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## Kids, families make a splash at WKU PBS Pool Party

By AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com 24 min ago





With the start of school looming, families splashed about Sunday at the Russell Sims Aquatic Center, celebrating the end of summer during this year's PBS Pool Party.

Although now in its 17th year, the event's purpose hasn't changed much for Dana Divine, WKU PBS' program operations manager. For Divine, the pool party promotes PBS programming and its public service mission.

"WKU PBS has a strong commitment to the children in our community," she said, noting that its programming is central to that commitment. "It teaches them a lot about themselves and the world around them. To me, that's the value."

Throughout the day, families entered to win various prizes, including a grand prize scooter, and 300 goody bags and viewers for the solar eclipse on Aug. 21 were also handed out. The event also included Kids on the Block puppeteers.

Among the prize winners was Bonnie Reagan, who won a bubble maker for her daughter Arya.

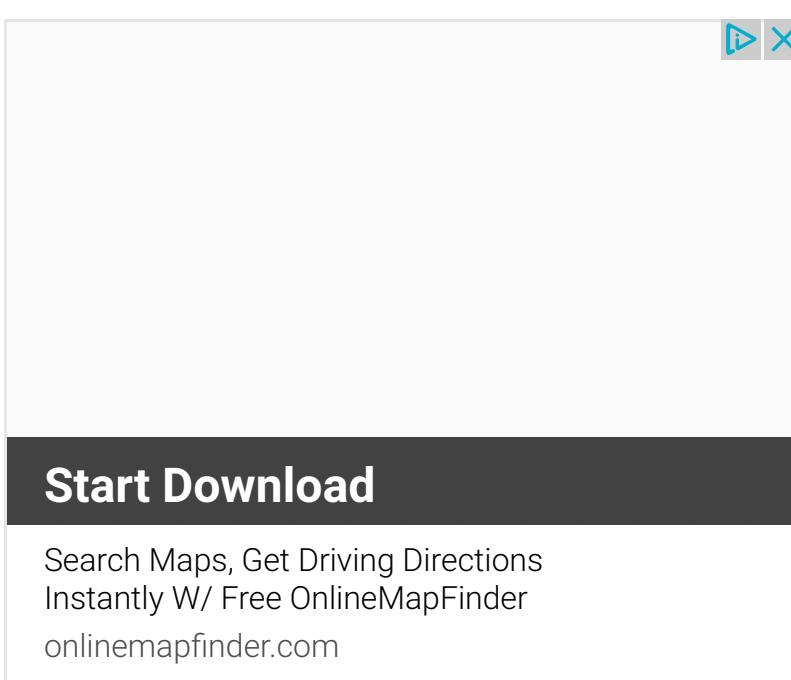
"It's been really nice," said Reagan, adding that it was her daughter's first time seeing a puppet show. "She was really fascinated."

Through their puppets, one being a character who used a wheelchair and another a blind person, Kids on the Block puppeteers Regina Pedigo and Lyra McCarty taught about accepting differences.

“I think it’s fantastic they’re still doing this,” said Julie Bogle, who remembers the shows from her childhood.

Now the mother of a 3-year-old son, Bogle appreciates the lessons in a different way.

“If there’s more stuff like this for kids to watch, there might be less of a bullying problem,” she said. “It’s fun, but it also teaches a really good lesson.”



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McCarty agreed and said the organization aims to teach children valuable lessons.

“We attempt to teach acceptance of themselves and their world,” she said.

Rebecca Scruggs of Meadow Land Baptist Church attended with 14 kids from her church’s youth program, called Building Soldiers for Christ. For Scruggs, the visit was a break from the strictures of Sunday school and a chance to have fun. Teresa Blair-Reno, a Sunday school teacher at the church, agreed.

“They can profess their faith and still have a good time,” Blair-Reno said.

Maddie Gill, a 14-year-old girl, was among the group. After a summer of swimming and cooking out, she’s not quite ready to go back to school.

“Summer’s my favorite,” she said.

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