

# Dig into Reading at the Malden Public Library this Summer

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Summer break is a time for children and teens to relax, hang out with their friends and enjoy a much-needed break from the non-stop rigors of the school year. However, families should be aware of the summer slide, an academic regression that often occurs over summer break. According to a [recent study](#) by the academic assessment company NWEA, students in grades three to five lose an average of [20% of their school-year gains in reading and 27% in math](#) over the summer. Lower-income students are disproportionately affected by the summer slide. Fortunately, the summer slide is preventable.

There are concrete steps families can take to ensure kids maintain academic proficiency over the summer. For instance, reading at least 30 minutes per day helps combat loss of reading skills. Caregivers can make this more appealing by finding books that match each child's interests, like sports, science or even graphic novels.

More good news: the Malden Public Library is here to help prevent the summer slide. The Library is the perfect place for local children and teens to come learn, read and explore over the summer. Students can participate in various programs, events and activities, and access books, graphic novels, games and puzzles that engage their brains while they're having fun.

## **Dinosaurs, Archeology and Great Prizes**

This summer, the Library staff is introducing a new theme – Dig into Reading at the Malden Public Library – which will feature dinosaur and archeology programming. Expect to see librarians dressed in dinosaur costumes, professional dinosaur experts sharing fascinating information, inflatable dinosaurs and much more.

Additionally, the Library will hold their annual summer reading program, which encourages the community to keep reading over school vacation. The Summer Reading Kick off Celebration is Thursday, June 25 at 1 PM. The program is open to readers of all ages and there are prizes for participating. This year, adults will win \$75 rain collection barrels from the city, teens will earn free pizza, and children will receive gift cards to a local comic bookstore. Patrons can use [Beanstack](#) – an interactive online program – to track their progress.

Plus, the Library has copies of all the summer reading-list books for all local schools and grades, giving students easy access to the books they need for their summer assignments.

Again this summer, donor John Preotle is funding the Library's summer programs, as he has done for more than 10 years

"It's essential to keep children and teens reading and learning over summer vacation to keep their skills sharp. The Library offers a safe, welcoming and enriching place to go each summer," said Trustee Jayne Brown. "The staff does an excellent job of offering interesting programs, activities and a huge variety of books and games for the Malden community. We sincerely appreciate John's generous donations to fund these opportunities every summer."

"We're so grateful to donors like John, who enable us to provide rich, robust summer programming for our community. Our summer events and activities are possible because of his generosity," said MPL Director Dora St. Martin. "The Library staff has developed entertaining, educational summer programming to help prevent the dreaded summer slide. All Malden residents are invited and encouraged to participate in these free activities."

Prominent local businessman and philanthropist Elisha Converse built the Malden Public Library (MPL) in 1885 to benefit his community, and he established a generous trust to maintain it. The trust is overseen by the Library's Board of Trustees, which is composed of nine Malden residents who volunteer their time, energy and expertise. The trust – along with generous donations – funds the Library's upkeep, renovations, art, books and garden. For more information, including an updated schedule of events, please visit <https://maldenpubliclibrary.org>.