

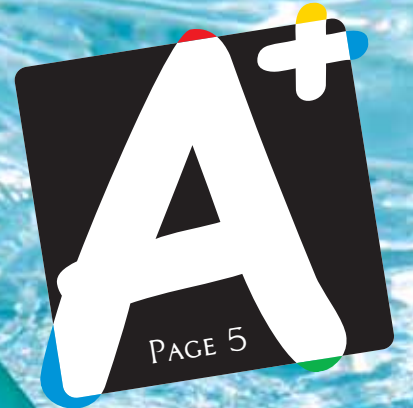
Potomac ALMANAC

'Security Zone' To Close
Part of River to Boaters

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Main Street Hosts
Community-Builder Event

NEWS, PAGE 3



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PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Pool Weather

CALENDAR, PAGE 4

Christine Fantaskey with her granddaughter Greer Heatherington enjoy the sun and water at River Falls community pool last weekend.

Summer Book Clubs for Children

Ideal time to instill a love of reading, say experts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Encouraging children to read during summer months can be challenging for some parents, but worth the effort, say local educators, because diving into books offers students an opportunity to boost their reading skills before the start of the next school year. Book clubs with their peers allows children to read in a relaxed, informal setting.

“Book groups during summer vacation are the perfect time for friends to gather and share the love of reading,” said Julie M. Esanu, lower school librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. “The summer is a perfect time for readers to explore and enjoy a variety of books across different genres and formats, including ebooks, audiobooks, and graphic novels.”

While parents must provide a basic structure for the book club, Esanu says that allowing children to be involved in the planning and book selection, will cultivate a



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Studies show that reading self-selected books cultivates positive attitudes towards books and reading, says librarian Julie M. Esanu.

positive attitude toward books and reading. “Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge,” said Esanu. “Consider the members of the book group and their various interests when selecting titles and let the members have a say in what they’re reading.”

Allow for organic discussions inspired by the readers rather than formal discussions that require too much preparation, advises Esanu. “[Formality] feels too much like homework for students and we want them to dive into books during summer,” she said. “Kids have a lot to say about the books that they read and that can lead to fabulous conversations. It is important for children to select the books that they read, especially over the summer.”

In her role as the lower and middle school

librarian at Bullis School in Potomac, Katherine Brewer helps students make book selections by asking them about the last book they read and enjoyed. “This helps me find out what types of books they are into and suggest other titles they might like,” she said. “I might ask what about the book they liked. Then I will give several suggestions.”

Preparing and organizing the book club session without over planning, avoids chaos and leads to success, advises Laura Maffei, humanities teacher at BASIS Independent School McLean. “Set the stage by helping the children to understand the setting and any unfamiliar events or vocabulary they might encounter,” she said. “For example, before reading ‘Misty of Chincoteague’ learn about Virginia, specifically Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, watch a documentary

on the round up, make a craft that teaches the parts of a horse and its riding equipment, look at examples of life in the 1950s to see how it differs from today.”

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the book group are not all at the same reading level, as can be the case with children, reading the same book can be pose a challenge, says Maffei. “... An option would be to read the same content, but each reader gets a book at their reading level,” she said. “I’ve done this with Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and classics like ‘Peter Pan’ that come in a variety of book types from picture to early reader to original text.”

“If the children aren’t around the same age [and] reading level or have varying interests, I would select a topic and suggest books that they could read and share,” added Brewer. “Students can have the book read to them or listen to an audio version if they prefer.”

Brewer, who runs book clubs for students at Bullis, says that during her meetings, children share the book they read and encourage others to read it. She also discourages penalizing children who haven’t finished the book. “We use the book talk format popularized by [the television series] ‘Reading SEE BOOK CLUBS, PAGE 7

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Main Street Hosts Community-Builder Event

FROM PAGE 3

ment building. And 25 percent of the units will be designated for adults with disabilities.”

The Big Train game was seen as an opportunity to bring those among the 780 members together in an inclusive environment within the county, according to Copeland. She said the community-builder was also an opportunity for members to get to know one another.

“A lot of our adults and a lot of our kids and a lot of our parents like baseball,” Copeland said. “So we wanted to support a local baseball team.”

Copeland believes that there are no other living models like Main Street in the United States to date. She discussed her son’s journey when talking about her involvement with organizations that help people living with developmental disabilities.

“He’s going to need a place to live and work and learn and thrive,” Copeland said. “So that’s ‘why now?’ for me.”

Multiple parents who are involved with Main Street discussed their personal connections to the

organization at the community-builder. Potomac’s Karen Beveridge has a son, who is 22, and was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder when he was around 3 years old. Beveridge, who leads the membership committee and serves on the board of directors, discussed how living with someone who has a developmental disability can detach a family from their surrounding environment because of the challenges this person faces in social interaction in the outside world.

