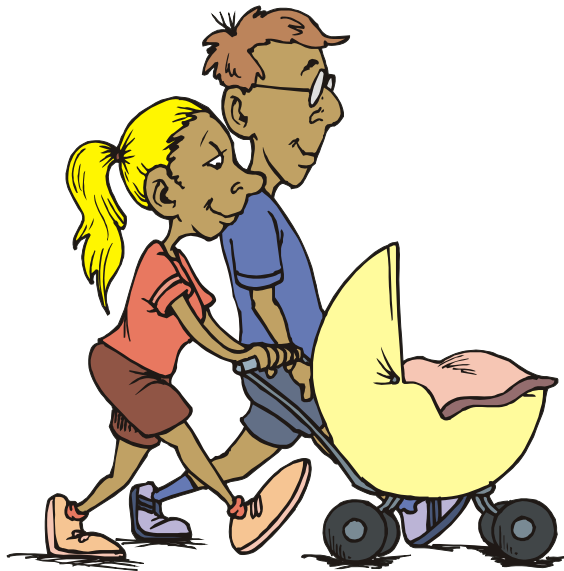
## **Student #2**

Value of being here:

- the group play we did at the beginning of each class.
- I liked the readings as a resource as well.
- reinforces that I really don't want children, no joke.

## **Student #3**

The child development class held at



Belle Isle Library, by **Jane Humphries** of OCCC Feb. 20 - Mar 13, 2002, was an excellent learning experience.

The instructor was able to convey a vast amount of information in a

professional manner that kept our attention, motivated thought and encouraged application in our library programs for children.

I have been inspired to learn more and elevate my own level of skill in this area. I have also been challenged to think in the new ways.

This class has, I believe, provided a wonderful introduction to child development that will benefit all who get to attend this class.

Elements of particular significance:

- group activities that illustrated behavior of age group.
- Brazelton video.

## **Student #4**

The class helped to separate developmental levels with children. Also, it helped tremendously to understand the parent's emotions and concerns, which will help during the Family Place Workshop in our library.

## **Student #5**

I have enjoyed these classes. Not only do they relate to my job with MLS's emphasis on children, but they relate to my grandchildren as well. I will be leading a non-work class later this month and plan to include some of the activities.

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**Student #6**

I learned that I should have had this class before I had children (who are now 30, 27 & 24). I could have enjoyed their touchpoints instead of enduring some of them.

I work with senior citizens more than young children but are involved in some family literacy programs and this will be helpful in planning the crafts and stories for them to participate in.

**Student #7**

The class has refreshed extensive reading I did many years ago on child development.

In addition, I have been able to relate to many concepts from the point of view of my work with parents and children. I have better insights into the development of language and early reading skills. This will help me in conversations with parents, even though it doesn't make me an expert, and it will help with story time and presentation of books and language skills.

The instructor's positive attitudes toward and experiences with children helped me.

**Student #8**

The example games at the beginning

of each class were a wonderful way to:

1. put us all at ease.
2. create a subjective situation from which to draw observations & examples.
3. allow our inner children a chance to run free.

My position is enhanced from this class because of my new sensitivity to the needs of the individual child. Your lectures & the Brazelton video made clear the idea that children give clues as to what they need to thrive & grow.

All of this newfound information is superb! It takes me (the parent) out of the equation, and I'm more able to get to the main part of the problem for my child. We have been so much more CALM and reasonable with each other.

Many, many thanks!!! What value? Immeasurable!

**Student #9**

This program has helped all of us to understand our customers as family members - child, parent, & grandparent. When the mom walks in with a screaming child we better understand what she is dealing with.

We will be able to plan better, age-appropriate programs as well as programs to assist parents, grandparents, and brothers and sisters.

We understand better what it feels like to be a toddler.

**Student #10**

I loved the Touchpoints videos and watching Dr. B's quiet way of calming & supporting parents.

I learned some things about crying children and tantrums.

I liked the training methods of little lecture, small group work, videos.

I work with school-age children, but still the stages of development and the positive ways of dealing with children were helpful.

Thanks for an excellent workshop.

**Student #11**

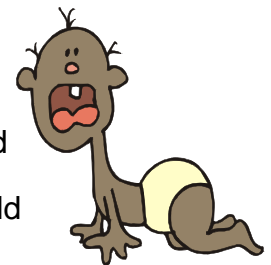
As a librarian, we have all ages of children. This helps explain how the beneficial learning from infancy to kindergarten-age can make such a difference. We need to reach the parents very early on to help bring about the most potential.

This class was very informative.

**Student #12**

Having missed the 1st class I don't feel I can really evaluate the class. I enjoyed your lectures, examples, games and video.

The only thing I did not care for was the poster project. I would rather have more discussion on library use.



## MLS Summer at the Library Reading Program

# Travis and Kelsey Bauman - Going for the Gold.

**Travis and Kelsey Bauman** are going for the gold in 2002 – the library gold that is. It's a medallion that readers who finish their goal in the 2002 Metropolitan Library System reading program will receive.

"They see their father read all the time," said **Kay**, mom of the two readers.

"They have quiet down time at 9 p.m., and we highly encourage reading."

"Sometimes they get so carried away by a book," said **Keith Bauman**, the two's dad. "they're still awake at midnight and I have to put the brakes on."

Ten-year-olds **Travis and Kelsey** will be back at the library for the fourth time for Summer at the Library, the Metropolitan Library System's summer reading program, and they are eager to get new books to read. "We've read everything in the house," said **Travis**. (All the age appropriate books, at least.)

**Kelsey, Travis'** sister, looks forward to earning a new medal to add to her collection. The library gives the heavy medals as a reward for completing her contract to read so many books by summer's end.

"But I really read, because I like to read. Not for the prizes."



