

Robert J. Kleberg Public Library Newsletter
Happenings @ your library®
Saturday, May 3, 2014

Fun Fact Tidbit

“Reading is important, because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything.”—Tomie dePaola

Library Board Recognizes Ruthie Valdez

On April 30, 2014, the library board members recognized Mrs. Ruthie Valdez, Assistant Library Administrator, for her untiring work while serving as Interim Library Director during Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Library Board President Goldia Hubert, along with several other board members, praised Mrs. Valdez for her leadership and direction during her time as director. The board thanked her for her 35 years of service to the library, and for stepping in and continuing to further the library’s mission and goals in the community. The library board also congratulated Mrs. Valdez for her nomination and recognition as the 2013 City of Kingsville *Employee of the Year*. On behalf of the library board, Mrs. Hubert presented Mrs. Valdez a token of appreciation from the board. Mrs. Valdez was surprised but very appreciative of the thank-you gift from the board. Mrs. Valdez thanked the library board for their support during her administration and for the opportunity to serve as the Interim Library Director.



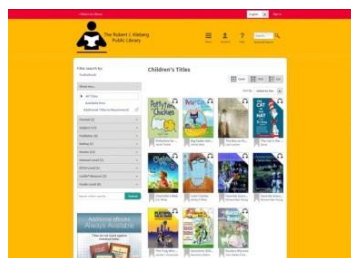
Toddler Time Easter Party

The library held its second annual Toddler Time Easter Party on Thursday, April 17, 2014. Sixty-three children and 50 adults attended this special time during the library’s regular Toddler Story Time at 9:30 a.m. Danielle Friend, the Children’s Librarian, read several Easter and spring stories. The children also sang Easter songs and danced the Bunny Hokey Pokey. Mary Ann Escamilla, the Reference Librarian, dressed up as the Easter bunny and joined the festivities. During the outside activities, the children hunted for Nickelodeon eggs, pre-filled cupcake eggs, and miniature Play-Doh® containers. The library served refreshments to the children and their parents after the activities. The event concluded with an Easter basket drawing which one-year old Adahlia Phoenix Reyes won. The families and staff enjoyed starting the holiday weekend with the Toddler Time Easter party.



Expanding the Juvenile and Youth Digital Collection

In February of 2014, the library launched its Overdrive® digital collection by introducing a limited selection of eBooks, audiobooks, and videos. With a generous financial donation from the *Friends of the Robert J. Kleberg Public Library*, the library was able to purchase additional titles for the Juvenile and Youth eBooks collection. The library plans to include more popular series and bilingual titles. Responses from children, especially teens, about the library’s digital collection have been positive. For more information about eBooks or limited assistance with compatible devices, patrons can visit the library during regular business hours.



Robert J. Kleberg Public Library Newsletter
May 3, 2014
Page 2

2014-2015 Texas Bluebonnet Award and Texas Lone Star Reading Lists

With summer around the corner, the Robert J. Kleberg Public Library has added the books from the 2014-2015 *Texas Bluebonnet Awards* and *Texas Lone Star Reading* lists to its collection. The *Texas*



Bluebonnet Award list covers grades 3-5, and the *Texas Lone Star Reading* list covers grades 6-8. Schoolchildren are encouraged to get a head start on these lists during their summer vacation. These books are required reading for the upcoming school year. During the month of January of each school year, students have an opportunity to vote once for their favorite book from the *Texas Bluebonnet Award* list. To meet the voting eligibility requirements, students must be enrolled in grades 3-6 in a registered school, or participate in the reading program at their registered public library. In addition, students must have read or heard read aloud at least five of the books from the list. The book that receives the most votes is the winner for that school year. Schools in Kleberg and Kenedy counties utilize these two lists. Schools assign students a summer project of reading several titles from the lists and writing online book reports. To accommodate area schoolchildren, the library purchases one hardcover copy of each title from both lists. Many of the titles are also available in eBook or audio format by visiting the library's website, www.kleberglibrary.com and clicking on the Overdrive® banner.

Students or parents are encouraged to visit the library and pick up either reading list at the Children's Services desk or print a copy from the library's homepage. To print a copy, simply select the *Kids & Teens* tab, and click on the appropriate list. Patrons needing further assistance can contact the Children's Services Librarian at 361-592-6381.

Library Expands Wi-Fi Zone

Wi-Fi users who utilize the library's wireless Internet connection are now receiving better outdoor coverage thanks to a new wireless outdoor repeater that the library recently installed in the breezeway. The device, a Meraki outdoor wireless repeater extends the wireless signal farther and encompasses a larger area of the library's courtyard. This



extended coverage gives both outdoor users and patrons in their vehicles access to an improved Internet connection. In addition, the repeater allows the library to retrieve various Wi-Fi usage statistics. Between January 21 and April 30, 2014, patrons connected 940 devices to the library's Wi-Fi network, and each device was connected for an average of 65 minutes. For weekends in April, an average of 60 devices connected to the Wi-Fi network. April also saw an overall 77% repeat device rate. With the repeater, the library can also manage Wi-Fi services and

set controls for the safety and security of library patrons. The library eventually plans to install a hardwired connection to this wireless outdoor repeater to bring faster Internet speeds for users in the courtyard. Patrons have shared with the staff positive feedback about the faster Internet connection. The library invites the community to take advantage of the free, 24/7 Wi-Fi service.