“They don’t like loud noises sometimes so it makes it confining to things you can do as a family,” Beveridge said. “At Main Street, everybody’s welcome. So if [my son] wants to go stand off by himself because it’s getting too loud, no one’s going to think anything of it.”

John Bogasky, who is on a task force of approximately 20 adults who are helping the Copelands, described living with someone with a disability as “a journey of discovery.” Bogasky knew his son was facing challenges when he was a baby despite the absence of a formal diagnosis.



Karen Beveridge (left) and her son Westin at Main Street’s Bethesda Big Train community-builder on July 12.



From left are Corey, Nelson, and Joyce Migdal at Main Street’s Bethesda Big Train community-builder on July 12.

“We knew there’d be issues but trying to discover what the issues were and which he would grow out of was a journey of discovery,” Bogasky said. “We just did everything we could for him. We intervened as much as we could to try to make him successful.”

According to Bogasky, another difference that comes with raising a child with a disability is the continuation of parenting after the child has become an adult because the child retains many child-like traits. Bogasky’s son is now 25 years old.

“He has a job, he lives in his own apartment,” Bogasky said. “[But] we’re still responsible for overseeing his life. [We’re] making sure things work and that will continue until some day it passes to his sister.”

Bogasky described Main Street as a unique organization because it provides those with disabilities with an environment for them to spend time with their peers. He said that it is a challenge for any

adult to figure out who their friends are.

According to Bogasky, his son attended a residential school on Cape Cod, Mass. Bogasky added that his son had a lot of success making friends at this school.

“When you bring the people back here, the way the housing policies work out ... they get scattered all over the place much like all of us do when we come back from college,” he said. “But these guys can’t go find each other ... Some travel independently and some can’t, [and] some don’t have the executive functioning skills to find their friends.”

Beveridge was pleased with event turnout. She had initial concerns that it would be poor due to people being away in the middle of summer.

Main Street is trying to enhance their sense of community through increasing the number of events they hold, Bogasky added. This could mean planning formal events or simply having several

members get together somewhere, he said.

“The first official one of [the latter] is in Rockville Town Center,” Bogasky said. “There’s a concert every Friday night in the square. And so the first ... Main Street meet-up is on Aug. 4 in Rockville Town Square.”

Anyone interested in joining Main Street can get involved, according to Bogasky. He added that those interested can sign up on mainstreetconnect.org.

“More is better because ... not everybody is going to live in the building,” Bogasky said. “The plan is about creating this community with the building as the anchor.”

Copeland added that Main Street’s website includes a survey for adults with disabilities and their caregivers. The information collected from the survey is useful to the organization as it creates a space and plans events, she said. For more information or to get involved, visit mainstreetconnect.org.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 4

begins at 2:45 p.m. with a half-hour introductory Waltz workshop and a more advanced move presented the last 15 minutes. Social dancing follows until 6 p.m. \$10. Call 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or visit www.WaltzTimeDances.org

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

Tom Saputo Concert. 7 p.m. at Margery’s Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Visit www.popovers.com/ or call 301-983-8838 for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Potomac Village Farmers Market. 2-6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Potomac United Methodist Church, 9908 S. Glen Road. Email contact@potomacvillagefarmersmarket.net

for more.

Opera and Musical Theater. 7:30 p.m. at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 7611 Clarendon Road, Bethesda. Presentation of the “Magic Flute,” is part of the Bethesda Summer Music Festival (BSMF) promoting Opera and Musical Theater for children, grades 9-12, college students, and young emerging professionals. \$20, children free. Visit / www.bethesdapresbyterian.org/ or call 301-986-1137 for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 28

Outdoor Film Screenings. 6 p.m., film at sundown at Glenstone, 12002 Glen Road, Potomac. Film is The Servant. Visit glenstone.org for more.

Wayne Wilentz Concert. 7 p.m. at Margery’s Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Visit www.popovers.com/ or call 301-983-8838 for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Photography Walk and Talk. 10 a.m.-noon at the Bowles House Visitor Center, 439 East Main St., Hancock. Steve Dean, photographer for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, will be hosting a photography talk and walk. Free. Email kelsey_smith@nps.gov for more.

Outdoor Film Screenings. 6 p.m., film at sundown at Glenstone, 12002 Glen Road, Potomac. Film is Wanda. Visit glenstone.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 2

Potomac Rotary Breakfast. 7:15-8:30 a.m. at Founding Farmers, 12505 Park Potomac Ave. Support Rotary Club community service projects. Visit www.PotomacRotary.org or call 301-785-7100 for more.

Book Clubs

FROM PAGE 5

Rainbow, share a bit about the book and why others would want to read it, but no spoilers," she said. "They will be more interested if they have choice and input in the club's topic, books and activities."

