



Enriching Our Community, Expanding Our World.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland Public Library Celebrates National Library Card Sign-up Month 2006: It's your most important school supply!

(PORTLAND, MAINE) – September is Library Card Sign-up Month, and Portland Public Library (PPL) wants to make sure that your child is among the two-thirds of Americans that carry the smartest card of all – a library card.

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 a source of lifetime learning. “A library card has always been the most important school supply of all,” says Kristi Belesca, Director of Development and Programming at PPL. “Kids can come to the library to get homework help and check out books, but they can also check out free music, DVDs and use the Internet to make after school life a little more fun.” A recent study by the American Library Association also showed that families use libraries to spend time together. Forty-four percent of survey respondents report taking their children to the library for this reason.

There's a lot happening at the Portland Public Library for all ages. Free programs for children, teens and adults happen weekly at the Main Library and all five neighborhood locations. In addition to weekly children's programming, regularly scheduled adult programs include the Brown Bag Lecture Series, Ruby Slippers Motivational Workshops, Page to Stage (with Portland Stage Company), and Musically Speaking (with Portland Symphony Orchestra), to name a few.

The Library is not just a place for books anymore. Portland Public Library offers free access to databases that people would ordinarily have to pay to use. Programs like **Rosetta Stone**, an interactive language tutorial program (27 languages available including English as a Second Language); **Mergent**, a database offering financial information on more than 10,000 publicly held corporations including annual reports, historical data, equity reports, and more; and **HeritageQuest**, offering genealogy information including census data, local history articles, revolutionary war records and more. Most databases can be used either at the Library or from home using your PPL card number.

You don't have to be a resident of Portland to get a PPL card. Residents of Cumberland, York, and parts of Oxford counties (age 5 years & up), full-time students attending schools in these counties, individuals listed as property taxpayers in Portland, and individuals working in Portland are all eligible for library cards. Others may purchase a card (\$20 per year). Patrons of other libraries may borrow PPL materials for free via interlibrary loan. For information on how you can sign up for your library

card, go to the Library's web site at portlandlibrary.com or visit the Portland Public Library at the following locations:

Main Library – 5 Monument Square, 871-1700

Open: Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-6pm, Tues/Thurs Noon-9pm, Sat 9am-5pm

Burbank Branch – 377 Stevens Avenue, 774-4229

Open: Tues/Thurs Noon-8pm, Wed/Fri/Sat 9am-5pm

Munjoy Branch – 195 North Street (at East End Community School), 772-4581

Open: Tues 8am-4pm, Wed Noon-8pm, Fri 2pm-6pm

Peaks Island Branch - 129 Island Avenue, 766-5540

Open: Tues 2pm-8pm, Wed 10am-4pm, Fri 10am-2pm, Sat 8am-noon

Reiche Branch – 166 Brackett Street (at Reiche School), 774-6871

Open: Mon 9am-5pm, Thurs Noon-8pm, Friday 1pm-5pm

Riverton Branch – 1600 Forest Avenue (at Riverton School), 797-2915

Open: Wed 9am-6pm, Thurs Noon-8pm, Fri 9am-Noon

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