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PRESS RELEASE

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Stop the “summer slide”: Let the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library keep your kids learning all summer

Kerrville, Texas (May 22, 2025) – As summer vacation begins, educators and parents alike share a growing concern: the summer slide. Studies show that students can lose up to two months of reading skills and one month of overall learning during summer break — especially in elementary grades. But the Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library is here to help.



“Summer reading loss is real,” Library Director Diane Miller said. “But the good news is that just 20 minutes of reading a day can make all the difference. Our summer programs are designed to keep kids curious, engaged, and learning — while having fun.”

National data shows:

- By the end of sixth grade, students who lose reading skills each summer are two years behind their peers.

- Low-income students are especially at risk, experiencing a greater than 2.5-month loss in math and reading over the summer.

- Participation in summer library programs is linked to higher reading scores and increased motivation to read.

The Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library's Summer Reading Program, running from May 31 to July 31, offers free programs for all ages — from toddlers to teens to adults. Highlights include:

- Storytimes, LEGO clubs, crafts, and game room parties
- STEAM Museum on June 14
- Adult ceramics, book clubs, and more
- Kick-Off Party on May 31 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Registration begins at the Kick-Off Party. Can't make it? No problem—stop by the library anytime afterward to sign up.

"This isn't about homework — it's about discovery and joy," Miller said. "And it's not just for the kids who already love reading. We've got something for everyone, whether it's graphic novels, manga, or STEM activities that appeal to kids who'd rather crunch numbers than read paragraphs. The program is intentionally light-touch, and the choice of materials is completely up to the reader. We're here to support exploration, not assign book reports."

You don't need a library card to join the fun — our programs are open to everyone. But if you'd like to check out books, movies, or use online resources, a library card is completely free to any parent or resident living in Kerr County. Signing up is quick and easy.

Let your library be your family's secret weapon against summer learning loss. Visit www.kerrvilletx.gov/library or stop by the library for more information.

And please remember that due to well-deserved renovations, there will be no performances at the Cailloux Theater this summer.

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