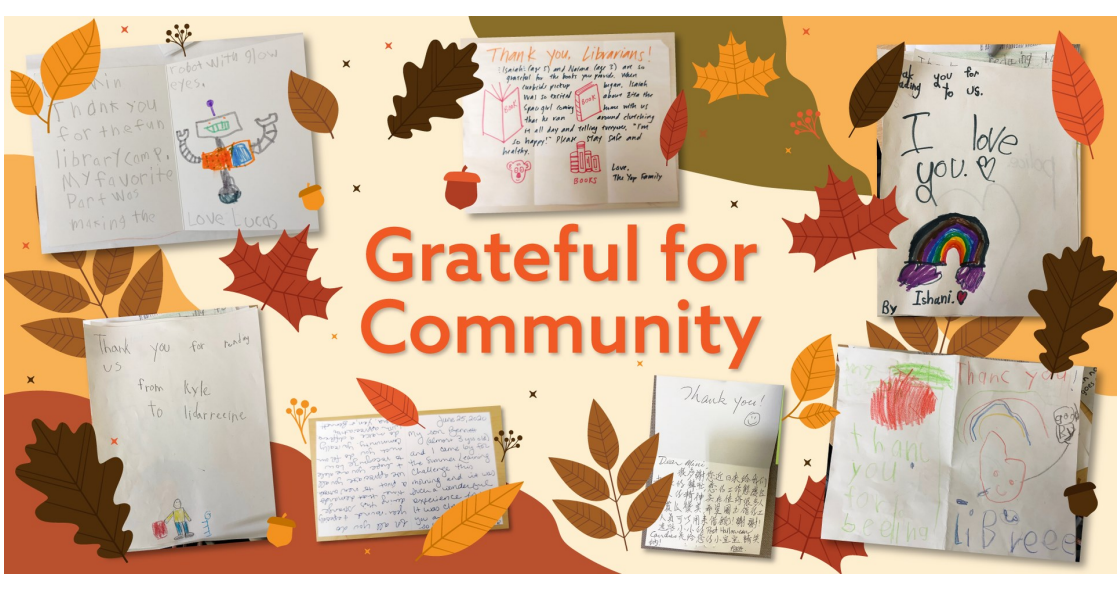
San Mateo County Libraries



Dear Community,

As Thanksgiving approaches, we're reminded of the chance to reflect on what we're grateful for, including community.

At San Mateo County Libraries, we are so thankful for you, our patrons, who inspire us to deliver excellent service and creative offerings across our 13 branches. We are grateful for each of the communities we serve. If you have a special memory from one of your interactions with the library this year, we'd love for you to share your story.

A reminder that our libraries and Customer Care will close early at 5:00 PM on **Wednesday, November 23**, and we will be closed for Thanksgiving on **Thursday, November 24**, and **Friday, November 25**.

Thanksgiving allows us to gather with family or friends in celebration of harvest time and our gratefulness for all we have. It can also prompt us to reflect on the land we live on and our nation's history and colonization.

Maybe you're cooking this holiday or lucky enough to be showing up for a delicious meal. Our staff has gathered book recommendations for children, teens and adults to help you get in the holiday spirit with mouthwatering recipes and some of our favorite stories about food, family and community.

Share Your Story

Honoring Native American Heritage Month

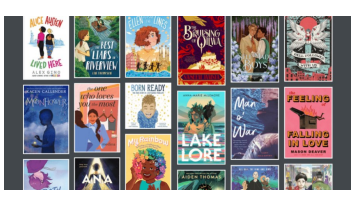
November is Native American Heritage Month and an opportunity for us to learn about Native American history and culture. Our libraries across San Mateo County are located on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. Learn more about the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, and explore a great collection of online resources and library materials.

Learn More

Power Up Afternoons Guest Highlights: November 14– December 2

Power Up Afternoons is our weekday after-school offering designed for K-12 students. Students and families can drop in any time during Power Up Afternoons to see what we're exploring together that day. We're excited to highlight the experts that will be joining us as guests at a library near you soon!

