



# Resources for parents, students, and families

Revised and expanded by Shelly Dame, GATE Specialist

Gibson Elementary School

Students of all abilities benefit from additional learning and enrichment opportunities. The information contained in this resource is not all inclusive and other resources can be located by a simple internet search. Topics include academic support/enrichment, local opportunities for activities and learning, and more! Please keep in mind that all of the resources are not appropriate for all children and some might require parental assistance. Please utilize the following information in a way that works best for your family. If you have additions, suggestions, or corrections, please contact me at [damesj@nv.ccsd.net](mailto:damesj@nv.ccsd.net)

## **Resources for Parents/Families**

**Family and Community Engagement Services (FACES)** is a CCSD community partner that provides activities, training and support to children and their families free of charge. Engagement Centers are located at select elementary schools throughout the valley. Additional presentations are held monthly at various elementary schools.

Contact them at 702-799-0303 or visit their website <http://faces.ccsd.net>

**The Annenberg Learner** website has free interactive learning programs on a wide variety of topics that are appropriate for students of all levels. Students can choose the skill level and content then move independently through the lessons. This is self-directed learning at its best. <http://www.learner.org/interactives>

**FunBrain** is an educational website, verified by KidSafe, with exciting arcade games at all levels. Children in grades K-8 can watch lesson videos and practice their skills in attention-grabbing games at instructional levels that work for them. Game directions are conveniently illustrated to assist struggling readers too.

<http://www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html>

**Storyline Online** is an excellent resource for all children. This website records free videos of narrators, and sometimes well-known actors like Eva Longoria, reading children's books aloud. Students develop their literacy skills by following along with text as the literature comes alive.

<http://www.storylineonline.net>

**Into the Book!** is a website created by The Wisconsin Media Lab. This fantastic resource provides engaging reading comprehension activities in English and Spanish. Elementary children will benefit from dissecting books of high interest to all students. Short videos are included to teach important reading strategies like visualization and summarizing.

<http://reading.ecb.org/index.html>

**The Exploratorium** is the perfect place for kids that have a knack for science. It is one of many websites that bring to life a museum collection without the cost of traveling. This particular website brings the San Francisco museum to your desktop. Children and their families can scroll through 55 pages of educational videos to illustrate key topics like climate change, electricity, and human anatomy.

<https://www.exploratorium.edu/explore>

**AdaptedMind** allows all students to discover hundreds of amusing reading and math activities. Children start with a quick pretest before engaging in video lessons. Students take frequent progress assessments and results are available to parents. Lessons are adapted to the individual learning needs of each child. Sign up for a free month of exploring by visiting their website.

<http://www.adaptedmind.com>

**Do2Learn** attracts over 11 million views monthly. It is an unparalleled special needs resource. Learning disabled youth access thousands of free elementary-level worksheets for literacy, math, visual discrimination, behavior management, and more. There are also printable picture cards available to promote functional communication in children with Autism

<http://do2learn.com>

**The Davidson Institute for Talent Development** offers online resources for gifted students and their families. The Davidson Institute provides an online community for students to connect and share similar experiences. Summer programs are available for a fee.

<http://davidsonfigted.org>

**Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)** has an immense array of resources for anyone wanting to learn more about giftedness. Students and parents can participate in webinars, home study courses, and learn more from suggested resources.

<http://sengifted.org>

**National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)** is a major source of information about gifted programs and provides information about the state of gifted education in the country. Resources are available for parents, families, and educators on all topics relating to the field of gifted education.

<http://nagc.org>

# **Family Field Trips to Local Attractions**

## **The Planetarium**

This is Southern Nevada's only public planetarium! They present programs to the general public and the local schools onto a domed screen. The screen features an Evans & Sutherland Digistar 3 hemispheric video projection system that creates virtual realities on the dome surrounding the audience. The CSN planetarium shows many different features throughout the year, and the observatory offers close-up views of celestial sights such as the moon, planets and various star formations. For more information, contact The Planetarium College of Southern Nevada, Sort Code S1A, 3200 E. Cheyenne Avenue, North Las Vegas, NV 89030-4296, contact (702) 651-4759 or visit <http://www.csn.edu/planetarium>

