



May 27, 2010

Sacramento Public Library Authority

Item 4.0: Summer Reading Programs

TO: Sacramento Public Library Authority Board Members
FROM: Sarah Dentan, Branch Services/Youth Services Manager
RE: Summer Reading Programs 2010

RECOMMENDED ACTION: None - information only.

INFORMATION

Summer Reading Program 2010

Summer Reading is a lot of fun for customers and staff alike, but it is not simply a feel-good exercise for the Library. Summer Reading has a vital role to play in developing readers' and pre-readers' academic and literacy skills. Studies show that spending time in a book-rich environment and actively participating in a summer reading program can slow the skills loss that often happens to students in the summer. Similarly, pre-readers who, with their parents or caregivers, complete a summer reading program show more pre-reading skills at the end of the summer than those who do not participate.

Building on this summer's water theme, we will be holding a system wide "Mega-Splash" kickoff on June 6th at the Central Library, from 1 to 3 pm, featuring family entertainment, story times for children and adults, crafts for teens, and recommended summer reading for all ages. Of course, everyone is invited to sign up for Summer Reading!

The Summer Reading program runs from June 1 through August 31, in order to accommodate the range of area school district calendars. More than 585 programs and activities are scheduled for all ages across the system, including special story times for pre-readers; crafts and games; movies, manga, and more crafts for teens; and author visits, cooking programs, and even a writing workshop for adults.

Participants who complete the program are awarded finishing prizes immediately: pre-readers, kids and teens will get the book of their choice, and adults and teens will get a Sacramento Public Library book bag. Each finisher is also entered in to a Grand Prize Drawing, with prizes ranging from a Target Gift card to a Sony e-reader, which is compatible with our downloadable book collection. Other smaller prizes from local businesses will also be awarded by a drawing.

Many of our branches received funding for their programs and activities from Target Corporation. Other major support has been provided by the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library, and the Sacramento Public Library Foundation.

A press conference celebrating Summer Reading across the County will be held on June 2, 2010 in Kids' Place at the Central Library. We hope you will be able to join us.

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