



Contact: Julianne Peeling, Marketing & Development  
320 York Road | Towson, MD 21204-5179 | 410-887-6196 | (f) 410-887-3304 | [www.bcpl.info](http://www.bcpl.info)

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### **BCPL Breaks Summer Reading Club Record**

Baltimore County Public Library's recently completed 2011 summer reading club recorded the most participants in its 34-year history, with a total of 45,971 students registering for the program. This represents a 30% increase over the previous year.

"The variety of activities for children and the programs geared toward specific age groups proved to be very popular this year," noted Marisa Conner, BCPL's youth services coordinator. "We also had outstanding cooperation with the Baltimore County Public Schools in promoting this year's program," she added.

The eight-week free library reading program, available to all children and youth from birth through high school, took place from June through August. The program was designed not only to entertain, but to assist and encourage continued learning and development over summer vacation when students are most likely to lose a portion of what they learned during the prior year.

This year's "One World, Many Stories" program offered something for all ages. The Read to Me Club for babies and preschool children and their parents encouraged parents to read to their children and complete the activities on the game board to win stickers and prizes. Reading with young children nurtures a love of reading and promotes reading readiness.

Elementary school age kids had their own game board to encourage reading. They received a sticker after every five books read and chose a completion prize when they finished the entire game board.

BCPL's program for middle school teens encouraged teens to turn in an entry form for their choice of prizes each time they read three books. Prizes available for entry to win included an iPod touch, gift cards to stores and movie theaters, and mystery prizes.

BCPL's Goodreads group was designed for high school students and other adults to participate in the Summer Reading Club. Participants joined the online group and submitted reviews to be eligible to win prizes including a \$50 gift certificate to Phillips Inner Harbor.

BCPL hosted a variety of programs for children throughout the summer including programs where crafts were created that related to the world cultures theme, giving children a chance to try their hand at crafts from other countries around the world.

“With such an enthusiastic response this year, we look forward to planning the 2012 program,” Conner added. Planning begins in the fall for the next summer’s program.