

# HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY 2026 Summer Reading Club

# PLANT A SEED, READ!



Friday, June 5 — Friday, July 31 Read books and earn chances to win prizes.

## PRESCHOOL

### Babies – Preschoolers

- ▶ Pick up your reading log at the Youth Services desk.\*
- ▶ Earn jumbo buttons (great for sorting activities) for reading/listening to books read aloud.
- ▶ Earn prize tickets for Grand Prizes along the way.
- ▶ Finish the whole reading log and earn a book to keep.

## GRADE SCHOOL

### Entering Kindergarten – Grade 6

- ▶ Pick up your reading log at the Youth Services desk.\*
- ▶ Earn your choice of beads for reading books.
- ▶ Earn prize tickets for Grand Prizes along the way.
- ▶ Finish the whole reading log and earn a book to keep.

## GRAND PRIZES

### For all summer reading club participants

As you fill up your reading log, you will receive drawing slips for a chance to win the Grand Prize of your choice. The winner of each Grand Prize will be drawn and notified in early August.

\* The first 500 registrants will receive a "Plant a Seed, Read" reusable tote bag.

## Storytimes

Raise a reader. Storytimes feature activities designed to foster pre-reading skills.

Space is limited. Check in at the Youth Services desk 30 minutes before the start of storytime. Join us in the Brenner Room.

**R** = Registration required.  
Register at [hplibrary.org/events](http://hplibrary.org/events).

**O** = This event takes place at an offsite location.

## Baby Booktime

Wednesdays

June 10, 24, July 8, 22, August 12, 26

10 – 10:30 am and 11:30 am – 12 pm

Babies – 18 months, with a caregiver

Babies and their caregivers can enjoy stories, rhymes, and songs followed by a short playtime.

## Rock & Read

Mondays, June 1, 15, 29, July 13, August 3, 17  
10:30 – 11 am

Thursdays, June 4, 18, July 2, 16, August 6, 20  
10:30 – 11 am or 11:30 am – 12 pm

18 months – 3 years, with a caregiver

Let's rock! Join us for a musical storytime where you can make lots of noise. Explore instruments, listen to stories, and sing along! Monday and Thursday sessions in the same week repeat the same content. Please limit your attendance to one session per week to allow room for others to attend.

## PJ Storytime

Thursdays, June 11, July 9, August 13  
6:30 – 7 pm

Ages 3 – 5 with a caregiver

Put on your jammies and join us for a fun family storytime featuring stories, songs, and more!

## Parachute Storytime **R** **O**

Event takes place at Braeside Market

55 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park

Thursday, July 9

Rain date: Thursday, July 23

3 – 3:30 pm

Ages 5 – 7

Join us for stories and fun parachute activities!

## Ongoing Book Clubs

Sign up at the Youth Services desk.

## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Babies – Preschoolers

Reading aloud to children from birth helps to strengthen language skills and build vocabulary. Pledge to read 1000 books to your child before they start Kindergarten. There's no required reading list — any book you read counts. Earn prizes along the way.

## Monarch Book Club

Through February 28, 2027

Grades K – 3

Earn prizes for reading books from the Monarch Readers' Choice nominee list for 2027.

## Children's Choice Book Club

Through February 28, 2027

Grades 3 – 8

Join our Children's Choice Awards book club! Earn prizes for reading books on the Bluestem and Rebecca Caudill Award Lists for 2027. All books are available at the Highland Park Public Library.

## 100 Books Before High School

Grades 4 – 8

Pledge to read 100 books before your first day of high school. There's no required reading list — any book you read counts! Earn prizes along the way.

We strive to make events welcoming for people of all abilities. To request accommodations, call the Library at 847-579-6819.

**HIGHLAND PARK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
*Information & Imagination*

494 Laurel Ave, Highland Park, Illinois  
847-681-7030 • [hplibrary.org](http://hplibrary.org)

# HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY



## Summer Fun for Kids

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**O** O = This event takes place at an offsite location.

