

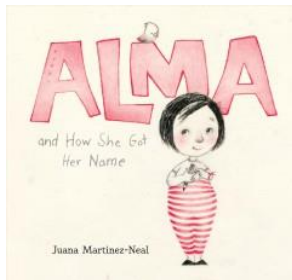
December 2018
Commission Report
Nancy Howe, County Librarian

Silicon Valley Reads 2019 Companion Books



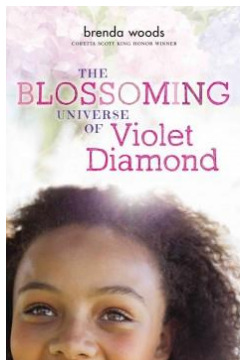
Silicon Valley Reads is a collaborative, county-wide program designed to engage entire communities in conversation around a single theme. The journey of discovery about one's own family history and heritage is the focus of Silicon Valley Reads 2019.

The Silicon Valley Reads 2019 companion books for children and teens have been selected offering the following reading for our younger SVR participants:



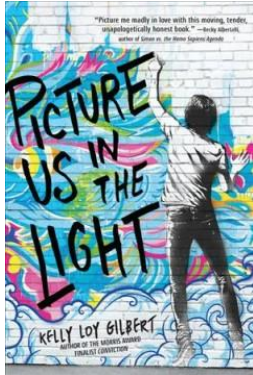
[Alma and How She Got Her Name](#) by Juana Martinez-Neal

For the little ones, there's *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal, a beautiful picture book available in both English and Spanish. A little girl discovers why she has six names and how those names relate to her family history.



[The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond](#) by Brenda Woods

For youngsters in grades 4 to 7, we selected *The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond* by Brenda Woods. Bi-racial Violet doesn't know much about her African American heritage until she turns 11 and spends time with her paternal grandmother.



Picture Us in the Light

by Kelly Loy Gilbert

For teens in grades 8 and up, the choice is *Picture Us in the Light* by Bay Area author Kelly Loy Gilbert. Set in Cupertino, it tells the story of a high school student who discovers a box filled with old letters and files and realizes there's much more to his family's past than he ever imagined.

Lending Machines Piloted in Morgan Hill and Milpitas

SCCLD is bringing the library to the community, piloting two new library vending machines, branded as “Lending Machines.” Located at the Centennial Recreation Center in Morgan Hill and coming in December to the Barbara Lee Senior Center in Milpitas, they offer convenience as visitors can choose from a selection of favorite new books and movies to borrow. The Lending Machines allow SCCLD to serve even more patrons in new ways and new spaces.

The lending machines can hold up to 175 books, or a combination of items, including DVDs and Blu-rays. Patrons access the items they want using a 12-inch touch screen interface, scanning in their library card which opens the door allowing them to borrow items. Once the door is closed, a receipt will be printed.

They are located in the lobby of the senior and recreation centers, for maximum visibility. If popular with the public, SCCLD could expand to locate additional units across the County.



Learn English at SCCLD

Beginning in January, Gilroy and Milpitas Libraries will be offering free basic English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults. ESL instruction can help you to improve your listening, speaking, pronunciation, reading, and writing skills. Increase your vocabulary and knowledge of common English phrases, learn more about American culture, and meet people from around the world. To enroll, simply go to the Gilroy or Milpitas Information Desks.



After a successful pilot at the Los Altos Library, a *Level Up! ESL* class for advanced English learners will be offered weekly at the Saratoga Library. This program is designed to help adults practice their English speaking skills in a fun and interactive way. To enroll, check with the Saratoga Information Desk.

Gilroy Library

Basic ESL

Jan 7- May 8, 2019

Mon and Wed

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Milpitas Library

Basic ESL

Jan 7 – May 8, 2019

Mon and Wed

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Saratoga Library

Level Up! ESL

Jan 30 to Mar 30

Wed

10 am

Gilroy Lobby to Receive a Refresh in December

The lobby of the Gilroy Library will soon have a new look! Patrons will have an opportunity to browse for popular, new materials, and be able to check them out right in the lobby. Want to enjoy a good book and a snack? The new café furniture will create a welcoming area to read a book, plug in your electronic device and have a snack. The new furniture is designed for everyday needs, and is portable to accommodate the popular summer program, Lunch in the Library.



