



G.T. Bynum
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF BROKEN ARROW

MAY 04 2018

April 26, 2018

The Honorable Craig Thurmond
Mayor of Broken Arrow
220 S. 1st Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor Thurmond:

The children of our communities will soon have the opportunity to continue developing their reading skills during the Tulsa City-County Library's children and teen summer reading program. Research shows that children of all ages who don't read at all in the summer can lose up to two months or more of their reading skills, starting the next school year six to eight weeks behind. By encouraging the youth in our communities to read throughout the summer, we help them retain reading skills during the summer break.

I ask for your enthusiastic help in broadening the support for what our libraries and schools do for our communities. It is vitally important that we recognize the value of reading as the foundation by which all learning is dependent and encourage early participation while ensuring that reading be a fun endeavor.

This summer, the Tulsa City-County Library is promoting summer reading to the parents of pre-kindergarten children, ages zero to five; children, kindergarten through grade four; and teens and teens, just completed grade five through grade twelve with the theme *Libraries Rock*.

As community leaders we need to support services designed to keep children reading and learning throughout the summer. In order to participate and complete the program, children have to visit the library four times and read eight books between Tuesday, 29 May and Saturday, 4 August. Teens must read six books to complete their program. When these goals are achieved, fun prizes are awarded.

Last summer, 24.60% of the youth in Broken Arrow registered for the Summer Reading Program, 33.93% of the youth in Skiatook registered winning the Mayoral Challenge for their community. Let's make reading fun for our youngest citizens in our respective communities and see which city can get the highest percentage of children registered in the Summer Reading Program this summer!

If you and your community wish to take up this challenge, please contact Suanne Wymer, Tulsa City-County Library, 918.549.7368 or Suanne.Wymer@TulsaLibrary.org.

Best regards,

G.T. Bynum
Mayor
City of Tulsa