

Hyde Park School's 5th Annual Read-A-Thon Welcome Packet

The HPS-PTO organizes a Read-A-Thon each year to support enrichment programs and classroom needs. October 6th – 24th, the entire school will participate in a contest to see which team of students can read the most. Classes will be paired in cross-grade teams, named for children's authors:

Mo Willems, A.A. Milne, Maurice Sendak, Beverly Cleary, Dr. Seuss, Roald Dahl, Laura Ingalls Wilder, J.K. Rowling, Lemony Snicket, Shel Silverstein, and J.R.R. Tolkien.

We kindly ask for your support, by sponsoring a reader, encouraging your student(s) to read, and helping to make this fundraiser a fun experience for the kids. **Prizes will be awarded for the top team of readers and the top reader in each homeroom.** There will also be participation prizes at a midway point (One Week Left) and at the end.

We hope that every family will participate! If each child collects \$40, that will be over \$20K raised for our school. This money is used to support a variety of initiatives: supply needs identified by our Classroom and Specials teachers, enrichment opportunities like field trips, and subscription fees for technology programs used in class and at home. ***Every child can participate, simply by reading and filling out a log. Although pledges are encouraged, they are not required to be part of the fun. Our focus is on making sure kids are reading! This year, every homeroom that has 100% participation (meaning reading logs completed, with or without pledges) will earn a pajama day at school, and free reading time during ELA period on pajama day.***

Important Dates

- **October 3rd through 6th:** Set goals and gather sponsors
- **October 6th:** Read-A-Thon Kickoff Rally; first day to read
- **October 18th:** Submit One Week Left form
- **October 24th:** Last day to read
- **October 25th & 26th:** Turn in days from 7:30-7:45 in front of the library; packets to include reading log, pledge form, and money
- **October 27th:** Fall Classroom Parties: Students can dress as their favorite book characters
- **October 31st:** Winners announced at the end of the day. Group picture of winners from each homeroom taken at the end of the day.

Read-A-Thon Instructions

Setting a Goal:

Help your child decide on a realistic number of minutes that s/he can read (or be read) during the reading period, October 6-24. Record this at the top of the Reading Pledge Form. ***Only minutes read outside of school (including for homework), count towards this goal.*** Please include time spent reading, being read to, or listening to audiobooks.

Sponsors:

Sponsors are people who agree to support your child's reading by pledging a dollar amount to the Read-A-Thon. Ask family, friends, neighbors and community members whom you know. Sponsors may pledge either a certain amount per minute **OR** a flat pledge, paid if the child meets his/her reading goal. Use the attached Pledge Form to record each sponsor's pledge and the amount collected.

Completing Your Reading Log:

Students will keep track of their minutes on the enclosed Reading Log (an adult must initial each day). On Oct. 18, students turn in their One Week Left Form to their teacher. All students who turn in their One Week Left Forms will be entered into a drawing to earn a gift certificate to the Scholastic Book Fair. **Students receive credit for reading or being read to by an adult.**

Collecting Pledges and Turn In Days:

Cash, checks (made out to HPS PTO) and credit card payments are accepted (credit card online at hpspto.org). Return your Pledge Form, Reading Log, and pledge money collected in the folder provided. Pledges can be collected anytime during the reading period. **Forms and pledges can be returned Oct. 25th or 26th, from 7:30-7:45 am in the library. Please return your folders, whether or not your family participates in Read-A-Thon, as the PTO reuses the folders.** Winners will be announced, and prizes awarded, at the end of the day on **October 31st.**