

# Mission Hills/Hillcrest Children Caught the Reading Bug

*By Charlyn Eary*

Enthusiasm is infectious, and the Mission Hills Branch Library counted on that when they invited children to "Catch the Reading Bug" this summer. Over 300 children participated in the library's campaign to help students maintain their reading skills while raising money to purchase more children's books for the library.

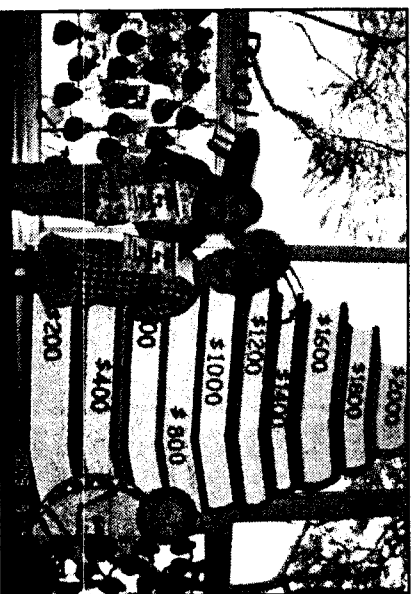
The library buzzed with activity as children attempted to read 10 books to earn their name on a ladybug displayed in the library and a grab bag of gifts that included door hangers, pencils, passes to the SD zoo and such. Every Tuesday morning the library presented a program to entertain and educate with such activities as a puppet show, a magic show, and other kid friendly presentations. This kept the children centered on their goals and added to the excitement.

Philip Detwiler, branch manager of the Mission Hills branch of the San Diego City Library, credits much of the success to the two student volunteers who tirelessly gave their time and energy. High

school student, Michael Bui, and college student, Amanda Ruidiaz, who was visiting her brother here this summer before returning to Puerto Rico to finish school, managed the paperwork and attended the Tuesday presentations. Their enthusiasm added to the buzz in the library.

For every book read, the Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Library promised to donate a dollar. Surpassing their goal of 2000 books, the library will receive the maximum donation of \$2000 to buy more children's literature. After reaching the goal, children continued to read to earn entries into a drawing that was held on August 30.

After the initial ten books, students received an entry into the drawing for every ten additional books they read. Preschoolers and young students collected many raffle tickets, and won prizes that included book bags, puppets, certificates for Cold Stone ice cream and many more. They kept the excitement of reading alive and are ready to reenter school, or in the case of the preschoolers, are ready to continue preparing for school. The preschoolers could have



*Julia and Spencer Lafferty enjoyed the Mission Hills Library's Summer Reading Program.*

the books read to them.

However these children consumed these books this summer, they all have "Caught the Reading Bug" thanks to the efforts of the Mission Hills Branch Library and their volunteers. Reading is the one thing that will ensure their success in school.