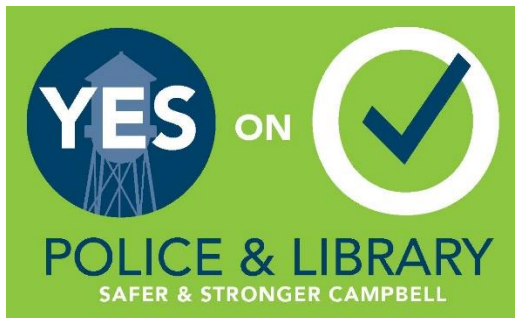
Café furniture selected

Campbell Voters Approve Measure O

Campbell voters made an important investment in their future on November 6, with the [passage of Measure O](#), the Campbell Police and Library Facilities Bond. The \$50 million bond will go toward upgrading both the police facility and library.

While it is too early to determine what exact changes will be made to the library, priorities from Santa Clara County Library District include optimizing space for services and materials; ensuring the library is fully ADA accessible; making the building energy-efficient; meeting all current fire and earthquake regulations; and providing areas for residents of all ages to enjoy the library.

Gaining the approval for a bond measure requires a great deal of long-term planning, community organization and advocacy. Measure O involved organizing and activating a group of volunteers representing the library and police to bring the ballot measure to the City Council, securing their approval, then building awareness and support from the community to vote for the measure.



The Friends of the Campbell Library took a leading role in this effort, guided by their President, Susan Gore. For the plans, action and support the Friends of the Library provided to move the bond measure from an idea to reality, Susan was honored by the California Public Library Advocates with the [Friend of the Year award](#) at the California Library Association Conference in November 2018.

Reminder: Morgan Hill Library Sunday Hours Celebration

Join us on Dec 9, 2:00 pm as we celebrate the new Sunday hours at Morgan Hill Library with a community event. Gernar the Magician will be performing at 2 pm to entertain patrons of all ages.

Morgan Hill Library
*** New Hours Celebration ***
Sunday, December 9th: 1 – 5 pm

- Starting December 9th we will be open every Sunday 1–5 pm
- Join us for a special event to celebrate Morgan Hill Library's expanded hours!
- Gernar The Magician (pictured) will be performing a family magic show at 2pm.
- Find yourself a good book at the Friends of the Library Book Sale
- Free and open to the public
- All ages are welcome



MORGAN HILL LIBRARY | 660 W. Main Ave.
(408) 779-3196 | www.sccd.org

Library Trends:

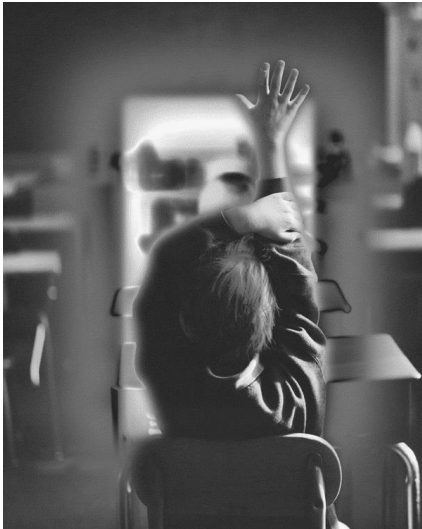
The Digital Gap Between Rich and Poor Kids Is Not What We Expected

The New York Times

America's public schools are still promoting devices with screens — even offering digital-only preschools. The rich are banning screens from class altogether.

By Nellie Bowles

Oct. 26, 2018



The parents in Overland Park, Kan., were fed up. They wanted their children off screens, but they needed strength in numbers. First, because no one wants their kid to be the lone weird one without a phone. And second, because taking the phone away from a middle schooler is actually very, very tough.

“We start the meetings by saying, ‘This is hard, we’re in a new frontier, but who is going to help us?’” said Krista Boan, who is leading a Kansas City-based program called START, which stands for Stand Together And Rethink Technology. “We can’t call our moms about this one.”

For the last six months, at night in school libraries across Overland Park, a suburb of Kansas City, Mo., about 150 parents have been meeting to talk about one thing: how to get their children off screens.

It wasn't [long ago](#) that the worry was that rich students would have access to the internet earlier, gaining tech skills and creating a digital divide. Schools ask students to do homework online, while only [about two-thirds](#) of people in the U.S. have broadband internet service. But now, as Silicon Valley's parents increasingly panic over the impact screens have on their children and move toward screen-free lifestyles, worries over a new digital divide are rising. It could happen that the children of poorer and middle-class parents will be raised by screens, while the children of Silicon Valley's elite will be going back to wooden toys and the luxury of human interaction.