## **Wetlands Park**

The Clark County Wetlands Park is a 2,900-acre area bordering both sides of the Las Vegas Wash as it flows past Frenchman Mountain and the red sandstone of Rainbow Gardens on its way to Lake Mead. With miles of paved trails, visitors can explore the streams, ponds and islands that make up the Wetlands Park. 128 species of migratory birds call the area home at least part of the year. The visitor and education center offers visitors a chance to examine the ecology of the area more closely and to learn about the importance of preserving wildlife and protecting Lake Mead and the Colorado River System. For more information, contact (702) 455-7522 or visit <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/parks/Pages/wetlands-park.aspx>

## **Valley of Fire**

Valley of Fire State Park is located only six miles from Lake Mead and 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas via Interstate 15, exit 75. Valley of Fire is Nevada's oldest and largest state park, dedicated in 1935. The valley derives its name from the red sandstone formations formed from great shifting sand dunes during the age of dinosaurs, 150 million years ago! Complex uplifting and faulting of the region, followed by extensive erosion, have created the present landscape. Other important rock formations include limestones, shales, and conglomerates. Ancient trees and early man are represented throughout the park by areas of petrified wood and 3,000 year-old Indian petroglyphs. Popular activities include camping, hiking, picnicking and photography. The park offers a full-scale visitor center with extensive interpretive displays and exhibits on the geology, ecology, prehistory, and history of the park and the nearby region. The park is open all year. Call (702) 397-2088 or visit <http://parks.nv.gov/parks/valley-of-fire-state-park>

## **Lake Mead National Recreation Area**

Lake Mead NRA offers year-round recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, photography, picnicking and sightseeing. It is also home to thousands of desert plants and animals, adapted to survive where rain is scarce and temperatures can soar. Lake Mead National Recreation Area is open year-round, 24 hours, 7 days a week. Some beaches and other areas are day-use only, from dawn til dusk. These areas are marked with signs. The Alan Bible Visitor Center is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m daily. Please call 702-293-8990 for more information.

## **The Dolphin Habitat and Secret Garden**

One of the best attractions in Las Vegas is this 2.5 million gallon Dolphin Habitat and Secret Garden at the Mirage. It is home to a family of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins and impressive big cats. Its purpose is to provide a healthy and nurturing environment as well as to educate the public about mammals and their environment -- including their role in the ecosystem. The Dolphin Habitat and Secret Garden is an educational facility. Guests are provided the chance to see the animals in a naturalistic environment, exhibiting natural behaviors. Guided tours for the public are conducted throughout the day. The habitat is also a site for scientific research and educational programs for students from pre-school through university age. For more information regarding prices and hours, contact (702) 792-7980 or visit <http://www.miragehabitat.com>

## **Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay**

One of the most amazing aquatic experiences to be found anywhere is right in our neighborhood. Nearly 75 species of aquatic life including tropical fish, reptiles, and yes -- sharks! The centerpiece of the attraction is a 1.3 million gallon tank with a tunnel that runs through the center of it. Guests gaze at more than 100 sharks swimming all around them, including above and below. In with the fishes are scuba-suited experts who wear special headsets that allow them to educate visitors about the sharks and other marine life within the reef. For more information, contact (702) 632-7777 or visit <http://www.sharkreef.com>

## **Red Rock Canyon**

Red Rock Canyon allows visitors to hike, picnic and view plant and animal life under 3,000-foot-high red rock formations. The strata exposed reveal more than 500 million years of geological history. The canyon is a bed of an ancient deep sea, where, over time, sediments washed in and the water evaporated. Visitors can explore the park on a 13-mile-loop road that winds through the canyon and reveals rock formations that cannot be seen from outside the park. Picnic areas and hiking trails also can be accessed by the loop. For more information, contact <http://www.redrockcanyonlv.org>

## **The Springs Preserve**

If you haven't been to The Springs Preserve, it's a must-see! This is a 180-acre non-gaming cultural and historical attraction designed to commemorate Las Vegas' dynamic history and to provide a vision for a sustainable future. Known as the birthplace of Las Vegas, the site of the Preserve was once home to bubbling springs that were a source of water for Native Americans living here thousands of years ago. It also sustained travelers of the Old Spanish Trail and Mormons who came to settle the West. Educational programming at the Springs Preserve provides active learning opportunities for children, adults and teachers through lectures, tours and hands-on workshops. The Preserve offers the popular Water-Smart landscaping series and classes on arts and crafts, cooking, cultural studies and sustainable living. It is located at 333 S. Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada (between US 95 and Alta Drive). Contact Springs Preserve at (702) 822-7700 [www.springspreserve.com](http://www.springspreserve.com)

