

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Release

Kern County Library: *Lunch at the Library*

The Kern County Library (KCL) is delighted to announce the expansion of the *Lunch at the Library* program. This year, in addition to Beale Memorial Library, we have added two more lunch locations -- at Arvin Branch Library & Frazier Park Branch Library. Anyone, regardless of income, between the ages of 2-18 can eat a healthy lunch for **FREE** during weekdays at the Arvin Branch Library and Beale Memorial Library locations from June 6 to July 29 and also at the Frazier Park Branch Library location from June 14 to July 29.

The *Lunch at the Library* program, in partnership with the California Library Association, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, El Tejon Unified School District, Arvin 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 reading 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 at \$3.00 for 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!

Lunch Schedule by branch:

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| • Arvin Branch Library | June 6-July 29, 2016 | Monday-Thursday | 12pm |
| • Beale Memorial Library | June 6-July 29, 2016 | Monday-Friday | 11:30am |
| • Frazier Park Branch Library | June 14-July 29, 2016 | Tuesday-Friday | 12pm |

For full event listings for the Lunch at the Library program, visit kerncountylibrary.org.