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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carly Holtzinger
Marketing Coordinator
Yakima Valley Libraries
marketing@yvl.org
(509) 575-3447

Summer Adventure Begins at Your Library – Yakima Valley Libraries' 2024 Summer Reading Program Begins TODAY

Yakima, WA – The entire family is invited to participate in Yakima Valley Libraries' (YVL) annual Summer Reading Program that kicks off today! YVL awaits adventurous readers and event-goers this summer, where participants are challenged to embark on literary adventures, discover new worlds, and explore captivating stories through August 10.

Reading is a healthy activity for all ages. In fact, it has “physical benefits in addition to being an intellectual workout,” according to www.agewellct.org. “Research shows that regular reading can lower blood pressure, reduce stress and improve sleep quality. Researchers have also found a link between reading books and longevity.”

YVL has health-boosting, creative reading challenges planned for participants organized by category; categories include babies (and their caregivers), children, teens, and adults. Here's a brief summary of the challenges:

- Babies & Toddlers - participants ages 0-3 (and their grown-ups) are challenged to read 4 times a week for at least 5 weeks between June 10th-August 10th.
- Children - participants ages 4-11 are challenged to track their daily reading in increments of 20 minutes per day while working toward a goal of 20 days of summer reading.
- Teens - participants ages 12-17 are invited to pick up a game card, where they'll work towards completing fun library-related challenges that match various categories.
- Adults – participants 18+ are challenged to read five books as recommended by their mystery scratch-off book card. There are four different scratch cards available.

Not only will library patrons enjoy creative reading games, they will play for a chance to win prizes! Babies earn stickers for their reading feats, while kids, teens, and adults are entered into the end of Summer Reading Program drawings. Kids can enter to win one out of 144 goody bag prizes filled with game sets and craft supplies. Fifteen teens will win a Fujifilm Instax Mini 7+, one Central Washington State Fair wristband, and library swag (15 library locations will have one grand prize winner); and adults can win one of three themed baskets that include a Kindle and Amazon gift card, a gardening tool set and seeds, and a national state park pass and a hydration backpack.

Wide varieties of Summer Reading Program events are free to all community members throughout Yakima County. They range from family-friendly comedy shows to Story Walks at Yakima Area Arboretum to intriguing science demonstrations from the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry. Not to mention, the Library will collaborate with Yakima Valley Museum to offer a Free Admission Day for the community on June 22 from 10am – 3pm.

“Libraries have long held summer reading programs to encourage leisure reading and exploration during the summer break. Research indicates that reading correlates strongly with academic success, yet many students experience a decline in reading habits over the summer months. Our goal is to make reading both accessible and enjoyable, with the added incentive of prizes, in order to build a passion for reading and lifelong learning,” said Madison Gailus, Youth Services Coordinator.

For a full list of Summer Reading Program events and reading challenges, visit www.yvl.org.

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Yakima Valley Libraries: Together we empower, inspire, and connect.