

Robert J. Kleberg Public Library Newsletter
Happenings @ your library®
Friday, August 2, 2013

Summer Reading Ice Cream Party

Summer readers were treated to an ice cream party on Wednesday, July 17, 2013, as their reward for participating in the 2013 Summer Reading Program. Children were required to complete at least one full reading log in order to attend the event. The reading program consisted of reading a total of 750 minutes per log. An ice cream station, which consisted of both chocolate and vanilla ice cream, was set up. A toppings station, which consisted of various nuts, candies, bananas, cherries, pineapples, and other mix-ins, was also provided. The set-up allowed children and parents to build their own ice cream creations. A total of 80 participants took part in the event. A final count of 112 reading logs was returned. The library's total time of summer reading was exactly 84,000 minutes. The party was a cool success!



Local Author Hosts Book Signing

The library recently hosted a book signing on Saturday, July 20, 2013, with Ms. Estela Gutierrez, author of *The Break*. During her presentation, Ms. Gutierrez talked briefly about growing up in Benavides and Corpus Christi. These two predominately Hispanic communities influenced her life and writing. Her jobs as an English teacher and a television news producer helped develop and refine her writing skills. The enriching experiences from these jobs enabled her to write her first novel.



During the presentation, Ms. Gutierrez read excerpts from *The Break*. The plot revolves around the fictional character Claudia Fuentes. "Ballet is all Claudia Fuentes has ever wanted to do, and her dedication pays off when she is accepted to a prestigious summer workshop on the Mexican Pacific Coast. Just before she is to depart, however, her family endures a sudden tragedy. Grief and guilt threaten to pull her under, but the rekindling of a cherished friendship gives her strength." After the reading, Ms. Gutierrez conducted a small writing workshop that gave the audience an opportunity to write their own short stories. She presented the workshop using a PowerPoint presentation. Handouts were provided to the public to guide them with their writing skills and techniques. The event wrapped up with a Question and Answer session, followed by the book signing. Ms. Gutierrez is currently working on the sequel to her current book.