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**READING IS SO DELICIOUS!
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC LIBRARIES LAUNCH
2013 SUMMER READING PROGRAMS**

San Mateo, CA, June 5th – Public libraries across the state are ready to show California kids that Reading Is So Delicious!

Public library summer reading programs encourage and enable children and teens to read during the summer break. The 2013 statewide summer reading program theme is Reading Is So Delicious! Libraries across the state will be providing youth with books, reading goals and incentives, and an enriching summer of food-based programs, crafts, and activities to enhance their reading experience – all free of charge.

“Public library summer reading programs are an integral part of the fight against summer learning loss in California,” said CLA President, Derek Wolfgram. “They encourage youth to set and meet reading goals, provide youth with opportunities for free, voluntary reading, offer activities that enrich the reading experience, and create communities of readers and library users.”

A vast body of research shows that students who lack access to summer learning opportunities risk suffering “summer learning loss” – a loss in academic skills and knowledge during the summer that sets them back academically and contributes to increased student drop-out rates. However, research also shows that reading just five books during the summer, and reading self-selected books, can help prevent summer learning loss in children and teens.

The statewide summer reading program is coordinated by the California Library Association (CLA). Each year, CLA provides California’s public libraries with pre-packaged, theme-based summer reading materials and training, to enable them to provide high-quality summer reading programs at the lowest cost possible. CLA’s summer reading materials are developed in partnership with the Illinois Library Association’s iREAD program. More information is available at: www.cla-net.org

The California Summer Reading Program is supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

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