## **The Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve**

At the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve visitors can expect to see thousands of migratory waterfowl as well as numerous resident desert birds. The Preserve sits on approximately 140 acres. There are nine ponds for bird watching with surrounding paved and dirt paths. During the winter and early spring you can expect to see many species of duck such as the northern shoveler, green wing, cinnamon and blue wing teal, pintail, bufflehead, and one of the most beautiful of all North American ducks, the wood duck. When you visit you can expect to do a lot of walking, so be sure to wear appropriate clothing and comfortable walking shoes. Cameras and binoculars are also recommended. If you do not have binoculars, the Preserve has some available to loan you. It is located at 2400 B Moser Drive, Henderson, NV 89015 (702) 267-4030 or go to [http://www.birdandhike.com/Bird/Urban\\_LV/Henderson/\\_Henderson.htm](http://www.birdandhike.com/Bird/Urban_LV/Henderson/_Henderson.htm)

## **The Atomic Testing Museum**

The Atomic Testing Museum portrays world history through varied representations of the story of the Nevada Test Site and its programs. The museum features many never seen before, first-person narratives, large iconic artifacts, environmental re-creations, theatrical devices, and interactive elements for personal exploration. This museum is located at 755 East Flamingo Road, just east of Paradise Road. Call 702-794-5151 or visit <http://www.nationalatomictestingmuseum.org> for more information.

## **Discovery Museum**

From science to history, this recently relocated museum has interactive exhibits that rotate frequently and are an excellent example of hands-on learning. For more information, call (702) 382-KIDS or visit <http://www.discoverykidslv.org>

## **The Nevada State Museum**

The Nevada State Museum is full of interesting displays ranging from depictions of the desert wildlife that is indigenous to the area to life in Nevada during nuclear testing. Spanning the long, rich history of the 41st state, these exhibits range from the ice age to present day. The Museum is located in historic Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89107. For more information, contact (702) 486-5205 or <http://museums.nevadaculture.org>

## **Las Vegas Natural History Museum**

Exhibits at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum range from aquariums filled with fish, eels, lobster and sea horses to a live shark tank and a display of items found in a shark's belly. Children can take a hands-on approach in the young-scientist center. There's something for all ages here, including an insect zoo, reptile exhibit and nature books. The whole museum is kid-friendly, and it's a great place to take the family. For more information contact (702) 384-3466 or [www.lvnhm.org](http://www.lvnhm.org)

## **The Barrick Natural History Museum at UNLV**

This museum has exhibitions with concentrated emphasis on Native cultures of the Southwest and Central Americas. The Mojave Desert region is a world filled with natural beauty and life. The chance to see and understand its fascinating wildlife and fragile ecosystem is offered in several exhibits including a display of live snakes, lizards and desert tortoise. Exhibits on the Southern Paiute and Native Artistry illustrate man in the southwest. From the survival arts of the Southern Paiute to the dramatic weaving of the Navajo and beautiful carving of the Hopi, exhibits help the visitor to appreciate not only the beauty of objects but their personal and spiritual value. Further exhibits explore early Las Vegas, the building of Hoover Dam, pre-Columbian cultures, dance masks of Mexico and huipils of Guatemala. Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNIVERSITY OF LAS VEGAS, 4505 Maryland Pkwy Box 454012, Las Vegas, Nevada. Phone: (702) 895-3381 or visit <http://barrickmuseum.unlv.edu>

## **Clark County Museum**

A rich and colorful history of Southern Nevada comes to life as you step into the past at the Clark County Museum. Step into the past on Heritage Street, a unique collection of historic homes, restored to recreate the lifestyles of important periods in local history. Revisit the news at a replicated 1900's newspaper print shops. Railroad buffs will enjoy touring the 1932 Boulder City Depot and see a real 1918 Union Pacific steam engine and walk through an old-time Crummy, (railroad talk for cabooses). Enter a mining exhibit filled with mineral specimens, wander through a resurrected ghost town and half-mile Nature Trail...visit a pueblo of the ancient ones. No matter what your age... the Clark County Museum is a place where you can explore the rich and colorful history of Southern Nevada. Visit <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/parks/Pages/clark-county-museum.aspx> for more information.

