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A LIBRARY CARD IS THE COOLEST CARD

September is Library Card Sign-up Month

HUNTSVILLE (August 31, 2015) – Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school. September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) joins with the American Library Association and public libraries nationwide to make sure that every student has the most important school supply of all – a free library card.

Resources at HMCPL are available to anyone who has a library card. Students can turn to the library for materials, programs and knowledgeable library staff that support academic achievement.

Today's libraries aren't only a place of quiet study, but also creative and engaging community centers where students can collaborate using new technologies or just relax with peers. Our library offers access to a variety of print and digital resources, including e-books, online databases, live chats with librarians and more that can be accessed in person or online.

“Our library provides access and programs for students of all ages,” said Executive Director Laurel Best. “For preschool-age children we offer early literacy and lap-sit storytimes to encourage school readiness. For older children and teens we supplement education with hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) programs and innovative maker spaces, and for older teens we have information and tools to help prepare for college and mentoring programs. There's really something for everyone and it's all free with a library card.”

Throughout September, the library will host a number of activities in different locations and departments, including:

- In honor of Snoopy, the Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-up Month, the Downtown Huntsville Library is on the hunt for its own official canine champion. We invite you to enter your furry friend in our Library Top Dog Photo Contest this September. Our panel of guest judges will select one winner to be our Library Top Dog. To enter, send one photo (one entry per family) to asprogramming@hmcpl.org by September 30. The Library Top Dog photo will appear on our Facebook page and will receive a tasty prize.
- On Tuesday, Sept. 1 and Tuesday, Sept 8, kids are welcome to drop by the Downtown branch Youth Services department for a Snoopy craft activity. On Friday, Sept. 4 at 3 p.m., all are invited to join us for a free screening of *Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown!* Popcorn will be provided. Any children who do not already have a library card can sign up for their own cards at any of these programs, and a drawing for prizes will be held for new sign-ups. For more information, contact Youth Services at (256) 532-5949.
- The Information and Business Center will offer weekly tours of the Downtown library and will hold an Educators' Open House on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 3 - 7 p.m. An introduction to the library's online resources, including a demonstration of the Alabama Virtual Library, will be offered.
- At the Madison branch, you are invited to bring in a photo of you reading with your dog. Every person who brings in a photo will get to pick out a free book from our Friends of the Library Bookstore and have their photo posted on the wall. At the end of the month, the first, second and third place photos will win a Friends of the Library tote bag! For more information, contact Amanda Campbell at (256) 461-0046 or acampbell@hmcpl.org.
- Each branch will hold a drawing at the end of September of all new library card sign-ups for a one-year free membership to the Friends of the Library.
- The Oscar Mason branch will offer a special story time and craft on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Yuki Lewis at (256) 535-2249 or [ylewis@hmcpl.org](mailto:yLewis@hmcpl.org).
- Librarians will visit all kindergarten classrooms in Madison County to provide your new kindergarteners with the most important card of their school careers—and beyond.

For more information on how to sign up for a library card, visit any branch of HMCPL in person or visit the library online at www.hmcpl.org. Happy Library Card Sign-up Month!

This is the public's library. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is a nonprofit 12-branch system that serves all of Madison County,. For nearly 200 years, the library has been dedicated to enriching the educational, recreational and cultural lives of communities in Madison County through materials, information and programs that foster a lifelong love of learning. In addition to the collection of over 500,000 items, HMCPL also provides outreach services, a BookMobile and Book Bike, online services, training, an extensive digital collection, public-use computers, free Wi-Fi, meeting spaces and much more. For more information about HMCPL and its services, please visit www.hmcpl.org.

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