

Creating a
community of
readers

Study Zone Launches Online Tutoring Option

The KCLS Study Zone is a volunteer-based homework-assistance program for elementary through high school students in libraries. New this fall: in addition to the popular one-on-one sessions with volunteers, Study Zone Online will provide access to tutors over the Internet.

“Study Zone is a vital program and the tutoring in Math, Science, English and Social Studies makes a significant difference in a student’s academic success,” said Coordinator Annie Poyner. “We often have more students than tutors in areas of our district and this new option creates opportunities for volunteers who want to help but who are unable to travel to library sites.” Students will join an online classroom and access the service through a library computer.

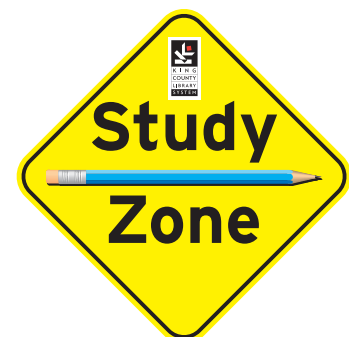
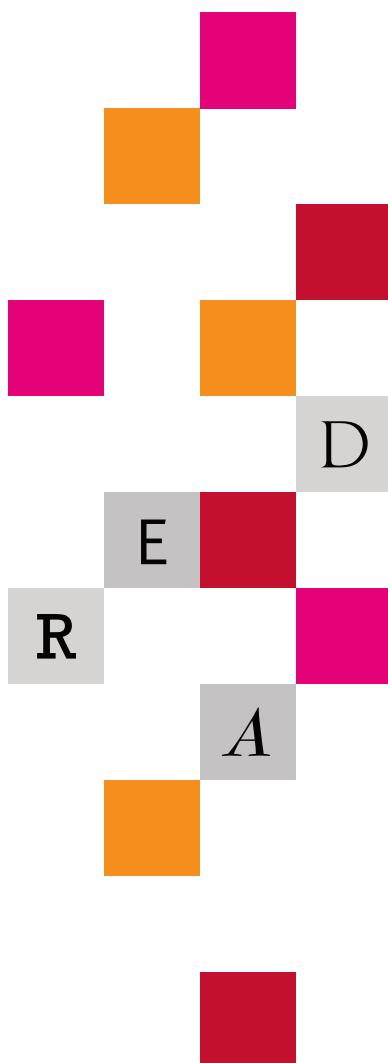
The goals of Study Zone are to provide a positive environment where students can do their homework, help students to better understand their academic subjects, and help students develop more effective study skills.

Study Zone is one of the largest library tutoring programs in the country and the new online classroom brings an innovative addition to the popular service.

Study Zone is recruiting volunteers for the in-library and online sessions. Tutors can connect with their students from any computer with internet access. “Volunteers can work from home or the office, even while traveling,” added Poyner.

The KCLS Foundation provides support for the Study Zone program, which served nearly 6,000 students last year.

For more information on the in-library and online volunteering opportunities, visit www.kcls.org/studyzone or contact the office at apoyner@kcls.org or 425.369.3312.



Literary Lions Gala: New Year, New Changes

Bring together talented authors and devoted readers with the opportunity to dine and celebrate in the library and you have the basics of a premier Northwest event: the Literary Lions Gala.



Approaching its 17th year, the event will undergo a transformation yet retain the essential elements of a festive evening celebrating authors and reading and raising funds for literacy and lifelong learning programs.

The Bellevue Library is the perfect setting and guests will be able to explore the building while meeting 40 authors, buying their new books and collecting their autographs. A unique literary-themed silent auction will appeal to book lovers

and browsers. A fabulous array of food will include Mediterranean- and Asian-inspired buffets on both floors and abundant seating with your colleagues, friends and family.

The month is March and the date and details will be set soon; watch the mail for the Save the Date card. For more information or to reserve your tickets or donate to the auction, contact Claire Wilkinson, cwilkins@kcls.org or 425.369.3448.

Reading Dominators Take Global Reading Challenge Honors

The Reading Dominators from Lakeridge Elementary on Mercer Island lived up to their name and took first place in the Global Reading Challenge this spring.



More than 1,650 students on 240 teams from 53 schools participated in the program, which is supported by the KCLS Foundation. Global Reading Challenge involves middle school students of varying skill levels, builds teamwork and includes books with multicultural themes. Following a series of local and regional contests, the Grand Challenge featured the four regional winners, which included Syre Elementary (Shoreline School District), Lakeland Hills (Auburn School District) and Beverly Park Elementary (Highline School District).

Anjali Banerjee, author of *Looking for Babu*, one of the books on the reading list this year, attended the event and encouraged the students to read and to follow their dreams.

Modeled on the popular “Battle of the Books” radio show from the 1930s, Global Reading Challenge promotes the love of reading, encourages teamwork and introduces children to a wide variety of reading materials. The motto is: “You always win when you read a book!”

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Teens Busy Reading, Reviewing Books in the Summer

If you saw more teens with books this summer, it may be due to the popularity of the Read 3, Get 1 Free program. This year-round program ramps up in the summer with additional prizes and incentives to help teens discover the joy of reading, enhance their reading and comprehension skills, stretch their imaginations and explore new worlds.

Teens read three books and wrote three reviews, and received a free book from the KCLS Foundation. Each set of reviews also qualified the teens to enter monthly drawings for gift certificates from Zumiez, Barnes and Noble and Target. Teens were also eligible for the grand prize drawing, a laptop computer donated by CDW. This year, a record 5,943 books were given away, representing 17,829 books read.

