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**Off the Shelf:**

An e-mail newsletter from the Prince William Public Library System  
October 4, 2009  
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**Read Beyond Reality @ Your Library:
Celebrate Teen Read Week with us: October 18th to the 24th!**

Join us as we celebrate Teen Read Week later this month! The branches have planned some exciting activities for young adults in grades 6 through 12!

Bull Run Regional Library will open their **Teen Lounge** on Thursday, October 22nd from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Stop by to enjoy some electronic games or traditional board games, snacks, and conversation.

Central Community Library will host their monthly **Mind Travelers Book Club** on Thursday, October 8th at 7 p.m.. Join Paulette Garner to discuss E. R. Frank's *Life is Funny*.

Meet the talented winning arts and writers from local middle and high schools at the **Creative Arts Showcase** at Chinn Park Regional Library on Sunday, October 18th at 2:00 p.m..

Use **bleach pens** to decorate t-shirts! Create wearable art for you to take home at a special program on Tuesday, October 20th, at 4:30 p.m. at Potomac Community Library. Registration is required for this program, however, so be sure to stop by in person OR call the Library (703-494-8126) beginning Tuesday, October 6th, to register. All supplies are provided! The program is free! Registration is limited to 20 participants.

Stop by your favorite library during to Teen Read week or any of the other weeks this month to enjoy some of the many excellent programs planned with you in mind.

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**IN THE SPOTLIGHT: The Immortal Vampire!**

Vampires have appeared in the myths, folklore, and literature of cultures around the world for hundreds of years. Bram Stoker's novel, *Dracula*, and the film adaptation starring Bela Lugosi were extremely influential in shaping the modern image of the vampire. Even in the twenty-first century, vampires continue to fascinate a wide range of readers.

For readers who prefer the classic version of *Dracula*, don't miss *Dracula: the Un-Dead*, written by Bram Stoker's great grand-nephew, Dacre Stoker, and a *Dracula* historian, Ian Holt. This sequel is set twenty-five years after the events of the original novel. In 1912, vampire Countess Elizabeth Bathory arrives in London seeking revenge on those who survived the final confrontation with *Dracula* in Transylvania. Bram Stoker, himself, appears as a fictional character in this fresh and entertaining addition to vampire literature. Film director Guillermo del Toro's recent novel, *The Strain*, also presents vampires as horrific, blood thirsty, killers. An airplane lands in New York and within minutes, it has stopped on the runway and the crew is unresponsive. Suspecting that a biological agent may be the cause, officials bring in a team from the CDC to investigate. They discover that nearly everyone on board is dead and drained of blood, but by the time they realize that they are facing a virus unlike any they've encountered before, it has been released into New York City and is spreading.

The vampire described in folktales was a creature to be feared, but many modern authors have instead presented the vampire as a romantic figure. The popularity of paranormal romances shows that the vampire's power can be seductive. Some of the most popular authors of

paranormal romances include: Lara Adrian, Keri Arthur, L.A. Banks, Karen Chance, MaryJanice Davidson, Christine Feehan, Laurell K. Hamilton, Charlaine Harris, Raven Hart, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Erin McCarthy, Kimberly Raye, Lynsay Sands, Kerrelyn Sparks, and J.R. Ward.

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