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**Boys, Barbershops & Books!  
A New Library Outreach Program in Prince George's County**

**Largo, MD** – The Boys, Barbershops & Books program is new to Prince George's County. In an effort to shrink the achievement gap, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will be supplying strategically selected books, targeted for African American boys in Grades K-5, to five local barbershops. The boys will be able to read the books during their visits to the barbershops. The purpose of this initiative is to link the African American male barbershop experience with positive early literacy exposure.

On average, reading for pleasure yielded a 14.4 percent advantage in vocabulary, a 9.9 percent advantage in math skills and an 8.6 percent advantage in spelling, based on a 2013 London University study. The study also revealed that the habit of reading for pleasure had a greater impact than that of having at least one parent with a degree.

This PGCMLS program is available at the following barbershops, serviced by the corresponding branch libraries.

**Barbershops**

Bawscow's Barbershop  
Drake's Place II  
Drake's Unisex Salon  
Joe's Old Fashion Barber Shop  
Majesty Barber and Hair Salon

**Branch Libraries**

Fairmount Heights Branch  
Largo-Kettering Branch  
Greenbelt Branch  
Spauldings Branch  
Hyattsville Branch

The Library will set up the display furniture and service the reading areas as needed. The Boys, Barbershops & Books program is made possible by a grant from the Local Management Board, Child and Family Services Division of Prince George's County.

**About The Prince George's County Memorial Library System**

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Library services include: OverDrive, Inc. (audiobook and e-book downloads), FastPencil (self-publishing platform for e-books), hoopla (digital video, music and audiobook downloads), Freegal (music downloads), Zinio (magazine downloads) and Brainfuse (tutoring and workforce development). All services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Library programs include: Storytimes, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering,

and Math), Book Discussions, Book Signings, Teen Advisory Board (TAB), Chess Clubs, Read to Rover, Game On and so much more. For additional information visit our website at [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info).

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