

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**News Release**

***Eat, Laugh, Learn, & Grow at the Kern County Library’s Expanding Lunch at the Library Program***

The Kern County Library (KCL) is delighted to announce the continued expansion of the *Lunch at the Library* program, which kicks off in June this year! In addition to last year’s locations, KCL has added 7 more locations, as well as a Breakfast service point. This year, lunch will be offered at **ALL** Bakersfield library locations. Anyone, regardless of income, between the ages of 2-18 (unless indicated otherwise) can eat a healthy lunch for **FREE** during the Summer at more than half of all Kern County Library branches. While there, enjoy the hundreds of **FREE** events and programming, and sign-up for the Summer Reading Challenge!

The *Lunch at the Library* program, in partnership with the California Library Association, Arvin Union School District, Delano Union School District, El Tejon Unified School District, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Kern High School District, McFarland Unified School District, Sierra Sands Unified School District, Southern Kern Unified School District, Tehachapi Unified School District, and the California Summer Meal Coalition, brings together the Kern County Library’s longstanding Summer Reading tradition with a lunchtime meal, in an effort to combat Summer learning loss and Summer hunger. Closure of local schools for the Summer break can mean an end to learning, enrichment opportunities, and may also limit access to healthy food, an issue with the greatest impact on our communities’ low-income children. Libraries are natural spaces for serving meals to children whose access to lunch disappears when school ends and Summer begins. Responding to the need and ensuring Kern County’s children have continued access, these lunches are **FREE** to children, and are at a nominal fee to parents and caregivers.

This year, the *Lunch at the Library* program is more than just a place for children and teens to eat this Summer – it’s a place to learn, laugh, and grow!

*For full event listings for the Lunch program & Summer, visit [KCLEvents.org](http://KCLEvents.org)*

Lunch Schedule by Branch:

• Arvin Branch	Mondays-Thursdays	Runs June 4 – July 25	12-1pm
• Baker Branch	Mondays & Wednesdays	Runs June 3 – July 26	11-11:30am
• Beale Memorial	Mondays-Fridays	Runs June 3 – July 26	11:30am-12:30pm
• Delano Branch	Tuesdays-Thursdays	Runs June 11 – July 25	11:30am-12:30pm
• Frazier Park Branch	Tuesdays-Fridays	Runs June 18 – July 26	12-1pm
• Holloway Branch	Wednesdays & Fridays	Runs June 5 – July 25	10-10:30am
• McFarland Branch	Wednesdays & Thursdays	Runs June 5 – July 3	11:30am-12:30pm
• Northeast Branch	Tuesdays & Thursdays	Runs June 4 – July 25	11:30am-12pm
• Rathbun Branch	Tuesdays & Thursdays	Runs June 4 – July 25	11:15-11:45am
• Ridgecrest Branch	Tuesdays-Fridays	Runs June 4 – July 19	11:30am-12:30pm
• Rosamond Branch	Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays	Runs June 4 – July 26	12-1pm
• Rosamond Branch (Breakfast)	Fridays	Runs June 7 – July 26	9:30-10:30am
• Southwest Branch	Tuesdays-Fridays	Runs June 4 – July 26	12-1pm
• Tehachapi Branch	Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays	Runs June 12 – July 26	12-12:30pm
• Wilson Branch	Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays	Runs June 3 – July 26	12-12:30pm