



Westchester Libraries Kick Off School Year with Library Card Sign-Up Month and Back-To-School Brochure

Elmsford, NY – (September 12, 2007) – The Westchester Library System (WLS), a New York State public library system that ensures that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County, is kicking off the new school year by naming September as Library Card Sign-Up Month. All members of the family are invited to get new library cards to celebrate the start of a new year of learning. WLS also offers its new back-to-school brochure filled with reading resources.

A nationwide observance since 1987, Library Card Sign-Up Month is a time when libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as source of lifetime learning.

Library Card Sign-Up Month encourages Westchester residents to sign up for a library card at their local branch. Cardholders have full access at their local branch and on-line to the WLS collections of 5.6 million books, CDs, DVDs, and other media, at no cost. WLS places no limit on the number of cards per family; each family member can have a card. To sign up, call or visit your local Westchester County library.

The new WLS Back to School Back to the Library brochure arrives at each branch just in time for the start of a new school year. The brochure features WLS Youth Services Advisory Board book suggestions for elementary school children and their parents, recommended websites, and phone numbers for the WLS libraries. It is also available on line, at www.westchesterlibraries.org.

WLS library sites are open 66 hours and six to seven days each week. The website is accessible 24/7 at www.westchesterlibraries.org.

About the Westchester Library System

The Westchester Library System (WLS) includes 38 member public libraries located throughout the County and is one of New York State's 23 public library systems. WLS and its member libraries have a total collection of 5.6 million items, including 4 million books, as well as audio recordings, videocassettes, DVDs, print serials, and other materials. Support from WLS helps expand and enhance the services and resources of local member libraries, enabling them to better serve the public. WLS also ensures that all county residents have excellent library service on-site and on-line. A sponsor of year-round events, WLS helps coordinate featured author events, the annual Book and Author Luncheon, and seasonal reading initiatives. The WLS Adult and Outreach Services Department offers improved access to library services for all residents, training and development of library personnel, services to disadvantaged youth, and the fee-based WEBS Career and Educational Counseling service. WLS celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2008.

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