

# YOUR IMAGINATION IS CALLING, ARE YOU LISTENING?

Source: Rob Wang  
Chippewa River District Library Program & Outreach Coordinator

The first of the year marks the beginning of our first ever [CRDL LEGO® Competition](#). Now I could go on for pages reciting a bunch of medical jargon, full of 6 and 8 syllable words that explain how building with LEGO® is good for one's mind. I could tell you how it develops fine motor skills in young children, stimulates learning through imagination, strengthens hand-eye coordination and spatial relations, but the real reason we're doing this....IT'S FUN! I can't think of one parent I know that doesn't have a tub of LEGOS® tucked away somewhere. In fact, I can think of quite a few people I know who don't have kids, that still have a tub of LEGOS® tucked away somewhere. So crack open your LEGOS®, crack open your imagination, and start building. The competition has 6 different age groups: Preschool, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, and over 18. You can build on your own, build as a team, even build as a family; what a great way to spend some quality time with your children. Turn off the TV, put down the cell phones and Nintendo DS's, shut down the computer and build together. There are really only two things we ask of you. One, keep it within the size limitations, and two, it has to be your own, original creation (no directions from kits or the Internet). You can pickup entry forms and rules at any CRDL branch location or print them from [www.crdl.org](http://www.crdl.org). On Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, our guest judges will be on hand to select winners in each age group; however we still need your help selecting the CRDL People's Choice Award. All the LEGO® creations will be available for public viewing starting at 5pm on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Memorial Library so that you can cast your vote. Good luck and good building!

Of course LEGO® isn't the only thing happening at your Chippewa River District Library this new year. We wrapped up 2008 with a packed house performance by the Boogie Woogie Babies and we

plan on making 2009 even more brilliant. All your favorites are still happening: CRDL Storytime each Monday and Thursday at Veterans Memorial Library and Wednesday at Faith Johnston Memorial Library, CRDL Music & Movement and CRDL Lapsit Storytime at the beginning and end of each month, CRDL Teen Nights, your CRDL Brown Bag Book Discussion Group, CRDL Faith's Book Sense, CRDL Pizza and Pages for the teens and CRDL Dinner & Discussion for those that aren't quite teens. We still have CRDL Cook n' Book, CRDL Create, Make & Take and, as you know, the best way to find out about everything happening at your Chippewa River District Library is to either click, signup, or just stop in. You can click "EVENTS" at [www.crdl.org](http://www.crdl.org) to see what's happening. You can sign up for the CRDL Library Pages e-newsletter to find out what's happening. Or, you can just stop in and pick up a list of this month's events and activities.

If you've already clicked, signed up, or stopped in you already know that *Good Company* is performing this Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> as part of [the Jazz & More at the Library](#) series. The concert starts at 3pm in the CRDL Annex Meeting Room; it's free and it's made possible by the Friends of the Library, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and Art Reach of Mid Michigan.

Another date to circle on your calendar is Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>. Children's performer [Jim Gill](#) is stopping by the Veterans Memorial Library for some free family fun. Trained as a child development specialist, Jim takes his goal of promoting active play between adults and their children one step further. Instead of singing and dancing for you, he'll lead you to sing, dance, clap, jump, and even sneeze with your child. Jim's remarkable performance starts at 10am on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> and is free, but space is limited.

As always we invite you to visit any CRDL branch or visit us online at [www.crdl.org](http://www.crdl.org) and see why everybody is saying "I Love My Library".