

Hyde Park School's Annual Read-a-Thon Welcome Packet

Each year the Hyde Park School PTO organizes a Read-a-Thon to help raise money to support field trips for our kids and to meet classroom needs identified by our teachers.

This year, between October 2nd through October 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:

Judy Blume, C.S. Lewis, Mo Willems, Maurice Sendak, Roald Dahl, J.K. Rowling, Loren Long, Dave Pilkey, Beverly Cleary, Aaron Blabey, Shel Silverstein, Dr. Stuff, and Laura Ingalls Wilder

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 team with the highest amount of minutes read, the team with the highest average of minutes read per student, as well as the top reader in each homeroom. There will also be participation prizes for returning or submitting your forms at the end.

We hope that every family will participate, as this is our second largest fundraiser of the year and provides so much for our school community!

Every child is encouraged to participate no matter how much money they raise. Homerooms with the highest 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 2nd:** Read-a-Thon Kickoff Rally
- **October 2nd:** Set reading goals; first day to read
- **October 2nd – 24th:** Gather sponsors
- **October 24th:** Last day to read
- **Oct. 25th, 26th & 27th:** Turn in days. Student's turn in minutes read via the Google Form OR drop off printed sheets, pledge form, and money (if collected) from 7:30am – 7:40am in front of the school entrance or the car drop-off line. Students will receive game tickets to the annual Pumpkin Chuck when forms are submitted.
- **October 27th:** Literary Character Parade
- **November 3rd:** Winners announced at the end of the day. Group picture of winners from each homeroom taken at the end of the day with their prizes.
- **November 4th:** Pumpkin Chuck at 12pm!

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 to) during the reading period, October 2nd - October 24th. Record this at the top of the Reading Pledge Form. Only minutes read outside of school (including for homework), count towards this goal. Your student may 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. This year, we will be sending an **online link** for your student's team, to make it easier to share with family, friends, and neighbors. Sponsors may pledge either a certain amount per minute **OR** a flat pledge, paid if the child meets his/her reading goal. Use your student's donation page link provided by their homeroom teacher to collect pledges or 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) or the one on your student's homeroom Schoology page. We encourage all to use the online resources although there will be an opportunity to submit paper forms at the end of the event.

Collecting Pledges and Turn In Days: All students are able to submit their final minutes read through the Google Form that will be available on their homeroom teacher's Schoology page by October 28th. Pledges can be made through your student's online page (<https://app.99pledges.com/fund/hps2023>). In the case that online is not convenient for your family, students are able to drop off their paper forms, cash, and/or checks (made out to HPS PTO) from October 25th through October 27th outside of the school at the walker door and car line door.

Prizes are awarded for students' participation!

The team with the most minutes read by all students in the class and the team with the highest minutes read per student (averaged among the number of students) will win a pizza party. The top reader in each homeroom will receive a Joseph Beth gift card. Homerooms that have the highest participation (classroom reading logs submitted, pledges are not required to win) will earn a pajama day & extra free reading time in class. Simply for turning in their forms by October 27th, students will receive game tickets to be used at Pumpkin Chuck on November 4th. Winners will be announced, and individual prizes awarded, at the end of the day on November 3rd. Winning classroom/team parties will be coordinated with homeroom teachers at a later date.

REMINDER: A Google Form to submit minutes online will be made available during the last week of Read-a-Thon. Reading logs and sponsorship information are in this packet and will also be accessible through your student's homeroom Schoology page.