

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### News Release

#### *Eat, Laugh, Learn, & Grow at the Kern County Library's Lunch at the Library Program*

The Kern County Library (KCL) is delighted to announce the expansion of the *Lunch at the Library* program, which kicked off in June this year! In addition to locations at the Arvin Branch Library, Beale Memorial Library, Frazier Park Branch Library, and McFarland Branch Library, KCL has 3 more locations at Delano Branch Library, Ridgecrest Branch Library, and Southwest Branch Library. Anyone, regardless of income, between the ages of 2-18 can eat a healthy lunch for **FREE** during the Summer at these branches. While there, enjoy the hundreds of **FREE** events and programming, and sign-up for the Summer Reading Challenge!

The *Lunch at the Library* program, in partnership with the California Library Association, Arvin Union School District, Delano Union School District, El Tejon Unified School District, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Kern High School District, McFarland Unified School District, Sierra Sands Unified School District, and the California Summer Meal Coalition, brings together the Kern County Library's longstanding Summer Reading tradition with a lunchtime meal, in an effort to combat Summer learning loss and Summer hunger. Closure of local schools for the Summer break can mean an end to learning, enrichment opportunities, and may also limit access to healthy food, an issue with the greatest impact on our communities' low-income children. Libraries are natural spaces for serving meals to children whose access to lunch disappears when school ends and Summer begins. Responding to the need and ensuring Kern County's children have continued access, these lunches are **FREE** to children, and are at a nominal fee to parents and caregivers.

This year, the *Lunch at the Library* program is more than just a place for children and teens to eat this Summer – it's a place to learn, laugh, and grow!

*For full event listings for the Lunch program & Summer, visit [KCLEvents.org](http://KCLEvents.org)*

#### Lunch Schedule by Branch:

• Arvin Branch	Mondays-Thursdays	Runs through July 26	12-1pm
• Beale Memorial	Mondays-Fridays	Runs through July 27	11:30am-12:30pm
• Delano Branch	Tuesdays-Thursdays	Runs through July 26	11:30am-12:30pm
• Frazier Park Branch	Tuesdays-Fridays	Runs through July 27 (excluding June 22)	12-1pm
• McFarland Branch	Wednesdays-Thursdays	Runs through July 5	11:30am-12:30pm
• Ridgecrest Branch	Tuesdays-Fridays	Runs through July 13	11:30am-12:30pm
• Southwest Branch	Tuesdays-Fridays	Runs through July 27	12-1pm