In addition, the Read•Flip•Win contest encourages teens to film book reviews and trailers and the KCLS Foundation provided the Flip Camcorders to the grand prize winners and prizes to the runners-up. View the winning entries at www.kcls.org/teens/rfw.



Kai Miyata, Richmond Beach Library, grand prize winner in the book trailer category, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

Fred Meyer Fund Grant Supports Teen Reading

The KCLS Foundation is pleased to announce that the Fred Meyer Fund has provided a grant of \$20,000 for the Read 3, Get 1 Free program. The funds will be used to provide the books that are given to the teens who participate in the program in 2009-2010.

“The Fred Meyer Fund was particularly impressed by the successful track record of the programs offered by the King County Library System and the KCLS Foundation,” said Glynda Brockhoff, philanthropy coordinator for Fred Meyer Stores and the Fred Meyer Fund. “We hope this grant will help the Library and the Foundation continue their important efforts to enrich literacy and the joy of reading in the community. We are proud to be part of the King County community and are committed to helping where we can.”

The Fred Meyer Fund assists nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping children and reducing hunger in communities served by 130 Fred Meyer stores in Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Idaho. Fred Meyer is a division of The Kroger Company, which is one of the nation’s largest good retailers. The Fred Meyer Fund contributes more than \$10 million to communities in the Northwest each year through grants from the Fred Meyer Fund as well as product donations, cash donations and sponsorships.

Library News

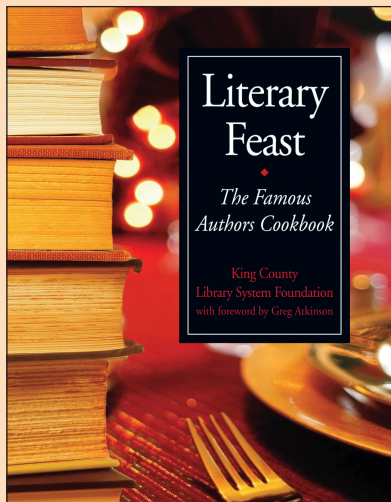
The February 9, 2010 ballot will include Proposition 1, a request by King County Library System to restore the property tax levy rate to 50 cents per \$1,000 assessed value, for collection in 2011. This proposition provides voters the opportunity to modify KCLS property tax limits for one year. The result will determine whether KCLS will maintain its current level of service or make cuts. For more information, visit www.kcls.org.

The KCLS Summer Reading Program—**Be Creative @ Your Library**—drew a record 43,638 sign-ups for the program, a 10% increase over last summer. More than 22,000 children reached the half-way mark (500 minutes), a 9% increase. And, 20,480 claimed their final prize (1000 minutes), an 8% increase.

The KCLS Foundation supports this program and thanks Pizza Hut for its generosity in providing the half-way prizes and CDW for the laptop computers for the regional prize drawings.

Anna Bailey, a summer reading finisher, submitted this Haiku:

*libraries are cool
books, librarians, reading
equals a good place*



Finding the perfect gift for your book club members, your family of readers or that special cook can be a daunting challenge. *Literary Feast: The Famous Authors Cookbook* is ideal for all the people on your gift list.

The authors provide summaries of their works and glimpses into their lives through their stories and recipes. The recipes range from simple and straightforward to eclectic to irresistible. Try the Cowboy Cookies (Rick and Anne Steves), After-Burner Chili (John J. Nance), Barry White

Baked Brie (Jennie Shortridge), Boccone Dolce (William Dietrich) and scores of outstanding regional and family favorites.

Literary Feast retails for \$22.95 and proceeds benefit literacy and lifelong learning programs. Purchase copies online at www.thriftbooks.com/kclsf and at Costco and in bookstores. Call the KCLS Foundation at 425.369.3448 or email foundation@kcls.org to reserve and pick up a copy at the Service Center in Issaquah. Ask about special discounts.

Gift Planning Web Pages Offer Tips and Tools

Visit the new KCLS Foundation's Gift Planning web pages. Simply log onto www.kclsfoundation.org and click on "Gift Planning," and you will find nearly 250 easy to understand articles that are monitored daily for tax and legal accuracy.

A good place to start is by downloading our free guide to organizing your estate planning documents. If you are preparing to meet with your attorney, download our eBrochure that provides a brief

overview of the estate planning process. The site offers 16 eBrochures that provide information on planned gifts that can benefit you, your heirs and the KCLS Foundation.

While you are on our site, be sure to interact with the Build your Gift and the Compare Gifts tools. In addition, you can instantly estimate the benefits of several types of gifts by using our online Gift Calculator. If you have questions or are interested in making a planned gift, contact (Mr.) Lynn Schrader at 425.369.3225 or giftplanning@kcls.org.

Support the KCLS Foundation through Workplace Giving

Workplace giving is a convenient way to support favorite organizations and makes it easy to say, "I gave at the office." Donations to the KCLS Foundation can be made through United Way, Washington State Combined Fund Drive, King County Employee Giving Program and workplace giving campaigns at several local companies.

The KCLS Foundation is a member of the Coalition for Charitable Choice and is included as an option for employees at dozens of companies and municipalities throughout King County.

"Libraries are the concert halls of the finest voices gathered from all times and places." ~Jean Paul Richter

Yes! I want to help create a community of readers!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I (we) would like to support the King County Library System Foundation with a gift of:

\$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other \$ _____

My (our) gift is made by: Check (enclosed) Credit Card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club, Discover)

Name on card: _____ Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____