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Bilingual Books Added to the Collection

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) would like to thank the St. Cloud Reading Room Society for adding new Somali/English bilingual titles to the library system's World Language Collection.

The St. Cloud Reading Room Society's mission is "to promote reading, literacy, culture, and education in our community" (stcloudreadingroom.org). Libbie Brunsvold and Jannine Provinzino are co-chairs of the No Worry Books Committee within the society, which carries out projects to benefit the community in promoting literacy. They shared, "We saw the need [for bilingual books] after Hudda Ibrahim spoke to the Reading Room about Somali literacy, and after contacting schools and several community groups regarding their needs. The committee chose the main St. Cloud Library as the most central and accessible location for these books. The library indicated a need to supplement their bilingual collection, and we were able to donate fifty-three bilingual English/Somali books." The books are now on the library shelves and available in the online catalog across the region.



Pictured: the No Worries Books Committee (from the Reading Room) with a selection of the new books.

GRRL offers books in many languages in the collection. When searching online in the catalog, filter by language in the left column. Find titles in English, Spanish, French, Japanese, German, Chinese, Latin, Korean, Somali, Hebrew, Polish, Ojibwa, Dakota, Welsh, and more!

Enjoy ebooks? Find more bilingual ebook titles in our catalog for Spanish/English and Somali/English.

GRRL greatly appreciates the St. Cloud Reading Room Society's generosity and loyal library support.

Remembering the Carnival – Breanne's Summer Reading Reflection

The Summer Reading Challenge was always a big deal to me growing up. Now, as the Communications & Development Coordinator at GRRL, I can walk down memory lane with historical pictures on file.

Before the St. Cloud Public Library was in its current location at 1300 West St. Germain Street, it was downtown at 405 St. Germain Street. Each summer, I recall the highly anticipated carnival that wrapped up the Summer Reading Challenge at the St. Cloud branch. I would ask my mom to take my friends and me to the library to excitedly play all the carnival games together and pick out our reading prizes. I enjoyed reading already, but filling out the reading logs, attending the carnival, and picking out prizes were great incentives. I remember the event being so grand: so many people, games, prizes, and excitement. It was a highlight of my summer!

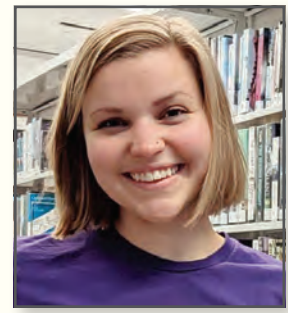
All kids who returned their first Summer Reading Challenge reading slip received an invitation to the carnival, which included a certain amount of carnival tickets. Kids could then use those tickets to play the games and get coins to turn in for prizes. More tickets were for purchase, with all proceeds going to the children's room. Kids were guaranteed at least one coin for every game they played, which added up to at least one mini-prize.

I wondered, "Did it seem so extravagant because I was a child?" After talking to library staff who worked at the event, I realized it was indeed a large undertaking! Patron Services Coordinator Chris Mallo, who was the Children's Librarian dur-

ing my childhood years, tells me that the carnival had over 70 volunteers in its last years! Volunteers staffed the games, prize table, and popcorn stand. You received tickets for several games, such as beanbag toss, leapfrog, the fishpond, and putt-putt. Plus, there were activities throughout the library and outside the building, including balloon animals, face painting, and a temporary tattoo station. Of course, a huge prize table was where summer readers and carnival game winners could exchange their coins for prizes.

All of the Summer Reading Carnival events were held in the old library located by the Mississippi River. The last carnival was held in August 2008, as the new St. Cloud Public Library opened in September 2008.

Although the Summer Reading Challenge may look different now, we still see kids flooding the library in the summer. We now have more participants than ever before, all eager to read, attend fun events, and turn in their reading slips (with anticipation of the end-of-summer prizes). All who sign up receive a book bag upon registration, thanks to our generous sponsors, and are invited to attend the library's free events throughout the summer. Kids continue to make summer memories at their local library!



Breanne Fruth, Communications and Development Coordinator



Support the Library by Sponsoring

The theme for iREAD's 2025 Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) is Level Up at Your Library. Based on puzzles and games, this challenge will encourage children and teens to keep learning throughout the summer!

The Great River Regional Library SRC is a fun way to keep kids learning and their minds growing! Thanks to our sponsors, it is offered free of charge to all children. So what does being a GRRL SRC sponsor mean? Sponsorship provides children who participate the chance to earn fun reading incentives and prizes at their local library while having the resources to stay on track for school during the summertime. In 2024, across 32 branch locations, we had a record-breaking 13,414 babies, children, and teens participate! Our goal is to have every child gain access to books and receive a book bag of their own.



Do you have a business that supports your community? Do you know an organization that endorses literacy? We encourage you to share this Summer Reading Challenge sponsorship opportunity!

Sponsorship of \$500 entitles you to:

- Complimentary subscription to GRRL donor newsletter, *Currents*
- Thank you in *Currents* newsletter
- Annual recognition on GRRL website's "Our Supporters" page

Sponsorship of \$750 or more will also be recognized with:

- All previous entitlements PLUS:
- "Thank you Sponsor" poster for display in all 32 GRRL branch libraries

Sponsorship of \$1,000 or more will also be recognized with:

- All previous entitlements PLUS:
- Special acknowledgement on website's homepage in June
- Organization logo included on "Our Supporters" page on website
- Donor listing in GRRL Annual Report
- Thank you post on our Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts

2025 Donation To Support Summer Reading Challenge

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Yes! I will support Great River Regional Library with a gift of:

Gift Amount: (checks made payable to GRRL) ☐ \$500 ☐ \$750 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Please include my/our name in donor recognition as above or ☐ I/We would like to remain anonymous.

Mail gift to: Accounting Dept., Great River Regional Library, 1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud, MN 56301 - or donate online at griver.org/support-the-library

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Pat's Place Mural

Pat's Place is an early childhood area of the St. Cloud Public Library, named after our late library deputy director, Pat Christianson. Last October, we worked with mural artist Greg Preslicka of The Big Picture Murals to create a beautiful mural in remembrance of Pat. Pat's husband Dan and their daughter Kim visited with muralist Greg to share pictures of Pat and stories about her. The mural captures Pat's love for the library, nature, and children's storytime in a picture-book-like design. The mural also invites children to find all the letters of the alphabet throughout, making the mural interactive in the small children's area. A planned gift from Dan Christianson made this honorary artwork possible.

Consider a planned gift to your library, such as putting the library in your will. To see our Statement of Intent form and for more information, visit griver.org/planned-giving.



Save a Tree: Get Your Currents By Email

Contact us at currents@grrl.lib.mn.us if you would like to receive this newsletter by email.

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