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**Press Release**  
For Immediate Release  
June 6, 2018

### **The Library Promotes Healthy Minds and Bodies This Summer**



**Figure 1** Bubble tricks from a Library program in 2017.

Many school-age children lose academic skills during the summer vacation months and this loss can equal a grade of learning by the end of middle school. Additionally, not all youth receive adequate nutrition when classes aren't in session.

To address this problem, the Fresno County Public Library is once again launching two programs to combat the summer slide: Summer Challenge and Lunch @ the Library.

“The Library is helping to make sure no local children or teens go hungry when the school kitchens are closed,” explains Children’s Programming Librarian Nicole Settle.

The Summer Challenge, which happens from June 11 to July 29, keeps children and teens busy at all Library locations with free shows featuring magic, reptiles, monster bubbles, vegetable sushi-making, picture frame crafts, and much more.

Teen Programming Librarian Misha Hacke said, “Just as no Fresno County child or teen should go hungry during summer, the Library makes sure there’s no lack of free creative activities at the same time.”

As an incentive, each Summer Challenge participant can get up to two free books by completing free learning activities throughout the summer. Once done, participants are eligible to compete for prizes such as iPads, digital cameras, and tickets for special events in the Fresno area.



Both programs will be spotlighted at a special kickoff event, to be held at the Sunnyside Regional Library on Thursday, June 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone in the County is invited to the kickoff, which will feature free books, crafts, games, food, vision screenings, and more.

“The kickoff is a perfect showcase for our summer programs and local partner organizations. It encourages children and teens throughout the County to join in the free fun and return to school ready to learn,” said County Librarian, Kelley Landano.

For more information about FCPL’s summer programs, including Lunch @ the Library locations, visit [www.fresnolibrary.org/summer](http://www.fresnolibrary.org/summer), or call 559-600-READ (7323).

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