



## September is Library Card Sign-up Month!

For I dipped into the future, far as human eye could see,  
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonder that  
would be. - ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

When a child first obtains a library card it is usually the first place in the public sphere where they can enjoy a privilege of adults. While accepting the responsibility to respect public property, they also obtain a passport to the future.

For many people, obtaining their first library card is like opening a door of freedom to explore, imagine and discover new things. Libraries play a vital role in child development, it has been well documented that children who are read to at home and who use the library perform better academically and are more likely to become lifelong learners.

As youth explore the Internet, they tap into a world of information. Like some adults, they may think...everything I need is all online, and indeed much of what they need is freely available on the Internet. The world of online information is vast. Consider the library of Congress free eBooks and digital resources of music and photography (<https://historytech.wordpress.com/2014/11/18/free-library-of-congress-ebooks-for-students/>). The Digital Public Library of America ([dp.la](http://dp.la)) lets readers search libraries, archives and museums full of information that you can search by subject, a time line, languages and even by color!

This collection of online information is vast and excites us with endless possibilities. But we all have a social nature that benefits from coming to the library. One of the benefits of engaging in NWPL activities is socializing and to get a deeper sense of belonging to a community.

The library used to be a place where you simply check out a book, find quiet study space, or acquire needed information. While these opportunities continue, now there is more. You can come to the library for an experience. Speak with a librarian who offers reader advisory services and can help you find your next page-turner. Join other families engage in story hour, take part in lively discussions in classics book discussions, author readings, classes or a wide variety of programs.

Just as the paradigm for education has changed, from lecturing, memorizing and testing; enhanced opportunities for learning often involve collaborative creative learning to develop critical thinking and problem solving. Best of all -- it is fun!

*"A library is a delivery room for the birth of ideas, a place where history comes to life." said Norman Cousins, essayist and editor. We hope to create a culture of innovation and learning and make his words come to life. AT NWPL we hope to drive innovation and community engagement by offering workshops for active learning -- for everyone. We will share with the community what we have been thinking about...opportunities to scan and archive your family photos and documents, a chance to learn about entrepreneurship, how to download eBooks, use your hand held devise and more. Take a look at our events listing for upcoming programs when you can give voice to your interests.*

I started this short note about the value of library cards and September is Library Card Sign-up Month. Bring in your children, and sign up for a library card -- and pick one up for yourself!