

The Journal News

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Library aims to develop a better child

Program in Mt. Kisco focuses on literacy, health, 'good deeds'

Stacy A. Anderson
The Journal News

MOUNT KISCO — Children and parents celebrated the importance of literacy, health and kindness at Saturday's kickoff for the "Read, Right and Run" program.

The Mount Kisco Public Library is beginning a half-year-long book program to promote reading and exercise.

"They will do good, have fun and realize the need to continue," said Deirdre Johnson, the youth services librarian.

In addition to reading 26 books in 26 weeks, participating children will also run or walk 26 miles and complete 26 good deeds throughout the next six-and-a-half months.

Johnson said most children already walk a mile and read a book each week, but they will become more aware of their habits.

Children and their families gathered for music, games, snacks and prizes at the kickoff last weekend at the American Legion.

"It's a great way to get children interested and motivated for reading, physical fitness and good deeds," said Cathy Trotta, who brought her two daughters to the event.

Trotta's daughter, Nicole, 7, said she will read a Junie B. Jones book during the program.

Kimberly Winzig, who attended the event with her son Nicholas, 11, said he has enjoyed reading since he was a toddler.

"This will encourage him to continue his love for reading," she said.

Gabrielle Brooks, 10, said she likes to read scary mystery books and funny tales.

"It's better than TV," Brooks said.

Children danced and played with tambourines and music sticks as Annie and the Natural Wonder Band sang.

The South Salem duo, composed of couple Ann and Bob Grilli, said they have performed about the "wonders of nature" for 20 years.

"We believe in reading," Ann Grilli said.

The Mount Kisco Library is temporarily located at 55 Maple Ave. until the reconstruction of the former library on Main Street is completed in July 2009.

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