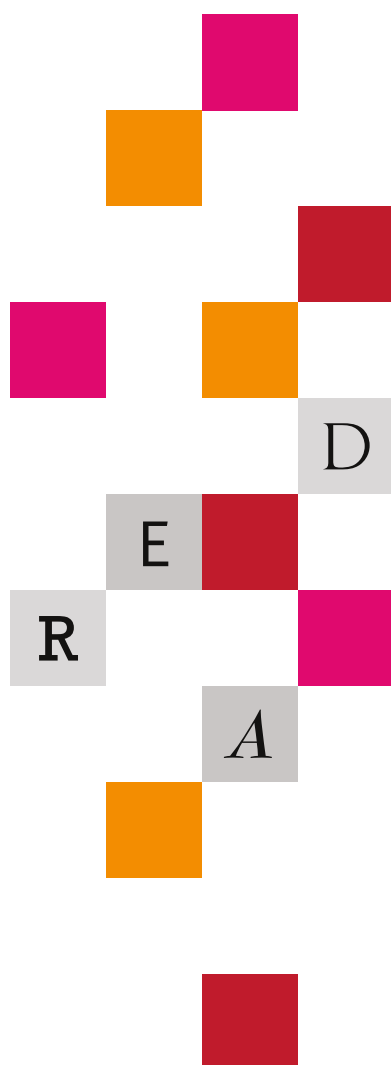


## Creating a community of readers



## Early Literacy Programs Top Foundation Agenda in 2008

**W**ith a focus on Literacy, Learning, and Libraries and a goal to meet community needs, the KCLS Foundation will support a variety of new programs in the new year for children, youth, and adults.

Reaching new parents of young children with information on the value of Early Literacy is a priority, and the Foundation will enhance its funding for the Books for Babies program. King County Public Health nurses meet with low-income parents in South King County, discuss the importance of reading to and with young children, and deliver the Books for Babies packet, which includes a free board book and information on library resources.

A successful pilot project in 2007, **Fiestas de Alfabetización Temprana**, returns in the spring in Spanish-speaking communities throughout the library's service area. KCLS Literacy Project Coordinator Karina Kawaguchi, who is originally from Argentina, recruits local trainers and brings families together in a social neighborhood setting to learn and practice essential Early Literacy skills.

Along with Season Two of Story Times with Dewey & Sketch, these beloved mascots will launch their own 'live' puppet shows with the Foundation's support. **Get Ready to Read with Dewey & Sketch** is sure to be both entertaining for young children and educational for parents by teaching Early Literacy tips and techniques.

**Discover Early Literacy at Your Doctor's Office.** With the goal of reaching parents who are not yet visiting libraries, the Foundation will provide support for KCLS to create a DVD, which will be available free in



pediatricians' offices. KCLS produces award-winning Story Time sessions on DVD, and this new outreach project will feature Early Literacy tips and techniques and encourage library visits.

A new **Preschool Summer Reading Game**, which will debut in 2008, includes special activities for this age group. The Foundation will continue to support summer reading activities for older children and teens.

*Continued... see "Programs" on page 2*

## Programs, continued

Historically, libraries have provided resources for new residents to learn about the U.S. and attain their citizenship. A new civics and government test is included in 2008, and the Foundation will provide funding for new **Literacy for Citizenship** study materials in English and world languages.

**Hello House!** A grant from the Puget Sound Energy Foundation supports the creation of a unique program series featuring popular songwriter and performer Nancy Stewart. Children and parents will learn about energy savings and emergency preparedness while participating in this entertaining program.

Our vision is a community of avid readers and eager learners served by a public library that offers abundant learning opportunities for all ages. The Foundation will also support homework help through Study Zones, Global Reading Challenge contests, and a variety of projects in 2008. For more information, visit [www.kclsfoundation.org](http://www.kclsfoundation.org) or call 425.369.3448.

# Summer Reading Program Offers Great Adventures and Grand Prizes

*“Reading is fun. Books take me on adventures and when I read, I see pictures of what’s happening in my mind and it’s like I’m inside the story,”* said 10-year old Brian Gonzalez of Tukwila, one of the Summer Reading Program grand prize winners.



Brian went on plenty of adventures this summer because he participated in the King County Library System Summer Reading Program. Sponsored in part by the KCLS Foundation, the Summer Reading Program helps children retain their reading skills by encouraging them to read during the summer months. The Foundation provided three laptop computers for a drawing for all the kids who finished the Summer Reading Program.

“The Summer Reading Program is important because it helps our students stay connected to text and encourages them to continue practicing reading,” said Brian’s school principal Brett Christopher.

The Summer Reading Program also got a big plug from Brian’s parents. “It is a great program and even gets the parents involved with going to the library and reading with the kids,” said Fernando Gonzalez. “I started reading to him even before he was born,” added Ana Maria Montoya. “He loves books and even reads to his younger sister and brother. He has school, homework, band practice, and Tae Kwon Do, but he always makes time to read.”