## **The Lost City Museum**

The Lost City Museum was built by the National Park Service to exhibit artifacts that were being excavated from Pueblo Grande de Nevada. These Anasazi Indian sites were being threatened by the waters of Lake Mead as it backed up behind the newly built Hoover Dam. Eventually, when the lake was filled to capacity, about five miles of sites had been inundated or undercut by the water. Civilian Conservation Corps assisted in the excavation of the sites and the construction of the museum building. The building was constructed of sun-dried adobe brick in a pueblo- revival style. Programs include ongoing archaeological research on the remaining Lost City sites, school tours and outreach programs, changing exhibits and archival library and collections research capabilities. Lost City Museum, 721 S. Hwy 169, Overton, Nevada. (702) 397-2193 or <http://www.sunsetcities.com/lost-city-museum.html>

## **The Las Vegas Art Museum**

This museum is dedicated to presenting works by emerging and internationally recognized contemporary artists. The origins of the LVAM date back to 1950 when a small group of visionaries dedicated to bringing fine art to Las Vegas formed the Las Vegas Art League. In 1974, the Las Vegas Art League was renamed the Las Vegas Art Museum (LVAM), becoming the first fine art museum in the state of Nevada. LVAM re-located from Lorenzi Park to its present location in the Sahara West Library/Fine Art Museum building. The museum is located at 9600 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89117. Call (702) 360-8000 or visit <http://www.lasvegasartmuseum.org>

### **The Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum**

This nearby museum tells the story of the Boulder Canyon Project as it was experienced by the men and women who braved the desolation of the Southern Nevada desert to build Hoover Dam and Boulder City. The Museum's three-dimensional, interactive displays and exhibits describe the great social and economic forces surrounding the 1 Market Crash and Depression that drove thousands of unemployed citizens from their homes into the isolation of the Nevada desert where the Boulder Canyon Project was one of the few places in the United States where men could find work. Photographs, artifacts, oral histories, and the sounds of Hoover Dam construction ringing off the walls of Black Canyon provide a sense of the complexity, danger, and immense scale of the construction project, as well as a picture of ordinary life in an extraordinary time and place. Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum, 444 Hotel Plaza, Boulder City. (702) 294-1988 or <http://www.bcmha.org>

### **The Southern Nevada Museum of Fine Art**

One of the more recent additions to Las Vegas, the SNMFA was founded in 2003 by the Polis Museum of Fine Art and is a privately funded, non-profit organization. The museum features two Exhibition Galleries and one Small Works Gallery. The museum is located at 450 Fremont St. Ste., 280, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Call (702) 382-2926 or visit <http://www.snmfa.com>

### **The Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art**

As you might have guessed, this museum is located at the heart of the elegant Bellagio Resort. The Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art is Las Vegas' premier art gallery. Each year the gallery offers two to three world class exhibitions of artworks drawn from the world's finest museums and private collections. Call (702) 693-7871 or visit <http://www.bellagio.com/amenities/gallery-of-fine-art.aspx>

### **Old Vegas Mormon State Historic Park**

This interesting destination is located downtown Las Vegas at the intersection of Las Vegas Blvd. and Washington Avenue. The park and visitor's center is open all year from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The first permanent non-native settlers in the Las Vegas valley were a group of Mormon missionaries who build an adobe fort along Las Vegas creek in 1855. They successfully farmed the area by diverting water from the creek. Today, the park includes a remnant of the original fort which serves as a visitor's center with interpretive displays. Historic interpretation is and will remain the focus of the park. There are a series of programs throughout the summer. The "Friends of the Fort" also provide a series of programs throughout the year. (702) 486-3511 <http://parks.nv.gov/olvmf.htm>

# Summer Reading

## Page Turner Adventures

Here are some tips about reading from Page Turner Adventures. They are a pair of performers who are passionate about reading since they are Storyologists after all. Their motto is...When You Read, Every Day is an Adventure! They are dedicated to sharing that passion with kids. Sometimes helping kids develop the skills they need to become lifelong readers and book lovers can be a challenge. Fun, strange, and even downright weird opportunities to practice reading skills can increase fluency, vocabulary and confidence which go a long way in creating future book fanatics.

Read their **Top Ten List of Weird Ideas** below to get kids reading. This is by no means a complete list so if you have some unusual, odd (or dare we say, sneaky) ways to encourage reading, please let them know!! You can visit their blog at [www.PageTurnerAdventures.com/blog](http://www.PageTurnerAdventures.com/blog) or email them at [PTadventures@msn.com](mailto:PTadventures@msn.com).

