



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 9, 2019
Contact: Patti Swingle, Youth Services Librarian
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Subject: BLOCK Fest™ at the Port Angeles and Sequim Libraries
Attached: *Blockfest new.bmp, PMF logo.jpg*

The Parenting Matters Foundation, First Teacher Program, and the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) will offer BLOCK Fest™ in Port Angeles and Sequim. BLOCK Fest™ is a research-based block play program geared towards children from 8 months to 8 years and their caregivers. Children can rotate from station to station in a self-guided tour to play with a variety of different blocks. Parents and/or caregivers accompanying their child are strongly encouraged to join in the play. Socks are required for children and adults participating in this event. BLOCK Fest™ sessions will take place on Tuesday, July 16 at 10:30am at the Port Angeles Main Library, and Thursday, July 25 at 10:30am at the Sequim Middle School.

BLOCK Fest™ in Clallam County was initially supported by a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the Parenting Matters Foundation of Sequim. More information about the Parenting Matters Foundation, the First Teacher Program, and the research behind the BLOCK Fest™ phenomenon will be available and can also be found by visiting <http://www.clallamblockfest.org>.

About the Summer Reading Program

The theme for the 2019 Summer Reading Program is *A Universe of Stories*. This summertime celebration, which encourages children to keep reading during the summer break from school,

features a reading challenge with fabulous prizes, and a multitude of events for all ages. Research shows that children who do not read during the summer experience “summer slide” and may lose up to a month of the instructional knowledge they gained during the previous school year. Library summer reading programs have been shown to help alleviate the “summer slide” by providing access to books, enrichment activities, and encouraging young people to keep reading. The 2019 Summer Reading Program runs June 15 through August 17.

The Summer Reading Program is generously supported by the Friends of the Library at all four NOLS libraries. For more information about the Summer Reading Program and other events, visit www.nols.org/srp, call 360.417.8500, or email discover@nols.org. The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 S. Peabody St. The Sequim Middle School is located at 301 W. Hendrickson Rd.



BLOCK Fest™ is coming to Port Angeles and Sequim.

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