**Get A Clue at Your Library** attracted 36,000 participants, and 16,000 children reached their 1,000-minute reading goals and completed the program. Covington Library visitor Richie Phambota, age 5, and Shoreline Library visitor Seyoung Kung, age 10, also won laptops.

Special thanks to Pizza Hut and Seattle Storm for their support of the program.

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# Read 3 Get 1 Free Summer Edition Attracts Thousands of Teen Readers



Elise Ashley, 14, read her way to success as the grand prize winner in the Read 3, Get 1 Free Summer Edition program. A regular visitor to the Auburn Library, she dreams of being a writer or editor and the grand prize – a laptop computer – will surely help her on her way.

Navid Shafa, 14, won the second prize: a Zune player. An orchestra member, soccer player, and avid reader, he frequently visits the Boulevard Park Library and participates in the Fairwood Library's Teen Book Group.

A year-round program, Read 3, Get 1 Free encourages teens to read three books and write reviews. For each set of three reviews, teens receive a free book provided by the KCLS Foundation. The new Summer Edition attracted 3,183 teens who read 20,742 books.

The KCLS Foundation also provided the grand and monthly prizes. Special thanks to Barnes & Noble for supporting the Summer Edition program.



Navid Shafa with his reading prize: a Zune player

# Literary Lions Gala Features Timothy Egan



Timothy Egan, winner of the 2006 National Book Award for Nonfiction, is the featured speaker for the Literary Lions Gala on Saturday, March 8, 2008.

The award-winning book, *The Worst Hard Time*, tells the story of those who survived the devastating storms of the Dust Bowl in Depression-era America. Egan is also the author of several nonfiction books including *The Good Rain*, a novel, and numerous articles for *The New York Times*.

The Literary Lions Gala celebrates the works of 30 talented Northwest authors and raises funds for literacy outreach programs. For more information about the March 8, 2008, event or to reserve your table, contact Claire Wilkinson at 425.369.3448 or [cwilkins@kcls.org](mailto:cwilkins@kcls.org).



Author, aviator, and sailor John Nance (seated) takes Literary Lions Gala top bidders on a cruise of Puget Sound aboard his well-appointed boat.

## Books, Bids & Banter

The Literary Lions Gala – also known as the best and liveliest book discussion group in the Northwest – features 30 celebrated authors who will dine with and delight guests at the event. And the illustrious guest list doesn't end there: renowned book reviewer Nancy Pearl will emcee the event.

Third Place Books offers titles for sale and you can rub shoulders with popular authors as they sign your books. Plus, you can bid on literary-themed packages and experiences at the Silent Auction.

View the showcase of guest authors and silent auction packages at [www.kclsfoundation.org](http://www.kclsfoundation.org) and click on Literary Lions.

# Teens Turn to Libraries in Record Numbers

If it seems like young people are visiting libraries in record numbers, it's true. A recent Pew Internet and American Life Project study recently confirmed what we see in our libraries today: teens are turning to libraries for information, reference books, newspapers and magazines, and, of course, technology.

In a national phone survey, respondents were asked how they found information to solve a common problem linked to government, such as dealing with a health concern, making a decision about school enrollment, starting a business, getting information about Medicare or Social Security, etc. The majority, 58%, noted that they used the Internet at home, work, or the public library for information. Thirteen percent said they went first to the public library.

Surprisingly, 40% of young adults were the most likely to say that they will use libraries in the future when they encounter problems, compared to 20% of those over age 30 who said they would turn to a library for information.

"It was truly surprising in this survey to find the youngest adults are the heaviest library users. The notion

has taken hold in our culture that these wired-up, heavily gadgeted young folks are swimming in a sea of information and don't need to go to places where information is," said Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project, in a *Seattle Times* article.

Libraries in King County and across the country create facilities, collections, and programs to attract and welcome teens and young adults.

"This study underscores and reinforces the need to continue to provide high quality services to our teen populations. Our teen librarians and the programs they offer are a valuable asset to our communities," noted Jerene Battisti, KCLS Education and Teen Services Coordinator.

The KCLS Foundation supports a number of programs that reach out to teens and young adults and encourage library visits, homework help databases, and resources. Check out the Game On! activities, Study Zones, and Read 3, Get 1 Free programs.



Jeanne Thorsen,  
Executive Director  
KCLS Foundation



## Check It Out: Used Books for Sale from the KCLS Foundation

The KCLS Foundation sells used books on several web sites, and now you can check out a list of titles available through ThriftBooks.

Visit [www.thriftbooks.com/kclsf](http://www.thriftbooks.com/kclsf) and enter a title, author, or subject and you'll see available books. Proceeds from the sale of used books support literacy and lifelong programs.



## Creating a community of readers

Yes, I want to help my library change lives with a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the KCLS Foundation.

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Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

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Yes, my employer will match this gift and I have enclosed the appropriate form.

Yes, please send me information about supporting the Foundation through estate planning.

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