



Staff Report

June 21, 2022 Council Workshop Meeting

Summer Reading Kickoff

Presenter: Connie Urquhart, Library Director

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The Library's annual Summer Reading Program kicked off June 10. Director Urquhart will briefly outline this year's program, discuss the importance of reading programs, and finally, introduce and thank the Summer Reading Team.

SUMMARY: Each year, the Camas Public Library aims to provide a bridge for schools between spring and fall, encouraging kids and teens to read via an incentivized program. Participants can log their reading in one of three ways: in a badge book, on a paper game board, or through a mobile device app. Youth participants who finish will receive a gift bag containing a book and other prizes, as well as an entry into the raffle with many fantastic prizes.

This year's theme is *Read Beyond the Beaten Path*, where the Library is drawing a connection with nature in many of its programs, and partnering with Parks and Recreation in several. Examples include storytimes at many local parks, as well as events at Crown Park such as Jessa Campbell and the Saplings, S'more Stories, and a Storywalk throughout the month of July.

According to the *American Educational Research Journal*, the average student loses 17-34% of the prior year's learning gains during summer break. Studies show that summer reading programs help prevent summer reading loss, also known as the summer slide.



Summer Reading Graphics. The Camas Library uses graphics from iRead Reading Programs (left), as well as in-house designs (right).

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

The 2022 Summer Reading Program Team has extended every effort to consider equity in their planning. They have scheduled storytimes in parks in all neighborhoods across the City. Families who come to those storytimes are able to sign up for library cards on site, which gives them access to our many online resources – even if they can't make it to the Library building.

In addition, the in-house events run the gamut from a summer movie series celebrating world cultures to Mahjong and origami. Some events are offered virtually, not necessarily because of COVID but because staff found that patrons aren't always able to leave their homes, but would like to take advantage of all that the Library has to offer.

BUDGET IMPACT: All non-donated prizes and costs for reading logs, software, or performers were funded by the Friends and Foundation of the Camas Library, aided in part by a grant from the Camas-Washougal Community Chest. Cost to the budget includes staff time and minimal office supplies.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.