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## **News Release**

### ***“Catch The Reading Bug” This Summer At A Library Near You***

Public libraries across Colorado are gearing up to offer summer reading programs for students of all ages. Libraries will offer events, crafts, prizes and other fun activities to promote the enjoyment of reading a good book.

School is letting out for summer breaks across Colorado and parents may want to stop by their local library (or visit their library's Web site) for information about how to keep their children engaged in reading and learning.

This year's Colorado summer reading theme is “Catch the reading bug!” All summer long you can pick up fun stickers, bookmarks, and fun books at your local library.

Studies show that students who do not read during the summer can experience “summer set-back,” losing ground in learning and returning to school less ready for the next year than when they began their summer break.

“While school is out for the summer there is no better place to be inspired and to stay in the learning mode than at the local public library,” said Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. “Libraries offer terrific summer programs to inspire and enlighten students of all ages. If you don't do it already, consider making your local public library one of the routine places to visit this summer.”

In the summer of 2007, nearly 205,000 children participated in summer reading at their library. Over the past 10 years, approximately 1.5 million participants registered for summer reading programs at their Colorado public library.

"We have seen a significant increase in children's participation in summer reading programs at public libraries in the past 10 years," stated Eugene Hainer, Director of the Colorado State Library. "We hope for another record breaking year again in 2008."

So take a book along to the park, an audio book along on a long car trip, or even break out the comic books. In fact, students of all ages can have fun reading and earning prizes from their local public library.

The Colorado State Library, a unit of the Colorado Department of Education, provides support to public libraries who participate in the statewide summer theme. This support includes \$10,000 in annual grants to 60 public libraries, training and summer reading materials such as bookmarks, posters, stickers and certificates. The Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster is partnering with the State Library to provide programming and resources for Colorado public libraries.

For more information, contact your local public library or visit the Colorado State Library Summer Reading Web site at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/SummerReading/>.

**For more information, contact** Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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