Explore More



TransACTION Day of Change

In honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance, we invite you to TransACTION Day of Change on **Friday, November 18 at 3:00 PM** at the Courthouse Square in Redwood City. Led by the County of San Mateo LGBTQ Commission, the event will bring together agencies from San Mateo County to provide resources and services that support trans and gender-diverse community members and their friends and families.

Explore our trans and nonbinary book lists that staff put together for children and teens.

Read More

Explore More

Explore, learn and connect at our library programs!

Wordside: Creative Writing Group
Friday, November 18 • 11:00 AM • Woodside Library
Have a novel, poem, essay or memoir in the works? Interested in hearing what others are writing? Join our creative writing group to exchange constructive, encouraging feedback with other writers and readers. All are welcome!

In-Person English Conversation Club
Tuesday, November 22 • 2:00 PM • Millbrae Library
Improve your English and make new friends! Practice your speaking skills with fluent speakers and other English language learners in a small group at the Millbrae Library. Open to all skill levels. For adults ages 18 and over. Capacity limits may apply. We ask that all attendees wear a mask.

Blood Drive With Stanford Blood Center
Sunday, November 27 • 10:00 AM • Belmont Library
It's time to make your appointment for the upcoming Blood Drive with the Stanford Blood Center. All donors will receive a long-sleeved holiday T-shirt. Registration is required.

Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show
Monday, November 28 • 3:30 PM • North Fair Oaks Library
Come learn about the amazing society of honeybees, demonstrated by Ms. Ellen and Uncle Jer through storytelling and puppetry. Learn the bee dance, taste honey and see live bees in a safe observation hive!

Venga a aprender sobre la asombrosa sociedad de las abejas melíferas, demostrada por la Sra. Ellen y el tío Jer a través de la narración de cuentos y los títeres. ¡Aprende la danza de las abejas, prueba la miel y observa abejas vivas en una colmena de observación segura!

Jojo Calligraphy: Kids Creativity Hour
Wednesday, November 30 • 3:30 PM • San Carlos Library
Calling interested kids to experience the calming Zen and flow while writing Chinese Calligraphy. This class teaches how to use a calligraphy brush and make pictographic characters. You will be guided to write Chinese characters, stroke by stroke patiently. This program is part of Power Up Afternoons.

Village of the Coastside Movie Night
Wednesday, November 30 • 5:30 PM • Half Moon Bay Library
Join us for our free monthly movie night! In collaboration with Village of the Coastside this month, we will be watching *Where the Crawdads Sing*, based on the novel by Delia Ownes. Where the Crawdads Sing is a coming-of-age story of a young girl raised by the marshlands of the South in the 1950s. Abandoned by her family, Kya Clark, otherwise known as the "Marsh Girl", is mysterious and wild. When the town hotshot is found dead and inexplicably linked to Kya, she is the prime suspect in his murder case.

Free Personalized Immigration Workshop | Taller de inmigración personalizada y gratuita
December 4 & January 29 · Half Moon Bay and North Fair Oaks Libraries
Receive one-on-one help with a free lawyer for your immigration process from The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a nonprofit that provides free help with naturalization! They will review your eligibility, assist you with your application for citizenship, and your information will be confidential. If you feel comfortable, it is recommended you bring all necessary documentation for your application.

Recibe ayuda individualizada con un abogado gratuito para su proceso de inmigración con The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), ¡una organización sin fines de lucro que proporciona ayuda gratuita con la naturalización! Ellos revisarán su elegibilidad, asistirán con su aplicación de ciudadanía y su información se mantendrá confidencial. Si se siente cómodo, se recomiendo traer toda la documentación necesaria para su aplicación.

Explore All Events

Make sure to follow our blogs for updates on new events, resources and services.

Stay connected with our family of libraries!

San Mateo County Libraries

ATHERTON | BELMONT | BRISBANE | EAST PALO ALTO | FOSTER CITY | HALF MOON BAY | MILLBRAE | NORTH FAIR OAKS
PACIFICA SANCHEZ | PACIFICA SHARP PARK | PORTOLA VALLEY | SAN CARLOS | WOODSIDE | BOOKMOBILE

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