### **10 WACKY WAYS to get Kids READING! © Page Turner Adventures**

#### **Page Turner's Top Ten List of Weird, Wacky, *You-gotta-be-kidding-me* Ways to Get Kids Reading!**

##### **10. Crank Up the Karaoke**

Kids have so much fun doing karaoke, they don't even realize they're reading! Don't have a karaoke machine? No problem. You can download song lyrics, print them out, and then sing along. And it doesn't have to be Barney! Kids love singing along to pop songs. \*Pop songs can also help increase kids' vocabularies, but you don't want to increase them TOO much! So make sure to check all lyrics for appropriateness before giving them to your kids. Tip: Visit garage sales for inexpensive karaoke machines. You'll find them beside the fondue pots and bread makers.

## **9. Reading Sponge Bob**

Does it seem to you that every restaurant has a TV these days? Fortunately, in most restaurants, the volume is usually turned down and the Closed Captioning is turned on. While a TV can be a bit annoying when you're trying to eat, it's actually a great way to get kids to read. Many televisions have the Closed Captioning capability (try saying that 10 times fast!). Turn it on and watch your kids read their way through their favorite shows.

## **8. Read and Release Program**

Have you heard about Book Crossing? It's a Read and Release program for books! Kids can download a label to attach to their book, then leave the book somewhere for another person to find (after they've already read it, of course!). They can leave it on a park bench, in a library, at their school ... wherever. Kids can then track the progress of the book as it makes its way around the world. They can also "find" books that others have left. Who wouldn't want to read a book that's already had its own adventure (or is about to embark on one!)?

P.S. It's not just for kids. Check them out at [www.bookcrossing.com](http://www.bookcrossing.com)

## **7. Go on Quest!**

Meet Liarg Yloh, a Viking who sends kids on quests in search of stories. Kids can log onto Liarg's site, read part of a story, figure out the clues, then head outdoors for a real-world treasure hunt in search of the rest of the tale. Storyseekers can even write their own adventures that others can follow. Check them out at [www.Storyseeking.com](http://www.Storyseeking.com). Seekers use smart phones, Google maps and GPS to locate the secret story cache. It's similar to Geocaching, which is another fun treasure hunting activity. Find out more at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

Letterboxing is a low tech version. It's where kids (and adults) follow clues to secret boxes containing rubber stamps and other small items. Treasure hunters stamp their special letterboxing book, then follow clues to the next location. For more information about this cool hobby, check out [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org)

Don't feel like going on an actual quest? Try making one in your own backyard or home. Leave pieces of a story along with a trail of clues, and watch kids read their way through the adventure.

Tip: Young kids can do a "word find" scavenger hunt. Write a list of words (or letters) that the kids have to find somewhere in the house: magazines, junk mail, cans of food, books, etc., are all possibilities. This is also a fun travel game to play in the car.

## **6. The Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota**

Have you ever noticed the racks of brochures in hotel lobbies? You know the ones I'm talking about, they're filled with local attractions from the interesting to the downright bizarre. Well, they make fascinating reading for kids! Plus, they're usually filled with descriptive language and great pictures. Kids will love learning about the Mustard Museum (Yes, it's an actual place. I've been there.), The Coral Castle (Been there too !), the World's Most Mysterious Motorcycle (At Wheels through Time in North Carolina. Haven't been there ... yet!).

Bonus: Kids will also get a feel for local culture and flavor. But you don't have to be on the road to enjoy a brush with brochures. Stop by a local hotel, and check out the attractions in your own neck of the woods. **And we're walking ... we're walking ...**

After reading all those brochures, you might be inspired to actually take a tour of some interesting and/or odd locale. This is another great reading opportunity! Hand the guidebook to your kids and let them lead the way. Even if you're not actually going on a tour, guide books can make fascinating reading. Keep an eye out for them at garage sales (next to the karaoke machines). Guidebooks, such as Roadside America and Eccentric America, are filled with entries about the odd, strange and weird attractions that make this country great. Audio tours are also fun. Recently, while waiting for Kenny to arrive on a train, I took an audio tour of Grand Central Station. It was fascinating! Now I know where to find the whispering gallery and the secret staircase, which might come in very handy someday.