This is already playing out. Throwback [play-based](#) preschools are trending in affluent neighborhoods — but Utah has been rolling out a [state-funded online-only preschool](#), now serving around [10,000 children](#). Organizers [announced](#) that the screen-based preschool effort would expand in 2019 with a federal grant to Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho and Montana.

Lower-income teenagers spend an average of eight hours and seven minutes a day using screens for entertainment, while higher income peers spend five hours and 42 minutes, [according to research by Common Sense Media](#), a nonprofit media watchdog. (This study counted each screen separately, so a child texting on a phone and watching TV for one hour counted as two hours of screens being

used.) [Two studies that look at race](#) have found that white children are exposed to screens significantly less than African-American and Hispanic children.

And parents say there is a growing technological divide between public and private schools even in the same community. While the private Waldorf School of the Peninsula, [popular with Silicon Valley executives](#), eschews most screens, the nearby public Hillview Middle School [advertises its 1:1 iPad program](#).

The psychologist Richard Freed, who wrote a book about the dangers of screen-time for children and how to connect them back to real world experiences, divides his time between speaking before packed rooms in Silicon Valley and his clinical practice with low-income families in the far East Bay, where he is often the first one to tell parents that limiting screen-time might help with attention and behavior issues.

"I go from speaking to a group in Palo Alto who have read my book to Antioch, where I am the first person to mention any of these risks," Dr. Freed said.

He worries especially about how the psychologists who work for these companies make the tools [phenomenally addictive](#), as many are well-versed in the [field of persuasive design](#) (or how to influence human behavior through the screen). Examples: YouTube next video autoplays; the slot machine-like pleasure of refreshing Instagram for likes; Snapchat streaks.

"The digital divide was about access to technology, and now that everyone has access, the new digital divide is limiting access to technology," said Chris Anderson, the former editor of Wired magazine.

Technology Is a Huge Social Experiment on Children

Some parents, pediatricians and teachers around the country are pushing back.

"These companies lied to the schools, and they're lying to the parents," said Natasha Burgert, a pediatrician in Kansas City. "We're all getting duped."

"Our kids, my kids included, we are subjecting them to one of the biggest social experiments we have seen in a long time," she said. "What happens to my daughter if she can't communicate over dinner — how is she going to find a spouse? How is she going to interview for a job?"

"I have families now that go teetotal," Dr. Burgert said. "They're like, 'That's it, we're done.'"

One of those families are the Brownsbergers, who had long banned smartphones but recently also banned the internet-connected television.

The Privilege of Choices

In Silicon Valley, some feel anxious about the growing class divide they see around screen-time.

Kirstin Stecher and her husband, who works as an engineer at Facebook, are raising their kids almost completely screen-free.

“Is this coming from a place of information — like, we know a lot about these screens,” she said. “Or is it coming from a place of privilege, that we don’t need them as badly?”

“There’s a message out there that your child is going to be crippled and in a different dimension if they’re not on the screen,” said Pierre Laurent, a former Microsoft and Intel executive now on the board of trustees at Silicon Valley’s Waldorf School. “That message doesn’t play as well in this part of the world.”

“People in this region of the world understand that the real thing is everything that’s happening around big data, AI, and that is not something that you’re going to be particularly good at because you have a cellphone in fourth grade,” Mr. Laurent said.

As those working to build products become more wary, the business of getting screens in front of kids is booming. Apple and Google [compete ferociously to get products into schools](#) and target students at an early age, when [brand loyalty begins to form](#).

[Google published](#) a case study of its work with the Hoover City, Ala., school district, saying technology equips students “with skills of the future.”

The company concluded that its own Chromebooks and Google tools changed lives: “The district leaders believe in preparing students for success by teaching them the skills, knowledge, and behaviors they need to become responsible citizens in the global community.”

Dr. Freed, though, argues these tools are too relied upon in schools for low-income children. And he sees the divide every day as he meets tech-addicted children of middle and low-income families.

“For a lot of kids in Antioch, those schools don’t have the resources for extracurricular activities, and their parents can’t afford nannies,” Dr. Freed said. He said the knowledge gap around tech’s danger is enormous.

Dr. Freed [and 200 other psychologists petitioned](#) the American Psychological Association in August to formally condemn the work psychologists are doing with persuasive design for tech platforms that are designed for children.

“Once it sinks its teeth into these kids, it’s really hard,” Dr. Freed said.