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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Prime Time program returns to Grand Island

Prime Time Family Reading Time, a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program for low-literacy, low-income families, will return to Grand Island with opportunities for both Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children.

Wasmer Elementary School, in partnership with the Grand Island Public Library, will host the award-winning series on six consecutive Thursday nights from Oct. 12 through Nov. 16. Each program begins with a light dinner and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children's literature.

The six-week series of reading and discussion is designed for families with children ages six to 10. It includes sessions on greed, courage, dreams, determination, and loyalty. All books are read and discussed in both English and Spanish.

A discussion leader and a storyteller introduce parents to the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children, and a library representative introduces families to library resources and services. Younger siblings participate in separate pre-reading activities. Lisa Brown-Olsen will return as discussion leader and Joan Gardner will return as storyteller.

Prime Time reinforces the role of the family in society, encourages parents and children to form bonds over reading and learning together, and teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics. The program also encourages low-literacy, low-income parents to enter or continue their own educational programs to improve their employment opportunities.

"It is so important for children to learn the joys of reading early in life, especially when it involves reading and discussing books with their families. A love for learning through reading has a positive impact on how well a child does in school," said NHC Program Officer Erika Hamilton. "We're pleased to be working with the Grand Island Public Library and Wasmer Elementary to continue offering this exciting family literacy program to the citizens of Grand Island."

Initially developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, bilingual Prime Time sessions have been held in Hastings, Lincoln, Omaha, Scottsbluff, and other Nebraska communities over the last several years. This will be Grand Island's second Prime Time, having held their first in the spring of 2006.

Bilingual Prime Time programs are sponsored in Nebraska by the NHC, the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska Library Commission, and TierOne Charitable Foundation. The NHC is a private, statewide, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information or to register to participate, contact Merry von Seggern, program coordinator and children's librarian, at (308) 385-5333.

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