

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

April 24, 2018



Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
757.514.4103
757.871.3039

SUFFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY JOINS 1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN TO HELP DEVELOP EARLY LITERACY SKILLS

SUFFOLK, VA (April 24, 2018) Early exposure to books in a child's life can bring them a multitude of benefits before they even enter school. From language and vocabulary development to fine motor skills and bonding with a caretaker, these are just some of the benefits and reasons why Suffolk Public Library jumped on board with the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. The 1000 Books Foundation is a Nevada based non-profit that challenges local communities to read a book to their newborn, infant, or toddler. The Suffolk community will be an official 1000 Books location beginning May 1, 2018.

"I believe the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program will enhance and support the library's existing early literacy efforts," says Suffolk Public Library's Early Childhood Senior Librarian April Watkins. "I love the idea that we can help create lifelong readers by encouraging reading long before kids can read on their own."

Parents and caregivers can enroll their child starting at birth or any time before they reach Kindergarten. The goal is to read 1,000 books before kindergarten but it does not have to be 1,000 different titles. Kids love to reread their favorites, so caregivers can log the same book each time it is read. In addition to reading books, participants

will also complete Early Literacy Challenges such as reading outside or visiting a library program. Those attending story times at the library can also count books read there towards their reading goal.

Participants will earn prizes throughout the program as they reach various milestones, and once they read 1,000 books they will be invited to a graduation celebration that will be held in August each year. Since this program typically takes a few years to complete, there is no end date and enrollment is continuously open. Those interested can learn more about the program and sign up at suffolkpubliclibrary.com/1000Books.

Suffolk Public Library will be using Beanstack to track progress, the same platform used for the recent Winter Reading Challenge with *Shark Tank's* Mark Cuban. Participants will use Beanstack to enroll in 1000 Books, log books, and keep track of prizes earned. Paper logs will be available upon request for those who prefer to track reading that way.

To learn more about the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, visit 1000booksbeforekindergarten.org.

To learn more about the Suffolk Public Library, visit www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com. Follow the library on Twitter @SufPubLib and check for updates on Facebook at Facebook.com/SuffolkPublicLibrary.

###