

# Kidsplace News

## “I GEEK” Open House in Kidsplace

Pictures speak louder than words. A special thank you to Rebecca Greenamyler, an art therapy instructor, for providing craft activities to go along with our Poky Puppy theme. Also a big thanks to Mary Robey for the great job she did being the Poky Puppy and to Kathy Barnes for sharing her amazing face painting skills. Everyone appeared to have a great time. Pictured below is Evette Atkin, BDL Director, receiving a check from Mary Smith the night of the open house. Thanks, Mary!



## Beads and Braids

Kidsplace staff would like to express our appreciation to Cara Bynum, Fatimah Peterson and Mutaz Rashid for sharing their braiding skills. On Saturday, November 17th beginning at 11:00 a.m. these ladies graciously volunteered to show parents various braiding techniques. Including how to make cornrows, and the easiest way to intertwine beads throughout the braids once they were completed. What was suppose to be an hour presentation ended up being over three hours long! This program was well attended and we are looking forward to having our presenters back again this summer.



Patrons had the opportunity to learn the history of cornrows on the laptop computers that were made available for this presentation.



These are pictures of Janet Rucker sitting patiently as she gets her hair braided.





## “Get Out the Vote” Poster Contest

The freedom to vote is the hallmark of our democracy. It is both a privilege and a civic duty. Yet, in recent elections, only 64% of voting-age citizens voted. Kidsplace at the Branch District Library's Coldwater branch sponsored a 2012 "Get Out The Vote" Poster Contest to help promote the power of voting in the upcoming November election.

Criteria: For students grades 1-12. The poster design, including visuals and any accompanying text, had to be NONPARTISAN. Submissions could not support a specific party, candidate, or issue. Designs were to support only American's system of civic participation. Submissions considered to be partisan or offensive were not allowed to enter in the final selection nor were they publicly displayed.

Poster Specifications: Size: 14"Wx 11"H (half sheet of poster board)

Posters were to be submitted by Friday, November 2nd. Submissions were judged by Senator Bruce Caswell on Monday, November 19th at 10:00 a.m.. There was one winner in each age group. Age groups were 6-8, 9-12, and 13-15.

"People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who vote - a very different thing."



Did you know that Senator Caswell use to be a teacher? He gave the children in Mr. Gonzalez's classroom a lesson on how to do fractions.



All of the children in Mr. Gonzalez's class received a special treat for their participation in the poster contest.



On Saturday, December 8th, the Branch District Library's Coldwater branch invited Kevin Divine to join us in Kidspace. Kevin is an award-winning singer, songwriter and recording artist. He entertained families while singing interactive songs that he created for the holidays. Kevin had the children playing horns, drums, bells, had children leading the music while using microphones, as he played the accordion, harmonica and a mouth flute.

Below are pictures from this event.



Reindeer in Kidspace??? Where's the sleigh?



Believe it or not, he even had them sleeping. Well, maybe pretending that they were sleeping.

