



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Public Library**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winter Bingo at the Oakland Public Library Gives Children and Families a Chance to Read and Play During School Break

Oakland, CA – In December, the library will distribute cards for its third annual “Winter Bingo” game, encouraging children in grades K-5, and caregivers of younger children and babies, to do activities that stimulate literacy and learning. Any child or caregiver may return a bingo card with five activities marked in a row to any Oakland Public Library between December 17, 2016, and January 14, 2017, to select a free paperback book to keep, as a prize.

Activities include direct reading activities such as “Listen to a story” or “Read about your favorite thing” as well as social activities such as “Make someone laugh,” or “Bring a friend to the library,” and active play such as “Dance” or “Play outside.” Activities for caregivers to do with babies and preschoolers include “Make up a song,” and “Ask your child to turn the page.” Bingo cards will be available at all library locations and distributed to partner organizations, and are available in Spanish, Chinese, and English.

Last year’s Winter Bingo game was immensely popular, thanks largely to participation among students in the Oakland Unified School District. 2,988 Winter Bingo cards were redeemed for books.

“We are very pleased to partner with our schools and other organizations for this program.” says Nina Lindsay Supervising Librarian for Children’s Services. “Last year’s most popular activities included “Visit the Library,” “Read a Book,” and “Laugh,” so we are happy to see this simple program helps fill the gap during Winter Break, while promoting literacy and furthering the goals of the Oakland Reads initiative.”

Winter Bingo is supported in part by the Kenneth Rainin Foundation.

For more information, please visit www.oaklandlibrary.org or contact Nina Lindsay, Supervising Librarian for Children’s Services, at nlindsay@oaklandlibrary.org, or 510-238-6706.

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