



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

**LIBRARY NEWS**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY LAUNCHES  
2008 SUMMER READING CLUBS FOR  
CHILDREN AND TEENS**

***READING DURING SUMMER VACATION BOOSTS LITERACY SKILLS  
AND HELPS STUDENTS SUCCEED IN SCHOOL***

To keep students reading and help build their literacy skills during the summer vacation, the Los Angeles Public Library has launched its 2008 "Reading Magic" Summer Reading Club for children and "Passport to Reading" Summer Reading Club for teens. The clubs are free and offered throughout the summer at the Central Library and 71 branch libraries throughout Los Angeles.

"The Library's summer reading programs make reading fun and promote reading during the summer, which is more important than ever before," said City Librarian Fontayne Holmes. "We know that children who read, succeed. Yet, 73 percent of LAUSD's third- and seventh-grade students scored below the national average in reading."

The "Reading Magic" club is for children ages 4-12 with magic-themed programs featuring storytimes, magic tricks, puppet shows, crafts and games. Participants in the club receive a free folder with magic tricks, a bookmark and a "Reading Magic" bag.

The "Passport to Reading" attracts teens, ages 13-19, with programs and activities that encourage them to explore the world, learn about diverse cultures and experience the traditions of other countries. Teen reading club participants receive a book bag, activity folder and a specially designed passport/reading log.

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Teens and children can signup for the reading clubs at any Los Angeles Public Library branch or the Central Library. Also, teens can sign up online at [www.lapl.org/ya](http://www.lapl.org/ya) and children at [www.lapl.org/kidspath/events/rc\\_signup](http://www.lapl.org/kidspath/events/rc_signup).

"Reading Magic" is presented with major support from The Ahmanson Foundation and Wells Fargo and is sponsored by The Council of the Library Foundation. Additional support is provided by The Morrison & Foerster Foundation, The Albert Parvin Foundation, Hitachi Southern California Regional Community Action Committee and The Hitachi Foundation, and The Lluella Morey Murphey Foundation.

"Passport to Reading" is sponsored by The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation and Walter Lantz Foundation, with additional support from Hitachi Southern California Regional Community Action Committee and The Hitachi Foundation, and Geri and Robert Witt.

Funding for both reading clubs is made possible by the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest urban population of any library in the country. Its Central Library, 71 branch libraries, six million books and state-of-the-art technology provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning. For further information, visit the Library's Web site at [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org).

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