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### **Young Readers Make a Splash**

*County Council encourages children  
and teens to dive into Summer Reading*

What summer activity combines books, pirates, mermaids, music, puppet-making and even science experiments? The Summer Reading Club literally features waves of summer fun.

The Delaware County Library System (DCLS) invites children, teens and adults to explore the seven seas as well as their libraries during the 2010 Summer Reading Club. Children of all ages will discover that the joys of reading are as vast as the sea itself when they participate in water-themed story times, songs, games, crafts and contests.

Delaware County's 26 member libraries participate in the Summer Reading Program. People can sign up at anytime during the summer, through mid-August. The program is a great way to keep young people engaged in learning over the summer. Young readers can read and track books, making them eligible for prizes that range from an "Avatar" DVD to a new Acer Aspire laptop. They can even post book reviews on the Web site.

In 2009, 46,145 children participated in Reading Club special events at the libraries; 9,268 children participated in the summer reading program, reading a total of 138,947 books.

"The Summer Reading Club is a great way for children and teens to have fun, to learn new subjects and to hone their reading skills over the summer," said County Council Chairman Jack Whelan,

Council's liaison to DCLS. "We know that these summer reading programs have a positive impact on students and that voluntary reading really enhances their educational experience."

Suggested titles for the Summer Reading Club range from classic children's stories such as "The Giving Tree" to science books detailing how milk becomes ice cream. Children can also choose their own titles. The aquatic summer reading list includes books on jellyfish, sharks, the Bering Sea ecosystem, the Aquarius undersea research center and much more.

There are three age categories for the 2010 Summer Reading Program: "Make a Splash" for young children; "Make Waves" for teenagers; and "Water Your Mind" for adults.

In keeping with the seafaring theme, young readers will dive into programs about pirates, mermaids and water-related "sciencetelling."

Piccirillo Sciencetelling is a featured program for this summer's Reading Club. Based in New Jersey, these "sciencetellers" (scientist/storyteller) provide children with a high-energy, innovative method of learning and fun. The sciencetellers relate the story of Hendricks the Hand, a feared pirate who was cursed with a mutating hand. Good pirate James Dauer tries to protect the seven seas from Hendricks' evil. As they follow the pirates to the Black Cave, young readers learn about the science of liquid and density through science experiments such as boiling water in a paper cup, crushing a can with only water, creating a mutating hand, and exploding bottles through evaporation.

Other special activities include "Mermaid Tales," starring Mermaids, seahorses and pirates; Cap'n Snark leading a treasure hunt in "Classroom Adventure Stories" and seafaring songs by Makin' Music.

**For Information:** Readers of all ages can register for the Summer Reading Program by visiting their local library or the DCLS Website at [www.delcolibraries.org](http://www.delcolibraries.org). Click on the "Make a Splash" icon. Or call (610) 891-8622.