

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

It's hard to believe that the 2017-18 school year is nearly completed.

What may be harder to believe is that a large percentage of the knowledge that young people acquire in nine months can be lost in a fraction of that time.

According to the National Summer Learning Association, most students lose two months of math skills every summer and low-income children typically lose two to three months of reading skills (www.summerlearning.org/at-a-glance/).

The association encourages parents request a summer reading list from their child's teacher. Other tips can be found at <http://summerlearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Tip-Sheet-Plan-for-Summer-Learning.pdf>.

Michelle Callahan with the Pickaway County District Public Library agrees that reading — for all ages — is important.

"We focus on bringing people in the doors during the summer with the hope that they will check out a book or two while they are here," she said.

To that end, the library provides extra programming for children in the summer. Programs at the Main Library and the Younkin Branch Library scheduled every Wednesday at 1 and 3 p.m., respectively, include Moon Rocks on June 20; collage artist Michael Albert on June 27; Ohio Nature on July 11; entertainer Mark Wood on July 18; and naturalist Eric Sagasser on July 25.

"Practicing reading during the summer helps prevent loss of reading skills and adults who read model this behavior for children," Michelle said.

The library offers prizes to encourage reading



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among all ages. Details on this year's prizes will be available in late May at any library location or at www.pickawaylib.org.

The Main Library also hosts a youth craft at 1 p.m. every Monday. There is no cost to attend any library event.

At the Pickaway County Family YMCA, reading is a part of the organization's summer programs, structured for 3- and 4-year-olds; 5-year-olds going into kindergarten; and for children entering first grade through the fifth grade.

"We want them to read in the summer," said Dolly Crespo, senior program director, "so we have 15 to 20 minutes of reading each day."

In addition to reading, children get to take part in field trips, such as going to the zoo, COSI, Deer Creek, the Y's Hoover Park and the library.

The Y also offers Leaders in Training that allows 11- to 16-year-olds to volunteer with the younger kids.

In addition, community swim will start at the Y June 4. The pool will be open to non-members from noon to 5 weekdays and noon to 4:45 Saturdays and Sundays. The cost is \$3 for general admission; \$2 for adults 60 and older; and \$10 for families of four or more people.

For information on registering and cost for Y programs, call (740) 477-1661, Ext. 8526, or e-mail dcrespo@ymcacolumbus.org.

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