



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Community, Culture and Sports

**Read–Write–Bermuda Campaign and
Bermuda National Library's
Summer Reading Programme**

Ministerial Statement

To The House of Assembly
By
The Hon. R. Wayne Scott, J.P., M.P.
Minister of Community, Culture and Sports

Friday, 4th July 2014

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise my Honourable Colleagues and the public at large about the launch of the Read-Write-Bermuda Campaign and the Bermuda National Library (BNL) Summer Reading Programme.

Mr. Speaker, Read-Write-Bermuda is a national campaign to promote reading and writing and to celebrate and support Bermuda's literary community. Read-Write-Bermuda is a collaborative partnership between the Bermuda National Library ("BNL"), CedarBridge Academy, The Reading Clinic, and the Buechner Society of Bermuda. These institutions will use new resources to expand their capacity to help young readers and writers. These highly respected partners will work individually

and collaboratively across organisations to improve student reading skills and increase family literacy. Combining technology, tutoring, E-book resources, professional development for teachers and librarians, writing workshops, and special events and programmes, Read-Write-Bermuda will give enhanced pathways to achievement and lifelong learning while nurturing current and future generations of Bermudian writers.

Mr. Speaker, The Read-Write-Bermuda Campaign includes three major areas of focus: *Building Readers*, *Supporting Writers*, and *Expanding Libraries*.

Mr. Speaker, One of the goals of Read-Write-Bermuda is to expand BNL's Summer Reading Programme. Entitled "Read Around the Rock," this year's programme, which will run from June 30 to August 16, is designed for youth and adults to learn more about our island home in a light-hearted way.

Mr. Speaker, At the Adult Library, participants can choose from books that give insight to interesting facts and folklore about the nine parishes from the St. George 'stock market' selection and 'fish' for your Sandy's Heritage choice from the 'library depths.' The remaining seven parishes will represent specific subject areas of the library collection. The Adult Library programme is free and open to residents over 14 years of age and there will be weekly prizes and a final grand prize.

Mr. Speaker, At the Youth Library, the summer reading programme will use the parishes to group various reading themes that the children are required to read. Once they complete each of the three levels, they earn prizes and when they complete the third level, students earn a raffle ticket toward the grand prizes -10 speed bike and iPad minis - at an end of summer party. In addition, the Youth

Library has planned daily activities for young people. A calendar of events is available at the Youth Library on Church Street.

Mr. Speaker, In order for residents to join this literary ride around our island home this summer, they need only to visit the BNL website at www.bnl.bm or stop in at Youth Library on Church Street or at the Adult Library on Queen Street.

Mr. Speaker, studies show that the best way to improve literacy in children is to increase their access to books. I am pleased to assist the BNL in highlighting the importance of reading, especially over the summer when children are away from school and are more likely to have the time to read for pleasure. The library endeavours to ensure that anyone who wants to read has the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to Rev. Frederick Buechner and the Buechner Society of Bermuda for their generous donation which is supporting the Summer Reading Programme and several new services at BNL. These new services include a significant expansion of the eBook collection, the introduction of downloadable music collection, an e-Magazine collection and beginning in the Fall, an online Tutoring Service for students of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, We are happy to partner with the other organizations involved in the Read-Write-Bermuda Campaign it is our aim to continuously expand the offerings at the BNL in support of increased literacy and for the continued enjoyment of our residents and visitors alike.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.