Summer Reading Program Recap
from Tyler Mayser, Senior City Librarian

Avenue Library's Summer Reading Program has been running in tandem with the State's Lunch at the Library for quite a few years. This year, Avenue was the only location on the West Side. Over 1000 participants enjoyed lunches and events. Several families that support special needs children found library events to be very enriching and were regular attendees. Both adult and youth readers had better access and exposure to books because of SRP. VFOL support was integral in assuring that our small West Side community was able to celebrate reading and literacy in a very big way

Foster Library kicked off SRP with a lively celebration that drew over 100 kids and teens, many of whom registered on the spot. Special events like Shark Lab, Bubblemania and Michael Rayner captivated 107 children in total, while the county-sponsored Game Day with Gamez on Wheelz and Kona Ice brought in 70 enthusiastic gaming participants. Our regular programs – Storytime, Paws for Reading, Minecraft and Crafty Little Fox Club continued to thrive, and our Innovations LAB welcomed 78 participants over six sessions. Code Club engaged 50 young coders over five sessions. Our 15 dedicated teen volunteers, who in July alone contributed 126 hours, assisted with programs, prepared craft and STEAM projects and pulled books, keeping our library in great shape. Their consistent presence and enthusiasm were essential to making the community spirit all summer long.

Hill Road hosted special events including Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab (59) Bubblemania Bubble Show (134), Summer Snow Day (170) and Saving Wildlife International (215), as well as hosting Movie Mondays, STEAM activities, Sensory and Science Play, Storytimes, Minecraft and more! 228 children registered, 217 children actively reading and logging their minutes, and 95 completed 1000 minutes or more. Adults were also engaged this summer. 71 adults signed up for the Summer Reading challenge, 61 were active readers, and 27 completed the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge.

Summer reading at Saticoy demonstrated the library's growing presence in the region. Ther special events averaged about 30 attendees each, a much bigger crowd than Saticoy has seen for any event since COVID closures. We also hosted a few events with our friends at the Saticoy Food Hub across the street, bringing in even more patrons. The Boys and Girls Club also sent kids over to participate in the Food Hub's harvesting event one afternoon. Families took part in our weekly game afternoons, craft days and free Lego play. We saw consistent and enthusiastic participation in the reading challenge from many new faces in addition to our regular family visitors. There was a lot of momentum built this summer that we hope to keep going in years to come.

Hill Road Library
Book Club
4:00 pm
on last Tuesdays of month

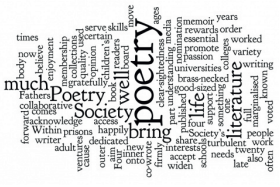
Tuesday, October 28
People of the Book
by Geraldine Brooks

Tuesday, November 25
The Heaven and Earth
Grocery Store
by James McBride
No meeting in December

Hill Road Library
Wise Owls
is a quarterly Book Club for adults who enjoy reading children's literature

Fall meeting:
Tuesday, November 4
5:00 pm
Fall selection:
Alebrijes
by Donna Barba Higuera

Visit the Hill Road Library to pick up the latest Book Club selection.
To join the mailing list for book clubs at Hill Road Library, please email Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org



Poetry at the Library
E.P. Foster Library
Topping Room

Special* Poetry at the Library
Sunday, September 28
3:00 to 5:00 pm

First Sunday of the month
3:00 to 5:00 pm
November 2
December 7

In-house and virtual
ZOOM MEETING ID 960-750-1600
Hosted by Phil Taggart
Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome.

Ukuleles Still Jamming
Topping Room
E.P. Foster Library

1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm
Hosted by Alan Ferentz.

Game On!
at HIll Road Library
Every Sunday
11 am to 1 pm
Drop by and choose from over 35 games to play!
For all ages. Fun for families or a great reason to meet with friends.