## **5. Pod People**

Speaking of audio ... I am addicted to audio books! I refuse to take a long journey without one. Listening to stories is a fun way for kids to experience books and improve their reading skills. Being able to visualize the events taking place on a page is important for comprehension, and listening to audio books can help develop this important skill. Many library systems now have audiobooks that you can download directly to your computer and mp3 player. Podcasts are also fun ways to spark a love of stories, increase comprehension and develop vocabulary. That's why Kenny and I are working on a special podcast for kids called "Storyology." It is filled of legends, myths, folklore and original tales. Coming soon to a Page Turner Adventures website near you!

## **4. Read to a Dog**

Studies show that reading out loud to a dog can help improve their reading skills (um, the kid's skills, not the dog's!). This is probably because kids feel less nervous reading to a non-judgmental canine. Some titles to consider when reading to a dog: The Poky Little Puppy, How Much is That Doggie in the Window, Doggone it, Marley and Me, and Harry Potter. Kids can also read to cats, of course, but they tend to be much more judgmental.

### **3. Lights, Camera, Read**

“Snakes, why did it have to be snakes?”- from Raiders of the Lost Ark.

“Hello, My Name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die.”-from The Princess Bride.

Everyone loves to repeat lines from their favorite movies, including kids! Movie scripts are a fun way to practice reading skills. Play scripts and reader’s theater are also excellent ways to get kids reading, but there’s just something special about seeing the characters you know and love printed out on the page. Many movie scripts can be found online (once again, check for appropriateness before downloading). You can find scripts from several of Disney movies on this web page [http://movies.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Free\\_Disney\\_Movie\\_Scripts](http://movies.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Free_Disney_Movie_Scripts)

### **2. Ewwww ...**

Did you know that your nose naturally produces about a quart of mucus every day?

And, according to the Guinness World Records, the longest known ear hair was over 7 inches!

Oh, and don’t forget, the loudest burp ever recorded was 107.1 decibels louder than a chainsaw.

Let’s face it, kids love facts, figures, and random bits of knowledge (the grosser the better).

Leave some trivia books, Guinness World Record books, and Grossology books around the house, and watch what happens. Kids are drawn to them like magnets! Before you know it, they’ll be reading up a storm and you’ll know more about the digestion tract of the common earthworm than you ever thought possible.

Bonus: Kids will also learn science, history, and other subjects that can lead to more reading about the topic. “No, Jason, I didn’t know that penguins feed their babies by coughing up food from their own stomachs. Why don’t we don’t we do a little more research and see if there are other animals that feed their babies barf.”

Upper Elementary and Middle School kids will also love the book Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen, by Donna Gephart. This story about a Jeopardy Whiz Kid is filled with tons of fun facts and trivia.

### **Didjya hear the one about...**

Q: Why are math books so unhappy?

A: Because they’re filled with problems.

Teacher: What is a synonym?

Kid: A word you use when you can’t spell the other one. (Ba dum bump)

Groaners, I know, but I’m trying to make a point. Kids also love jokes. Leaving joke books lying around the house is another great way to get them reading!

## **1. Which Craft?**

Librarians have known it for years ...crafts, games, songs and recipes can help bring a book to life. That's why library summer reading programs are about so much more than just reading! Activities are a great way to expand the life of a book that a kid has already read, or spark an interest in a book they've *yet* to read.

Not sure what activity to do with what book? Don't worry. We've got you covered!! Along with this Top Ten List, there's a bonus "how to" video from our Creative Literacy/Summer Reading Series. The bonus includes 65 videos of crafts, games, activities, recipes, and corresponding books to get kids reading! Go to <http://pageturneradventures.com/creativeliteracy/> for more information. Another bonus: In addition to getting kids excited about books and reading, creative literacy projects develop imaginations, creative problem solving skills, and direction-following skills. And since most of the activities in our Summer Reading program use materials that you already have around the house, kids will also be learning about recycling!

### **Visit Gibson's Library**

Students can continue to check out books, take AR quizzes and earn ducks during vacation. The library will be open only on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to noon during the month of June. Computers will be available in the front hallway for quizzes. Please refer to the flyer sent out by Ms. Burton for more details.

