



October 2014
Commission Report
Nancy Howe, County Librarian

Summer Science: Summer Reading at SCCLD was a Success!

We are pleased to announce the overall success of this year's Summer Reading Program. More than **15,000 children, teens and adults** throughout the Library District registered for the program, which resulted in over **50,000 books** being read by participants over the summer. More than **17,000 library patrons** attended at least one of the **290 Summer Reading Program events** held throughout the Library District. This year's participation showed an **18% increase** over the enrollment in SCCLD's 2013 Summer Reading Program.

"Fizz, Boom, Read!", the theme of the 2014 children's program, offered a variety of incentives to keep kids reading throughout the summer. Adults were able to join in on the fun by exploring *"Literary Elements."* Each year students around the nation often experience what experts call "the summer slide." Research shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the conclusion of the summer vacation than on those same tests taken at the beginning of summer. Santa Clara County Library District hosts annual summer reading programs to help combat this troubling phenomenon.

English as a Second Language Classes

SCCLD has received a \$40,000 grant from the California Department of Education to offer free ESL classes and to create curriculum materials for our ESL Conversation clubs. The clubs meet at every library, and the formal classes will be held at Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, and Milpitas beginning the third week in October. Intake sessions for the classes are currently underway. We expect approximately 100 students to enroll in the four classes, which will run through the end of June 2015.

100th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrations continue at every library through the month of October. While the Library District did not set a new world record for people walking 5 meters with books on their heads, we did have a fun and enjoyable event on September 6th at Saratoga Library with over 600 participants and dozens of volunteers. The world record attempt received very favorable publicity in the San Jose Mercury News (<http://bit.ly/1sqiaMo>), and one of the participants created a video summary of the event (<http://youtu.be/J8vgHj1I8c>).

Early Voting

The Gilroy, Milpitas, Campbell and Los Altos libraries will offer early voting for the November 4, 2014 election. Polling machines will be available for two weekends prior to the general election: Saturday and Sunday, October 25th and 26th, and November 1st and 2nd from 12 -5 p.m. In addition, voters can drop off completed vote-by-mail ballots at all Santa Clara County Library District locations. Voted ballots must be sealed inside the provided return envelope, and the envelope must be signed by the voter to be counted. Ballots can be returned all SCCLD locations during normal business hours from Monday, October 6th – Tuesday, November 4th.