

Burlingame Public Library Children’s Services Report September 2024

The Burlingame Library Children’s Services team has four full-time staff members committed to offering the best for Burlingame Library patrons. We strive to present excellent collections, services, and a wide variety of programming for all ages from babies through age 18. The department is supported by eight on-call librarians who help staff at the busy Children’s Desk as we are open seven days a week.



Kathy von Mayrhauser, Kelly Grima, Alex Pantazes, and Jennifer Bousquet
with the bingo grand prize French bulldog.
Summer Learning Challenge 2024 – Bonjour to Reading!

Kathy von Mayrhauser is the manager for Children’s Services and the Easton Branch Library. She particularly enjoys creating programs for tweens, reading extensively in the children’s chapter book collection, and then presenting book talk visits to upper-elementary age students. Her favorite program during her 23 years at the library is *Food & Fiction*, a book discussion group in which the tweens also make a recipe relevant to the story!

Jennifer Bousquet enjoys collaborating with her colleagues in the Children's Department to come up with fun and educational programs for children and their families throughout the year. Families come to the library for both enrichment, fun and support. Whether we are promoting Poetry Month, Summer Learning, Winter Reading, or our weekly storytimes and monthly programs, building connections with families through programs and customer service is very rewarding. Every day is different at the library and that is one of the parts of the job she enjoys most.

Kelly Grima has been a Children's Librarian at the Burlingame Library for 11 years. She is responsible for the picture book, beginning reader and board book collections at the Main and Easton libraries. Kelly loves doing storytimes and class visits with our youngest visitors. She has a lot of fun putting together the bi-monthly Scavenger Hunts for the Children's Room and the Easton Branch Library, likes to decorate and keep the Children's Room tidy and looking its best!

Alex Pantazes is the newest member of our team and is enjoying settling into her new role. As the Children's and Teen Librarian, she finds joy in the everyday, getting to create fun programs for kids of all ages, and picking out awesome books for the library. Alex loves collaborating with colleagues to bring ideas to life. Her favorite thing is having the opportunity to build connections with families and library kids—especially during storytime.

This highlight report will focus on the fiscal year July 2023-June 2024 and spotlight a sampling of the many programs we were able to present because of the generous support of the Burlingame Library Foundation. In this year we presented a total of **502** programs for children and teens with a total attendance of **30,132** patrons.

Spotlights of the Year:

Young Children

STORYTIMES – Regular storytimes are presented five times each week and bring in large crowds of children, parents, and caregivers. During this year we added a second weekly storytime at the Easton Branch every Tuesday morning at 10:30 am. This year we offered 208 storytimes at the Main and Easton serving 11,667 patrons.

SPECIAL STORYTIMES & PROGRAMS – We presented special storytimes for Sign Language, Mandarin Language, Grandparents’ Day, Black History, National Library Week, and Mother’s Day offering 24 special storytime programs serving 1,991 patrons.

CLASS VISITS FOR PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN – Preschool classes visit the library during the year, and we presented seven class visits for this age while serving 203 patrons.

IN LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNTS – We provide scavenger hunts every other month in the Children’s Room and at the Easton Branch Library. This year we offered six scavenger hunts at each library for a total of 12 scavenger hunts serving 3,834 patrons at the Main Library and 897 patrons at the Easton Branch.

OUR LARGEST CIRCULATING COLLECTION IS PICTURE BOOKS – In this fiscal year, we circulated 38,354 picture books at the Main Library and 7,433 picture books at the Easton Branch Library.

School Age Children

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP -- CLASS VISITS AT THE LIBRARY, LIBRARY CARD DRIVES & ZOOM AUTHOR EVENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN– 200 Kindergarten students received their first library card during our 13th annual Kindergarten Library Card Drive. 204 elementary school classes came to the Main Library Children’s Room or Easton Branch for a special class visit during the school year with 1,687 students visiting. We were also able to present four Zoom author events for teachers to bring their classes to hear an author speak and introduce their class to a book ahead of time. 895 students enjoyed these events this year.

HOMEWORK CENTER – We offered a Homework Center at the library three days a week in the Fall and Spring semesters. These sessions provide homework assistance by honor students from local high schools for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Over this year we provided 74 homework sessions with 732 students attending.

WINTER & SUMMER READING – Winter Reading for December 2023/January 2024 saw a big increase this year with 452 children finishing the program and 61 teens completing the reading log. Summer Learning Challenge 2024 brought in 2,519 children and 536 teens signing up to get a free book. Participants finishing the program totaled 570 children and 166 teens completing the program for a chance to win a \$1,000 college scholarship.

SEWING FOR KIDS – Sewing for children 10-14 years old was launched and met six times in the Tech Lab with a total attendance of 59 students.

SPECIAL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS – Two book discussion groups are offered each month during the year. Book Club Fun is a monthly program for second and third grade students in which we read a book, discuss it, and then make a fun project that relates to the book. Food & Fiction is a monthly book discussion group for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students and features a cooking project after each month’s discussion.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS – Pumpkin Painting at the Main Library and the Easton Branch, a Halloween Puppet Show, a December Magic Show, Winter Music at the Easton Branch. These five holiday programs served 910 patrons.