

June 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you know, each summer the Hampton Falls Free Library puts together a fun-filled reading program for children full of entertaining programs and with lots of incentives to read, read, read! Not only do our programs help prevent the “summer slide” of reading skills, they are a way for our children to gather together when school is not in session. This year, we have made the difficult decision to go with a virtual-only Summer Reading Program. But fear not! While there are several digital options for logging your progress, earning points, and watching story times, the entire program can be completed without a screen.

Here’s how it works:

Every two weeks, your children will embark upon a new Quest. Each quest has a new theme, and consists of a 5x5 Bingo board with reading challenges, outdoor activities, and fun crafts. These bingo boards can be provided on paper (with stickers!) or digitally on our new ReadSquared platform. (Yes, there’s an app for that.) Most of the activities on the board are designed to be open-ended and fun for all ages, but some will not be appealing to everyone. No, I don’t expect your toddler to write poems. Yes, I realize that your teenager isn’t going to be interested in watching me read *The Three Little Pigs*. Therefore, ANY square that doesn’t jive for your kiddos can be checked off by simply reading (or being read to) for 20 minutes.

Still with me?

Packets of program info, craft kits, and other fun stuff pertaining to the first two quests will be available for pickup from the library within a few days of signup. The program officially kicks off on June 16th, and the first quest will last through June 29th. If you prefer, you can sign up and only do the digital version! ReadSquared has been provided by the state to all NH libraries, and the digital Bingo board is exactly the same as the paper one. ReadSquared will automatically track your progress; if you choose to do the paper version, you’ll simply have to email hamptonfalls.librarykids@gmail.com and let me know how many lines you have completed by the end of the quest.

Craft options are listed on the Google Form below - feel free to choose as many or as few as you like. Home Depot has graciously supplied us with their leftover woodworking projects from the last few months. Paint for these projects is available upon request.

So what’s the incentive to read?

I know some of you will be disappointed to hear that we will be discontinuing the “treasure chest” this year. Some of you will probably be relieved. But we still have prizes! When you sign

up for the program, your child can choose a necklace or keychain to collect their winnings. At the end of each quest, your child will get a new “brag tag” and one bead for each line of bingo they have completed, up to 10 beads. Yes, there are twelve lines on the board, but the difference between ten lines and twelve is one square, and 12 beads on our little keychains is a bit of a squeeze.

Rubber ducks will also be available as an alternative for those who are concerned about having small objects within reach of young children. We don't have a big supply but we will do our best to make certain everyone gets something. Please note: for children under age three, we recommend the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

For every line your child completes (and here we will go up to 12) you will ALSO be entered to win a gift card to a local business. So, if you decide that brag tags aren't for you, there's still a prize to go for. As a thank you to the businesses who have donated to our program in the past, and to support them during these difficult times, the Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library are funding these prizes.

Additionally, the first 30 participants to finish at least one line of Bingo will receive a free mini soft serve ice cream from Twin Lanterns Dairy bar in Kensington, NH!

What about the social aspect of the summer reading program?

I have created a [private Facebook group](#) where I will post Story Times, and where we can gather photos or videos of the kids' craft successes - and failures - as well as various challenges. I'm hoping to put together a virtual Talent Show to share there as well. Facebook participation will absolutely NOT be required. I understand that everyone has a different level of comfort when it comes to putting their kids on the internet. I'm just offering it up as an optional place to share what the kids are doing. The group will only be open to Hampton Falls residents with children at LAS or Winnacunnet, as well as homeschooling residents and those with children not yet in school.

Where do I sign up?

To register, please fill out this [Google Form](#).

Click [here to sign up for ReadSquared](#) (optional, but encouraged!)

If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or requests, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email, or at the end of the registration form. This is a very new program and there are bound to be bumps in the road, so I am open to suggestions!

We do not currently have a date for reopening the Library to the public, but you are welcome to call, email, or reserve books online for curbside pickup. You can choose the titles you are looking for, or you can ask me to put together a stack of books for you. I don't mind at all!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you soon, virtually and in-person!

Miss Leah
Hampton Falls Free Library

This is not a school-sponsored program