

Summer is almost here, and with it comes some exciting developments at the Kirkland Town Library! We are so excited to take our first step toward reopening: we'll be offering curbside pickup starting June 15. That means you'll be able to contact us to let us know what items you want (books! DVDs! Dolls and robots!) and we'll leave them outside for you to safely pick up. Visit our website at kirklandtownlibrary.org for all the details.

I'm also thrilled that next week we'll be kicking off our summer reading program! This year's theme is "Imagine Your Story," which focuses on folk and fairy tales, mythology, and other imagined worlds. This summer will look very different from summers past, but our end goal is still to get kids and families reading over the summer and offer enriching activities. Here's how we're doing it:

All ages are invited to participate in our reading challenges, and each age group will have a raffle prize drawing at the end of the summer. This year kids are challenged to read 10 hours – two hours more than last year! I know you all can do it! Adults can meet the challenge by reading five books. Anyone can take part by picking up a paper reading log from the library, downloading one from our website, or by signing up to use our online reading program, READsquared, found at kirklandtownlibraryny14.readsquared.com.

READsquared is new to our library, and is a fun way to keep track of the time you and your family have spent reading. As you read and log your minutes, you'll earn digital badges and unlock games, and ultimately earn a raffle ticket for a prize drawing. We're giving away gift cards to local businesses, and children can enter to win a private stuffed animal sleepover for their favorite stuffed friends! You can complete a challenge as many times as you want, and the more times you do, the more raffle tickets you earn.

The biggest change to our summer reading program is the absence of in-person programs at the library. No one will miss these programs more than me! But instead of having typical library programs, we'll be offering weekly activities for kids that you can do at home. You'll be able to pick up materials at the library or print them yourself from our website or READsquared. You and your kids may be over screen time at this point, so the activities are all designed to be hands-on or to get you moving. If you're interested in a little preview of what activities we'll be offering, you can watch our Summer Reading Preview video on our website.

The library may look quiet and closed at the moment, but don't let that fool you! The library staff has been busy figuring out how to safely give you access to our collections and how to provide our usual services in a new way. Things may look a little different for a while longer, but I think you'll find the heart of the library remains the same. I know we can't wait to see our wonderful community in our building again.