



City of
Evanston™

NEWS...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES TEEN READ WEEK **Library Encourages Area Teens to Read for Leisure Oct. 18 – Oct. 24**

EVANSTON, IL - Area teens will be reading for the fun of it as Evanston Public Library celebrates Teen Read Week, October 18 - 24, 2009. They join thousands of other libraries, schools and bookstores across the country who are encouraging teens to celebrate this year's theme, "Read Beyond Reality @ your library." Teen Read Week is the national adolescent literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), the fastest-growing division of the American Library Association.

"Today's teens seem to have less and less free time, and there are increasingly more activities for them to take part in during what little leisure time they have," said Mary Johns, Director of Evanston Public Library. "That is why it's important to encourage teens to set aside some time to read."

Being around adults who are avid readers can counteract the latest statistics from [The Nation's Report Card](#), which indicate that in homes across America the number of different types of reading materials has decreased, and a smaller percentage of seventeen-year-olds saw adults reading in their homes.

Studies show a regular reading habit increases reading proficiency and Johns agrees. "One of the most important ways teens acquire the habit is by watching adults they respect reading," says Johns.

Teen Read Week is held annually during the third week of October. Evanston Public Library provides a variety of resources to support teen reading in its teen-only space The Loft, including study rooms, video games, free Internet access, books, audiobooks and much more. Additionally, the library offers free college planning drop-in sessions for high school students every Monday from 5 to 8 p.m. through the end of December.



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EPL staff and teen readers announced Teen Read Week at the October 12th City Council Meeting. Left to Right: Bridget Petrites (EPL Loft Staff), Konnor Malone (ETHS Sophomore), Karen Cardenas (ETHS Sophomore), Ruth Starr (ETHS Sophomore), and Megan Gregor (Loft Volunteer).



Konnor Malone, an Evanston teen and patron of the Main Public Library's Loft, at podium during City Council talking about one of his favorite books.