*Travis and Kelsey Bauman*

**Kelsey** says her favorite medal for reaching her goal was the 1999 Read Stampede medal, the theme for that year's program.

**Kelsey and Travis** have medals from 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Last year **Kelsey** decided to sign her contract to read 30 books.

"I read 40," she said matter-of-factly. She hasn't decided how many she'll read this summer.

These two summer readers frequent the Southern Oaks Library, and they have come a long way since reading their first books.

The first book **Travis** ever read all the way through was *Jonah and the Whale*.

Today he is reading *Tex* by S.E. Hinton of Tulsa.

"*The Velveteen Rabbit* is the first book I read," said **Kelsey**.

**Kelsey** is reading *Murder for Her Majesty*. "It's really good," said Kelsey who went on to describe the plot in detail.

These fourth-graders also have their all-time favorite books- at least for this point in their reading lives.

"I read all the Harry Potter books. I like Harry Potter. No. No. I love Harry Potter," **Travis** said. Other favorites: **JRR**

**Tolkien's** *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

**Kelsey's** favorites are *The Whipping Boy* by **Sid Fleischman**, and *Alice in Wonderland*.

**Travis and Kelsey**, who turned 10 Jan. 31, attend Briarwood Elementary Public School in Moore.

They both have memories of being read to by their parents. "*Brown Bear*" and *Where Is my Hat?* the pair chimed, were among the books they remembered.

With reading so much a part of their lives, it's no wonder they can remember books their parents read to them.

"Every year **Travis and Kelsey** have joined the summer reading program at

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the library, I feel they are better prepared for the following school year, because they have retained their reading skills over the summer," said mom **Kay Bauman, MLS director of Planning.**



The 2002 reading medal.

According to *School Library Journal*, Feb. 2002, a survey conducted with five Southern California public libraries of their 2001 summer reading programs, found: students who participated were more likely than non-participants of the same grade level to retain reading skills into the next year.

The study also found that participating K-3 students read more books over the summer, and their parents spent more time reading with their children, than non-participating students.

In the 2000 MLS summer reading program 9,005 readers enrolled. Of that number 4,280 completed their goal. And of the 10,695 children enrolled in the reader program in 2001, 5,609 children completed their goal.

## Staff Association

# Views and Reviews



**Darlene Browers**

The lobby of the Midwest City Library became a lively banquet room last Friday night. The MLS Staff Association held its annual meeting, and a big thanks goes to the Midwest City Library for hosting this event.

A treat for the evening was the display of an original graphite drawing of **Ralph Ellison** done by **Wanda Scott**. The drawing is to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of *Invisible Man* by **Mr. Ellison**. It will be presented to the Ralph Ellison Library in October 2002 on the occasion of the library being named a Literary Landmark associated with **Ralph Ellison** who is an Oklahoma author.

We were especially honored to have several of our retirees join us for the evening.

Amid Celtic tunes and tables decorated with fresh flowers, the group enjoyed a meal of Indian Tacos, homemade desserts and cold drinks.

**Norm Maas**, MLS Director, spoke to the group about The Challenges of the Future for MLS.

He described the ways our library system will try to meet the needs for information by the public and how we will spread the word about what they can find at the library. One of the greatest challenges is to help produce a reading society in America. He also discussed the need to increase the library millage to help with future costs.

A printed annual report covering the work of the Staff Association this last year and looking into the coming year was presented by **Darlene Browers**, SA Chairperson.

This report will be available to every staff person from the building site reps.. You may request one from your chairperson, also. It includes information about your SA Executive Council.

New two year terms for Executive Council reps will begin for the following sites in July 2002: CH, CT, RE, VI, DC, BE and Maintenance. The other sites are entering the second year of a two year term. The SA Executive Council will meet July 25, 2002. Work will begin for the coming year. It is hoped that all sites can be represented at this meeting.

The evening was concluded with a rousing performance by the band Banish Misfortune.

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Some of our audience learned to do an Irish jig or reel to Celtic music, and the spirited music was fun for all. **Dana Morrow** director of Outreach Services plays the keyboard for this group.

The Staff Association exists to promote the general and specific welfare of the staff, support and improve library programs and services, promote communications and provide a means for presenting concerns and suggestions of the staff to the administration for serious consideration.

We want to invite each and every staff member to be a part of this effort. July 1 is the beginning of a new membership year, and membership is \$2.00 for a year.

See your site rep for information, or you may call **Darrie Breathwit** from SO, membership chairman, or **Darlene Browers**, SA Chairperson in PSA.

These are the lucky people who got to take a door prize home with them.

**Beverly Phillips**—received a hand-made Indian Basket made by **Julie Mock** from VI.

**Gwen Thompson**—won the Indian Christmas tree doll made by **Jan Reynolds** from Dev.

**Kathy Hale**—got to take home the Librarian's Storytellers Hat created by **Pam Brandt**.

The hat will be used by **Kathy's** mother for the story time at the day care center

where she works. So this prize has found a wonderful new home where many children will enjoy it.

**Ronna Davis**—won the Friends of the Library Book Bag with books and treats in it.

**Talisha Daniel**—got to take home a beautiful vase with an artificial flower arrangement in it. It too has found a good home because the colors matched her living room.

Then PR provided six **Ralph Ellison** Book Bags that were given away.

Thanks to the generous people who donated these gifts. Everyone appreciated them and especially those lucky winners.

## Don't Forget Library Night at the Ballpark

It's Summer once again and time to put our end of summer celebration on your calendar. **Library Night at the Ballpark** will be held August 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:05 p.m.



We encourage everyone to come and bring their families.

Tickets will be available for all library staff and their families.

Please call 235-9223, ext. 25.

# Happy Summer!

