



Dear Community,

During the winter holidays, many of us gather for celebrations we look forward to all year. The anticipation of special traditions and the changing of seasons can be exciting but also overwhelming.

It's easy to get caught up in cooking the perfect meal, finding just the right gift or making it to all the events we've been invited to join. One of our librarians took time to reflect on this feeling of holiday stress. With her insights, we're sharing ideas on [mental health for the holidays](#).

We can be thrown off our normal routines during this season and returning to them in the new year can be difficult. Use our *New York Times* 72-hour, complimentary [unlimited access pass](#) to read the article, [The Little Rituals That Keep Us Going](#) to get inspired by readers' non-negotiable wellness routines.

Looking for a moment of reset? Try [Calm](#), a mindfulness app and service that we've partnered with so you can download it right to your device. Find concepts for calming anxiety or practice meditation in the comfort of your home.

If you need activities over winter break or to entertain visitors, [our libraries](#) are a perfect destination to get out of the house for free. Enjoy our upcoming [live music performances](#) or engaging [storytimes](#). Discover tech including our 3D printers and laser cutters or cozy up with a good book. We're here to help this holiday season.

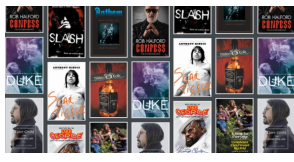
[Learn More](#)



[Winter Wonder Festival at the Libraries](#)

As the days grow shorter and a winter chill descends, wrap yourself up in some soothing sounds from [local musicians](#) at a [library location](#) near you. Join us for live jazz at these upcoming events.

[Discover More](#)



[Music Biographies Book List](#)

Need music inspiration, interested in learning more about your favorite musician or just looking for something new to read? Check out our [Music Biographies Book List](#) to find new artists and facts about some iconic musicians!

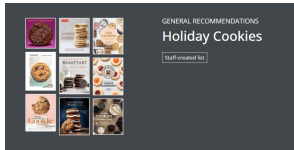
[Read More](#)



[Noon Year's Eve Storytime](#)

Join us for some very special [Noon Year's Eve Storytime](#) events with songs, craft activities and more! These New Year's Eve themed celebrations are a perfect way for little ones to ring in 2023 during the daytime. Meet some of your favorite characters like Elephant & Piggie plus Pete the Cat. Get to know the characters with [our suggested reads](#) ahead of meeting them in person! [Our libraries](#) will be celebrating all week from **December 27** to **December 30**!

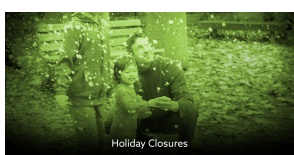
[Explore More](#)



[Holiday Cookies](#)

The holidays are fast approaching! Check out these great cookbook ideas to find the best cookie recipes of the season. Bake up some inventive new favorites or discover the best versions of time-tested classics.

[Read More](#)



[Holiday Closures](#)

[San Mateo County Libraries](#) and [Customer Care](#) will be closed on **Saturday, December 24**, **Sunday, December 25**, and **Monday, December 26**. Visit us at [smcl.org](#).

Explore More

Explore, learn and connect at our [library programs](#)!

[Winter Storytime: How Mr. Rat Got His Cheese With Author Isabelle Burge](#)
Saturday, December 17 • 1:00 PM • [Foster City Library](#)

How might a clever rat secure himself a tasty cheese snack? To find out, come listen to author [Isabelle Burge](#) read from her charming, rhyming book, [How Mr. Rat Got His Cheese](#)! Suitable for children ages 3–8 and will be followed by a fun holiday craft.

[Labor Market Information: Find Your Next Job](#)

December 20 & 27 • 10:00 AM

This workshop will provide job seekers with the basics of how to effectively use [Labor Market Information](#) as an essential tool to make informed, accurate decisions on how to get a job, improve their skills or enhance their careers. Registration is required.

[SkyDome Planetarium](#)

December 20, 21 & 22 • Some San Mateo County Libraries

Come join a 45-minute solar system tour in SkyDome's portable, inflatable planetarium at the library. Best for kindergarten – 8th grade students and accompanying adults. Space is limited, registration is required.

[An Outer Space Mission – Stop Motion](#)

Thursday, December 22 • 11:00 AM • [North Fair Oaks Library](#)

Learn how to make a short stop motion film! Let's create an outer space adventure together. Feel free to bring toys, objects or art from home that will help you tell your story.

[Digital Painting and Drawing Drop-In](#)

Thursday, December 22 • 4:00 PM • [Millbrae Library](#)

Try your hand at drawing digitally with our stylus tablets! We'll provide the tools, you provide the creativity. Space is limited.

[Paws for Tales](#)

Wednesday, December 28 • 3:30 PM • [Brisbane Library](#)

Do you have a reluctant reader? Sign your child up to have their own session to practice reading with a therapy dog at the library. Registration is required.

[Explore All Events](#)

Make sure to [follow our blogs](#) for updates on new events, resources and services.



6 feet



[smcl.org/covid](#)

For the latest updates on COVID-19



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

Open for Exploration™

[smcl.org](#)

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