### Dan Gogh's Grow Show **R O**

Event takes place in the Prairie Room at Heller Nature Center  
2821 Ridge Road, Highland Park  
Monday, June 8  
7 – 7:45 pm  
Families

Come down to the farm with Dan Gogh, and learn through amazing magic, wacky puppets, and laugh-out-loud comedy that reading is like planting a tiny seed in your brain! The more books you "plant" the more your imagination grows!

### Design a Flag

Thursday, June 11  
Drop in from 4 – 5 pm.  
Ages 6 – 12

Learn about the shapes, colors, and symbols found in flags from around the globe. Get inspired to create your own flag and share with others.

### Game Night Time Machine

Wednesday, June 24  
Drop in from 5 – 7 pm. Families  
Try your luck with games from the past 250 years.

### Happy Birthday America:

#### Tea Party **R**

Thursday, June 25  
10 – 11 am  
Ages 4 – 8

You can't have the U.S.'s 250th birthday without throwing a party, so let's do it true Revolutionary style and celebrate with some tea! Join us for tea, snacks, and fun.

Pre-packaged food will be served; ingredient list will be available upon request.

### Space Plants Cartooning

#### Workshop **R**

Thursday, June 25, 2 – 3 pm  
Ages 5 – 14

Learn how to draw plants... in space, by professional cartoonist Mark Anderson.



### Panel-to-Panel Graphic Novel Book Club **R**

Mondays, 4 – 5 pm  
Ages 9 – 11  
Monday, June 29  
New Kid, by Jerry Craft  
Monday, August 24  
Last Kids on Earth  
by Max Brallier

Calling graphic novel fans! Read and discuss a graphic novel each month! This is meant to be a fun, safe space for everyone to share what they loved (or even hated) about a book without judgement. We'll conclude with a fun, interactive activity related to the book. Sign up at the Youth Services desk to pick up your free copy of the book.



### Beginning Graphic Novel Club **R**

Cabin Head and Tree Head  
by Scott Campbell  
Thursday, July 9  
4:30 pm – 5 pm  
Ages 6 – 8

Younger graphic novel fans! Join us for discussion, fun activities and unique crafts as we share the best, the worst, and everything in between graphic novels. Sign up at the Youth Services desk to pick up your free copy of the book.



### Freedom of Speech and You

Monday, July 13, 12 – 2 pm  
Ages 10 – 14

We say "it's a free country," but what does that mean? Learn more about the Constitution's freedom of speech and express yourself!

### Bookmarked

Wednesday, July 15  
Drop in from 4 – 5 pm.  
Ages 5 – 14

Nothing improves your book like a homemade bookmark. Stop by to make some!

### Family Puzzle Challenge **R**

Thursday, July 23, 6:30 – 8 pm  
Families

Parents and kids, how fast can you complete a 300-piece puzzle? Teams of two (one parent, one child 13 or younger) will each receive the same 300-piece puzzle. The pair that completes the puzzle first or gets closest within 1½ hours, will be crowned the winners.

### Jason Kollum: See a Juggler, Be a Juggler **R O**

Event takes place in the Prairie Room at Heller Nature Center  
2821 Ridge Rd, Highland Park  
Tuesday, July 28, 7 – 7:45 pm  
Families

Enjoy Jason Kollum's comedy juggling & variety show, a fast-paced, super high-energy performance leading up to an edge-of-your-seat finale! Following the show, try out balancing skills essential for future jugglers!

### Craftapalooza

Monday, August 10  
Drop in from 10 am – 2 pm  
or while supplies last.  
Ages 3 – 14

Feeling crafty? Drop by and make something creative! Choose from a variety of DIY crafts.

## Grab & Go Crafts

Ages 5 – 14  
Pick up your kit at the Youth Services desk while supplies last.

### Grab & Go: Paper Fish

Monday, June 15 – Sunday, June 21  
Create your own unique fish friend.

### Grab & Go: Caterpillar Leaf

Monday, July 20 – July 26  
Create your own caterpillar inching along a green leaf!

### Origami Challenge

Monday, June 1 – Sunday, June 7  
Monday, July 6 – Sunday, July 12  
Monday, August 3 – Sunday, August 9

Origami is the art of folding paper into amazing shapes.

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