Book club activities are an important tool in helping children develop a love of reading, says Tom Longano a third grade teacher at the Heights School, an all boys school in Potomac. "With most of our books I will invent a quick game that includes acting out the characters or key events from the story," he said. "I have found this to be an excellent way for the boys, who often have a very concrete approach to the world yet boundless imaginations ... to enter into the stories and feel them as actually real. This generates a love for the books that goes beyond just reading them, because they have in a sense lived them as well, acted them out."

Longano says that this excitement about books can also be achieved with dramatic readings and assigning children characters from the book and having them act them out. "Anything to bring the text off the page and into their direct environment," he said.

"The activity should be fun and hands on, with the children taking the lead on the project," said Brewer.

Summer book club activity ideas include visiting local public libraries or bookstores and browsing the shelves for ideas, says Esanu. "Visit the Alexandria or Arlington Public Library or an independent bookstore, such as Hooray for Books! in Alexandria or One More Page Books in Arlington, and browse the shelves for ideas," she said. "Each book club member could choose a book that catches their eye and then the group could vote on which book they want to read."

Reading a book and taking a field trip that is related to the book is another activity that Esanu recommends. "For example, Tonya Bolden's award-winning book, 'How to Build a Museum' shares a behind-the-scenes look into Smithsonian's National Museum for American History and Culture," she said. "This is a great way to explore the museum before a visit."

"Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World" offers inspiration for another journey, says Esanu. "It's the first book in a series packed with adventure, science and engineering and is written by Bill Nye [from the children's television series, "Bill Nye, the Science Guy"] and Gregory Malone," she said. "This would be the perfect book to read before heading the National Building Museum to explore the Hive Interactive Exhibit [which runs through Sept. 4]."

Guiding a discussion by asking questions that connect the book to current or personal events, playing games such as Charades, 20 Questions or Pictionary can help spark a lively discussion of the book, says Maffei.

"If the book has a movie version, watch the movie after reading the book," she said. "Look for differences in plot, how the characters and setting look compared to how you thought they'd look."

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And So It Begins



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in almost exactly 25 years: bathroom demolition, times two. With financial assistance from my father-in-law, along with use of our home equity line, we have committed to and contracted for, a complete renovation of our two full bathrooms ('full' meaning: tub/shower, commode, sink, vanity, mirror, shelves, lights/fixtures, counter top, floor and shower tile, and paint). Ergo, over the next eight to 12 weeks, our house will officially become a construction site.

Never having experienced this level of upheaval and chaos in any of our previous homes before, we are looking forward since we have no reference looking backward.

We know one thing for sure: our five indoor cats will be miserable and scared and likely hiding for days on end. Considering that the workers will be in our home from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., I don't know when the cats are going to feel like eating since their routine will have been completely thrown off having so many new people in the house for so many hours per day. (I don't even want to think about the litter box implications.)

Nevertheless, time marches forward, and given that our home is historic/over 250 years old, its bathrooms, though not exactly pre-Colonial, definitely are showing their age. Their design, form, function, efficiency and attractiveness barely blip the radar. Both bathrooms are old, and that's the only compliment I can give them.

I imagine the next two to three months will likely be a journey of discovery; Columbus-like in that we will be discovering a new world with modern bathroom amenities and conveniences, color coordination and functionality, many of which we've not been the beneficiaries of in over 25 years.

Our kitchen remains as it has been all those years ago: large but clearly deficient in many ways compared to modern kitchens. As a matter of fact, as the designer, project manager and I walked into the kitchen looking for the access panel to the adjacent bathroom, I said, "As you can see, our kitchen needs work, too. Any chance you all offer a 'BOGO? Buy one, get one free?" Of course, they both laughed and shook their head. They didn't have to say "No." It was more a rhetorical question anyway.

Considering the time we've all had together, we have no doubt the contractor and his workers know what they're doing. We're not sure however, as homeowners that we know what we're doing. From our first meeting, a few months back, the process has seemed clear enough as do the drawings/design ideas we've now seen/decided upon do. Still, when it goes from their paper to our property, how will it all transfer? They seem confident and complimentary which certainly has been reassuring but we're novices in this transformation.

For us each step forward is yet another step into the great unknown. And since we can only take it one step at a time, we have no choice but to live and learn and hopefully not regret and decisions we've already made (although changes can still be made).

So far - and it's not very far - so good. However, it's the process of starting and ultimately finishing that worries me. Not that I run on a schedule (heck, I can barely walk), but my wife, Dina, sort of does; and it seems as if she and the workers might be occupying the same space at the same time.

I suppose the timing and all eventually works itself out but it's the interim with which I'm concerned. I realize there are no guarantees in any of this.

I guess I just have to deal with it as I do with my having cancer: take the bad with the good, keep a sense of humor and try to remain positive. Doing so has kept me alive for eight years and four months. I'd like to think I can manage for another eight to 12 weeks.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



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