### **Barnes and Noble**

This program gives kids a **free book** when they read just 8 books over the summer. Students obtain a journal from Barnes and Noble, fill out a book response, and have the parent sign the page. Free books can be redeemed at your local Barnes and Noble book store between May 15th and September 3rd, 2018. Visit [BarnesandNoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) and click on the summer reading icon or go to [http://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/summer-reading-for-kids/\\_/N-2mir](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/summer-reading-for-kids/_/N-2mir)

### **Scholastic**

Scholastic has a summer reading challenge where kids read and then go online to record the minutes they've read this summer. They'll also be able to take weekly challenges to earn rewards. This summer reading program runs May 7 - September 4, 2018. There are book lists and other

resources available for parents and kids. To sign up and get more information, simply go to <http://www.scholastic.com/summer>

### **Pizza Hut's Book It!**

Pizza Hut wants to do their part, so they have adopted the slogan, "Read your heart out" as part of their summer reading program. The site has included a reading tool box, a reading challenge, interactive games, resources for parents, and rewards. Enrollment is free, just visit <http://www.bookitprogram.com>

### **Mensa**

Mensa has created the Excellence in Reading book challenge for students. Students at each learning level complete a pre-selected list of titles throughout the summer and school year. Once the challenge is completed and the forms are submitted, students receive a certificate and t-shirt. <https://www.mensaforkids.org/achieve/excellence-in-reading/>

### **Sylvan's Book Adventures**

This program is more than just a summer reading program because it goes on all year long. It's a great way to motivate kids to read by earning prizes. When a child participates in Book Adventure, they get to take quizzes over books they've read and then exchange their quiz points for prizes. This site has many resources, so please visit Book Adventure and register your child to get them started at <http://www.bookadventure.com/Home.aspx>

### **PBS**

Summer is the perfect time for kids to experience the world around them through reading! All summer long, PBS Parents and PBS KIDS provide your family with fun, educational activities that explore reading, writing and language. Stop by PBS.org each week to discover great programming, activities, special offers and other new and exciting ways to sneak some learning into summer fun!

## **Summer Programs/Camps**

Camp Invention is a week long summer enrichment day camp offered in local elementary schools for children in the second through sixth grades. This exciting program invites children to let their imaginations run wild through teamwork, creative problem solving and inventive thinking. For more information, contact (800) 968-4332 or <http://campinvention.org>

The Discovery Museum summer camp asks that you bring your curiosity and sense of wonder as you join Museum educators for fun activities that focus on science, art and more. There's something for everyone at DISCOVERY Children's Museum! Sessions will be offered in the morning (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.) and afternoon (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) You can combine morning and afternoon sessions for a full day experience. For all the details go to <http://www.discoverykidslv.org/camp>.

The Smith Center presents Camp Broadway which offers summer camps, workshops, and performance opportunities to theatre-loving kids. It is located at 361 Symphony Park Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89106. Find out more at <http://www.thesmithcenter.com/campbroadway>

Camp Lee Canyon is 45 miles from Las Vegas. Cool mountain air, rustic cabins, and the natural beauty of this alpine setting provide an excellent atmosphere for learning, relaxation and fun. Campers stay in group cabins supervised by trained counselors. There are four different, six-day summer resident camps at Camp Lee Canyon in the Toiyabe National Forest. For more information, contact (702) 455-1905 or visit <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/parks/Pages/youth-resident-camps.aspx>

The Southern Nevada Robotics Camp is open to students that will be in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade next year. The robotics teachers at Coronado High School and Greenspun Junior High School realized that there was a need for technology based programs for elementary and junior high school age students in Southern Nevada and started this camp. You can get more information and register at [www.snrc.coronadocougars.net](http://www.snrc.coronadocougars.net)

The Boys & Girls Clubs Ultimate Summer Camp is open for registration! Packed with exciting summer activities like themed events & experiences, the game room, arts & crafts, outdoor fun & games, and water play, your kids will experience the ultimate in summer adventures! Visit <http://www.bgclv.org/summer-day-camps> for participating locations.

TechBrainiacs and Bricks4Kidz are again joining forces to present Building STEAM Summer Creativity Camps. These full-length day camps are available to students entering grades two through seven. They offer activities to build their STEAM skills and digital literacy with daily tech lessons involving computer science, video games, engineering, LEGO construction, robotics, and much more! They also offer a combo camp with Longevity Sports Center that has a half day of sports camp in addition to core activities. More information and registration can be found on their website at <http://techbrainiacs.com> or by calling 702.233.5845. Discounts are offered for multi-week registration, siblings, military, first responders and educators.

