

Between the Bookends

By Susan Cackler, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



The holiday season is upon us. If it snuck up on you, too, it's not too late to come to the library and get inspired. Check out cookbooks for cookie inspiration and craft books for gift ideas. We also have books on the many holiday traditions around the world and many of the classic holiday movies.

Also, if you would rather buy than make your crafts, check out the Friends of the Library's table at the Union Point Cemetery Dinner and Bazaar on Saturday, December 5 in the cafeteria of Banks Elementary School.

The season for inclement weather is also upon us. If the roads are snowy or icy, be sure to call the library at 503 324-1382 before you come to make sure we're open. Remember, most items can be renewed over the phone or via the internet. If you are unable to return items on time because of weather conditions, be sure to let the library know.

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the Banks Public Library at Barnes Noble on November 13 and 14. There was a good turnout especially for the craft night and Closet Confidential author reading.

We have added many movies to our selection in the past couple of months through purchases and generous donations. Winter is the perfect time to catch up on movies or TV series that you have missed. Be sure to browse our DVD selection the next time you are in.

Join us for craft night and enjoy some lively conversation while you work on your favorite craft. Come and

meet some new friends or visit with old ones while using the library's work space and enjoying some light snacks. This is the perfect opportunity to work on Christmas cards or other crafts. Join the Friends of the Banks Public Library on Wednesday, December 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the community room.

Wi-Fi is now available at Banks Public Library. This allows anyone with a WCCLS library card and a laptop, iPhone, iPod Touch or mobile device to access the free public wireless network and there are no session/use limits. Patrons will need their patron barcode number and password to log on. While patrons will be able to access the internet without a time limit, they will not be able to print on library printers. Visitors without a library card can be issued a temporary guest pass.

Join us for Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the community room of the library. Story Time is designed for children aged three to six, but younger siblings are welcome. There won't be any story time on December 23 or January 3. This month Miss Cathy will read stories on the following themes:

- December 2: Don't Forget Your Mittens
- December 9: Bird Brains
- December 16: Happy Holidays

The Friends of the Banks Public Library can always use your support. You can make a tax deductible donation, become a member, or volunteer. Money that the Friends raise helps the library purchase Cultural Passes, upgrade equipment and purchase books and movies.

Remember that Swatco is no longer offering recycling on the second Saturday of the month.

On the Shelf:

Ax Men. The first ever non-fiction series about the lives of Pacific Northwest loggers is now available on

DVD. We have both season one and season two. The scenery will be very familiar, as some of us see these areas every day. These shows are a good chance to learn about an industry that has shaped this area for decades and continues to influence it. You may even see someone you know.

The Unfinished Angel by Sharon Creech. Creech is the author of many excellent books for children and young adults. Her latest novel is set in the ancient stone tower of the Casa Rosa in a tiny village high in the Swiss Alps. For one angel, life has been the same for as long as she can remember, until a determined young American girl named Zola arrives. Zola and the angel are about to collide. Figs will fly and the whole village begins to wake up. Zola is a girl with a mission. The story is funny and endearing; another winning tale from an accomplished author.

Pirate Latitudes by Michael Crichton. This novel is Crichton at his best: a rollicking adventure tale pulsing with relentless action, crackling atmosphere, and heart-pounding suspense. The tale is set in the Caribbean of 1665 on the island of Jamaica. Port Royal is a cutthroat town of taverns, grog shops and bawdy houses. Captain Charles Hunter makes a living trying to get his hands on Spanish gold. A galleon is set to come into harbor and Hunter is scheming on how to raid it.

Banks Public Library: 111 Market Street.

Hours: Mon., Fri., Sat., 11 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tues., Wed., Thurs., 11 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Phone: (503) 324-1382 for information

Internet: www.wccls.org

Browse library resources, reserve or renew materials online. *Call for information.*

Tips given for choosing the right toy for your child this Christmas

Children need toys just as adults need tools for their particular jobs because play is often described as the work of children.

The national average for the number of toys a child received during the holiday season is about 12. Most children are satisfied with 3 or 4 new toys. If a

child receives too many new toys at once, he may become overwhelmed in deciding what toy to play with.

To eliminate the frustrations of too many toys, select toys with the child's needs and interests in mind. A well-balanced selection of toys is needed for the child's total development. Toys might include:

- Toys for physical development like push and pull toys for younger children, and wagons, sleds, and swings for older children.

- Toys to develop sensory skills through play with a variety of materials. Water, sand, pots and pans are all possible examples. Anything that can be SAFELY touched, tasted, smelled, looked at, or listened to would be helpful.

- Toys for make-believe and developing social skills might include dolls, play cars, trucks, and accompanying play sets.

These toys don't need to be expensive. Many simple household items like clothing or discarded kitchen materials make great play "props."

- Books and puzzles are also considered toys and should be readily available to children. Plain paper and crayons can be helpful in developing a child's creative skills.

The simpler the toy, the better, a toy should be flexible for a variety of uses. Toys need adult supervision, but little, if any, adult instruction. Toys should not be purchased with the idea of allowing the child to "grow into" the toy. Follow the age guidelines found on the toy packages and labels.

These guidelines take into consideration a child's age, physical size, skill level, and safety concerns. Many toys designed for older children may not be safe for infants and toddlers. These toys may have

small pieces which can be swallowed. or mechanisms too complicated for the young child.

There is no way to insure that every toy purchased will be the best toy. Be considerate of the child's age, interests and current developmental needs and you will come closer to selecting a toy which is the best.

Source: Leanna Spengler, Human Development Specialist, University of Missouri Extension

Pet of the Month

Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has a variety of wonderful pets available for adoption. Find the pet that's right for you in the shelter

at 2084 Oregon Street. Phone 503-397-4353

Open Mon - Fri 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 am. to 5 pm.

Nala is a very sweet girl. She is very active and will need lots of room to run. She tends to not get along with most female dogs but loves to have the fellas around. She seems to like the water (she wades in our pools) and loves long walks; she walks well on a leash. Come and visit her if you interested in making her a member of your family.



The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

This Adopt a Pet is Sponsored by:

Senator Betsy Johnson

