



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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THIRD ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 8 AND 15

ST. THOMAS, USVI - The Virgin Islands Department of Education, in partnership with the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources Div. of Libraries, Archives and Museums will host the Third Annual Back to School Night at the Library on Saturday, September 8 at the Florence A. Williams Public Library on St. Croix and Saturday, September 15 at the Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library on St. Thomas. Both events will take place from 5:00 –8:00 p.m.

The family-friendly activity was established in 2016 to support the Annual Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, now in its tenth year, which challenges students in grades K-6 to read five or more books during the summer months.

"Back to School Night at the Library is a celebration of literacy where children and their parents will enjoy activities that help promote literacy both inside and outside of the home," said Denise Gomes, program assistant in the Department's State Office of Curriculum and Instruction. "Furthermore, the activity encourages families to visit their local public library, which, as we know, is an important institution that fosters a love and appreciation for literacy."

Attendees will engage in a selection of age- and grade-level appropriate workshops and hands-on activities geared toward enhancing students' literacy skills and parents' know-how to support their children. From reading and understanding instructions on how to build a wooden toy to writing a short story and presenting a skit at the end of the night, Back to School Night at the Library is expected to be a success this year as it has been in previous years.

Each child will also receive free books and other items that promote literacy. Complimentary snacks and drinks will be served.

The event is free and open to students in grades K-6 and their parents. Adults are required to remain with children for the duration of the event.

For more information, please call the Office of Public Relations at (340) 774-0100 ext. 8136 or visit www.readfive.org to learn more about the 10th Annual Governor's Summer Reading Challenge.

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