There are many local companies offering camps for various interests. Get a free list at <http://www.mysummercamps.com/camps/nevada/henderson-summer-camps>.

## **Additional Resources and Activities**

<http://iknowit.com> is a math website for grades k-5.

<https://www.youcubed.org> is everything math; lessons, challenges, and highly engaging apps.

[www.learner.org/interactives](http://www.learner.org/interactives) has a variety of topics, levels, and materials for parents and students.

<https://www.khanacademy.org> is a free library of video lessons and practice resources aligned by topic and grade level.

<https://www.prodigygame.com> is an adaptive game for grades 1 to 8 that uses differentiated instruction principles to address each student's trouble spots.

<https://www.mathtv.com> is a resource for videos that explore, step-by-step, how to solve a range of equations.

[nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html](http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html) is the **National Library of Virtual Manipulatives**: A collection of activities based on manipulating objects -- such as coins and blocks -- to solve challenges at all levels.

<https://www.mathgoodies.com> is a resource for interactive tasks, games, and lessons including example-filled walkthroughs explaining core skills.

[http://www.setgame.com/set/puzzle\\_frame.htm](http://www.setgame.com/set/puzzle_frame.htm)

This free site from the New York Times posts a new SET puzzle (visual-spatial challenge) each day. Watch the tutorial to learn how to play!

<http://www.puzzles.com/products/rushhour/rhfrommarkriedel/jam.html>

This fun site allows students to solve visual-spatial challenges in a real-world setting...traffic!

<http://www.merriam-webster.com>

The perfect resource for everything language.

<http://www.pbskids.zoom>

**STEM:** Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Participate in education programs highlighting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and learn something new!

Classes are conveniently located at libraries around the valley. For the schedule of events, go to

[http://lvccld.org/events/special\\_programs/stem/](http://lvccld.org/events/special_programs/stem/)

**The Las Vegas Astronomical Society-** This organization will have you seeing stars...but the best stars aren't found on the strip! It has outings throughout the valley and to nearby destinations. For more information and a schedule of events, go to [www.lvastronomy.com](http://www.lvastronomy.com)

**The Leader in Me-** Our school utilizes this program to empower students. Learn how you can support the program at home by visiting [www.TheLeaderinMe.org/parents](http://www.TheLeaderinMe.org/parents)

**Nevada Magazine-** <http://nevadamagazine.com/home>

***The Clark County School District (homepage)*** – [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net)

***Kids Konnect*** – [www.kidskonnect.com](http://www.kidskonnect.com)

It's a safe internet gateway for kids. It covers the curriculum areas taught in school and it has a lot of fun sites.

***VEGAS.com*** – [www.vegas.com/attractions/kids.html](http://www.vegas.com/attractions/kids.html)

Features travel/attraction choices for children and families.

***City of Las Vegas-*** <http://lasvegasnevada.gov>

Resource site for all you ever wanted to know about our fair city.

*Las Vegas Clark County Library District* – <http://www.lvcclld.org/events> or [www.lvcclld.org/kids/index.cfm](http://www.lvcclld.org/kids/index.cfm)

Information about what is happening at various libraries and associated galleries in town as well as a link to online libraries and activities for children.

*Scholarship Information* – [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

Search 2.7 million national, state, and local college scholarships and grants for free!

*Parents Connect* - <http://gocitykids.parentsconnect.com/region/las-vegas-nv-usa> Activities and resources for children and families of Las Vegas.

*Performing Arts Center, UNLV* – <http://pac.unlv.edu> Events calendar and venues.

*Las Vegas local events* in the performing arts arena - <http://www.lvol.com/lvlc/events.html>

*City of Las Vegas* – <http://www.artslasvegas.org/index.php>

Office of Cultural Affairs and Arts Community Events/Leisure Services.

*Parks & Recreation*- <http://www.clarkcounty.gov/depts/parks>

A guide to what is offered by specific location.

And the list goes on...magazines, websites, blogs, and other media specializing in our county, state, and region have tips on where to go and what to see and learn.

**Disclaimer: This document has information and links to non-Clark County School District community agencies and resources. References in these community web sites, or in any information or documents contained therein, pertaining to any specific commercial or non-commercial products, process, service, manufacturer, individual or company does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation by the Clark County School District or Student Support Services Division. This is an informational guide only. We cannot guarantee that all links/phone numbers remain active indefinitely.**