



## Staff Report

June 5, 2023 Council Workshop Meeting

Summer Reading Preview

Presenter: Connie Urquhart, Library Director

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

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**BACKGROUND:** The Library's annual Summer Reading Program kicks off June 17. Director Urquhart will introduce staff who planned the 9-week program and briefly touch on its highlights.

**SUMMARY:** Each year, the Library plans a Summer Reading Program for all ages to promote reading. Participants can track their reading online or on a game board, and they'll earn a prize for every ten days of reading. After 30 days of reading, participants will receive a scratch-off ticket for a chance to win a larger prize. After 40 days of reading, they'll receive another scratch-off ticket, this time for a chance to win a grand prize.

This year's theme is *Find Your Voice*, and the Library has a variety of activities and events planned to help participants express themselves, such as: Storytime in the Park; Pop-Up Museum: Drawing Showcase; Artwalk; Taylor Fest; Tiny Art Show; Pegasus Puppet Show; and more. In addition, the Second Story Gallery is pleased to welcome high school artwork in July and middle school artwork in August, in partnership with the Camas School District (CSD).

**BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:** Studies show that kids can lose, on average, two months of reading skills over summer break. This is cumulative each summer, so that by the time they reach middle school, they can lose up to 2 years to the "summer slide". The best way to combat this reading loss is to keep reading continuously and provide an environment that makes reading as enjoyable as possible.

The Library's current strategic plan contains the following strategic goals. Next to each one is a description of how the Summer Reading Program helps to meet that goal.

**Remove Barriers.** The Library will meet people where they are at, providing storytimes in all of the Camas parks this summer and by having a station at each of the CSD BookMoBus stops. The Library will also be present at each of the Farmers Markets and First Friday events this summer.

**Focus on Early Literacy.** Storytimes are not the only way for the 0-5 set to participate this summer. They can also join the *Board Book Bunch*, which allows their parents or caregivers to engage in a variety of literacy-building activities with them to earn their own free board book.

***Build or Strengthen Partnerships.*** The Library worked with many businesses who donated to a robust store of prizes for participants. Other partners this summer include: the Friends & Foundation of the Camas Library, Camas Parks & Recreation, and Camas School District.

***Encourage Lifelong Learning at Every Age.*** Examples of classes planned for summer enrichment include *Mindfulness Meditation* or *Origami* for adults; *Summer Scenery Painting* or *Bakeology* for teens; and *Kids Art Club* or *Mad Science* for children.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** \$10,000.

**RECOMMENDATION:** This is for Council's information only.