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San Diego Public Library Begins Grade-Level Reading Initiative in Logan Heights

READY FOR 4th LITERACY CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON REACHING LITERACY MILESTONES BEFORE ENTERING FOURTH GRADE

SAN DIEGO – In response to literacy research, a new reading program was launched in the Logan Heights neighborhood to prepare children to read at grade-level by the time they enter fourth grade. Introduced on Tuesday evening at the Logan Heights Library, the [READY for 4th](#) program was created in partnership with the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), the San Diego Unified School District and the San Diego Public Library.

Research by the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) shows that students who reach fourth grade without fundamental literacy, numeracy and social-emotional skills will likely struggle throughout their school years, and are four times more likely to drop out of school than children who reach these benchmarks by the end of third grade.

“The San Diego Public Library is an integral part of the Logan Heights community, and we feel accountable to the children in this neighborhood,” said Misty Jones, Director of the San Diego Public Library. **“Early literacy paves a path for success, and our Library staff is committed to working with our partners to ensure Logan Heights students are reading at their grade-level.”**

Included with the launch of the **READY** for 4th literacy campaign at the Logan Heights library, were gifted children’s books to start or add to an at-home library for participating families. Campaign partners also offered fun activities including face painting and a special performance of “Rabbit in the Moon, A Mexican Folktale” by Gaston’s Puppets.

Logan Heights will join more than 300 communities in the United States that are taking part in the national [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) program and working with their local coalitions to ensure all low-income children are ready to learn. While each program is tailored to the community in which it is located, the Campaign focuses on three key areas – school readiness, school attendance and preventing “summer slide,” which is the loss of school skills between school years.

“The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is delighted to welcome San Diego to our communities’ network,” said Alicia Maldonado, Senior Consultant and State Lead for the Campaign in California. “We appreciate the amount of time, thought and energy that we know is required to bring a community together for this work. We applaud the Logan Heights community and the City of San Diego for the commitment to support their most vulnerable children and families.”

The **READY** for 4th program will be concentrated at four San Diego Unified schools in the Logan Heights neighborhood – Burbank Elementary, Logan K-8, Perkins K-8 and Sherman Elementary. Logan Heights is part of the San Diego Promise Zone and the **READY** for 4th program also supports two of the goals for that program – expanding educational opportunities and promoting health and access to healthcare.

“This partnership creates important reading opportunities for San Diego families and is a great fit with the SDHC Achievement Academy’s 2Gen San Diego program and additional programs for families with children,” said Azucena Valladolid, Senior Vice President of SDHC’s Rental Assistance Division.”

The [SDHC Achievement Academy](#) is a learning and resource center and computer lab with free programs for SDHC’s federal rental assistance participants and public housing residents including career planning, job skills and personal financial education. Funded by a three-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the 2Gen San Diego program provides participating families with opportunities in four key areas - financial stability, health & wellness, education & employment and social capital.

About the San Diego Public Library

With a vision of being the place for opportunity, discovery and inspiration, the San Diego Public Library is a hub for knowledge and lifelong learning. As the largest library system in the region, it serves a population of more than 1.3 million people. Learn about events at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common and 35 community branch libraries, find links to programs and resources or search for materials in the online catalog at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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