



By Library Director Luren Dickinson

## Beaumont Library helps students avoid the “Summer Slide”

For students, summer fun should include a little reading.

Why?

It’s a way to help them retain all the academic gains

Experts say students lose some of what they learned in class when they don’t read during the summer.

It’s called “Summer Slide.”

“Reading is the gateway to knowledge and fulfillment in life,” says Milton Cook, president of the Friends of the Library.

For its part, Beaumont Library has created a Summer Reading Program called “Libraries Rock!” to help students retain all the academic gains they made during the school year.

Scholastic.com says reading just six books will help students avoid the “Summer Slide.” And the books must be just right—not too hard and not too easy for their reading level.

### Libraries Rock!

The Summer Reading Program kickoff takes place on Friday, June 8, with two performances by the musical group, Kids Imagine Nation, at 10:15 a.m. and 1 p.m.

On Thursday, July 26, the Library will host a Grand Finale featuring two magic shows at 10:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. with free ice cream from Stater Bros. and a goody bag from the Friends of the Library.

### The “Summer Slide”

For more than a hundred years, educators have seen how a summer without reading hurts student achievement.

A renowned think tank, the Rand Corporation, found that students fall a month behind in learning during their summer break between classes. The slide hurts low-income students the most. Even more, disturbing is that summer learning loss is cumulative as the years pass.



A Summer Reading Program by the Beaumont Library helps students retain all the academic gains they made during the school year.

Photo by Alexandra Mathews-Woodcock

Experts say even older students are affected by the Summer Slide phenomenon.

U.S. News & World Report found that about “two-thirds of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade achievement gap in reading has been attributed to summer learning loss. Math skills erode even more.”

### **Check out your hometown library**

For all these reasons, it's vital that your youngsters and teens visit the Library to check out its wide-ranging collection of books for all ages. They'll enjoy it, develop a lifelong love of reading and defeat the “Summer Slide” in the process.

In fact, Children's Literacy Initiative says it's important to make reading fun and read aloud every day to your children, not just the youngest ones.

With summer dawning, Beaumont Library is the spot for the whole family to dive into some good books, whether it's one of the classics or a modern day best seller.

Beaumont Library at 125 E. Eighth St. is a California Special District, independent of both city and county government. The library has been serving Beaumont and Cherry Valley for 107 years. For more information, call 951-845-1357 or visit