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Burleson Public Library summer reading program numbers are impressive!

Marc Marchand, director of library services for the City, says that the Summer Reading Club program participation this year exceeded expectations. "The goal of the Library's summer reading program is to encourage youth to keep up their reading skills over the summer. An added goal this year was to make it as fun and as convenient as possible in order to increase participation. Burleson youth knocked it out of the park, and we couldn't be more proud of them."

The Library offered a brand new way to participate this year by adding an online registration and tracking program which allowed parents and children to both register and keep track of their reading time from their cell phones or computers.

"In the past, parents had to come to the Library to register, we printed out reading logs for them to keep track of their reading time, and they had to come back to the Library to turn in the printed logs in order to receive their prizes," said Michele Wilson, children's services librarian. "Our families are busy, and the new online participation program made it much more convenient to participate. Of course, we want children to come to the Library, but the most important thing is that they are reading."

And, read they did! There were 1,209 people who registered online; the children and teens read a combined total of 348,990 minutes; and 479 participating adults read 1,259 books and submitted 1,291 book reviews. The teens alone read 1,544 hours and submitted 194 book reviews! Of the total number of minutes read, 678 children read 256,350 minutes. Total attendance at Summer Reading Club programs was 2,053.

The Library also credits the support received from the Friends of the Burleson Public Library, who raised money to enhance the summer reading program, and other City departments. A Fancy Nancy party was hosted at Hidden Creek Golf Course, swim parties and promotion provided by Parks and Recreation, a Monster Machines program was offered by Public Works, the Fire Department hosted a story time, and the Police Department coordinated with the Citizens On Patrol to help patrons safely cross the street from overflow parking due to high attendance at Library programs.

For more information, please contact the Burleson Public Library at 817-426-9210 or visit the Library online at www.burlesonlibrary.com. The library is located at 248 S.W. Johnson Ave.