

Read-A-Thon 2019

Dear 282 Community,

Friday March 1 marked the start of our 2019 Read-A-Thon! Your student should have received a packet with all of the information and participation forms in their backpacks or homework folders this week. If your student did not receive a packet, or if you need additional materials, you can download the whole thing [here](#).

See below for all the details--Read-A-Thon is free for all 282 students (yes, it's a fundraiser, but first and foremost it's a community-wide challenge to promote a love of reading in our kids!) but last year we had only 11% participation.

You read that right. *Eleven* percent. And we still raised almost \$7,000 for our school.

We know we can do better this year. Imagine the impact Read-A-Thon could have on our school with 50, 80, or 100% participation! We hope that you and your students will pledge to join the fun today.

What Is Read-A-Thon?

Read-A-Thon is a fun way to challenge 282 students to read as much as they can over a 10-day period, to celebrate reading and to raise funds to support the 282 PTO, a non-profit volunteer organization made up of 282 parents that provides music and science programs, classroom software, teacher supplies, and more!

When/How Long Is Read-A-Thon?

This year, **Read-A-Thon begins Friday, March 1 and goes through Sunday, March 10**. Reading logs, sponsor logs, and donations are due Monday, March 11.

How Does It Work?

First, students set a goal for how many minutes they will aim to read over the course of 10 days. Then, they ask family members and friends to sponsor their reading with tax-deductible donations to the 282 PTO (see **Sponsor Log** inside your packet). From March 1 to March 10, students keep track of their daily reading (see **Reading Log**

inside your packet). **On March 11, students turn their logs in to receive certificates and prizes.** Students can turn in materials at a special Read-A-Thon table in the lobby from 8-8:45 am on March 11, or to their classroom teachers.

Who Can Participate?

Every 282 student can participate in Read-A-Thon! Even students who are not yet reading independently can have a grownup read to them as part of their daily tally.

Do I Have to Read Every Single Day?

It's encouraged but not required. **If you miss a day during Read-A-Thon just skip it and keep logging your reading the next day!**

Do I Have to Raise Money?

No. **Sponsorships are *not* required to complete Read-A-Thon.** Every student receives prizes and recognition regardless of whether or not they raised any money.

How Do I Get Sponsors?

If you would like to try to raise money for 282 during Read-A-thon, write an e-mail or text, or make a phone call to your family friends and relatives letting them know about Read-A-Thon and how they can help. Sample text is below:

Dear [Name],

My school, PS/MS 282, is having a Read-A-Thon from March 1 - March 10. I pledged to read [#] minutes a day for ten days. If you would like to sponsor my reading with a tax-deductible donation, it would make a big difference at my school. The PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) funds a music residency from the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, as well as a fun science program called Tiny Scientist. The PTO also raises money to provide educational software, reimburse out-of-pocket supply expenses for teachers, and more.

You can support me and my school by pledging to donate any amount you'd like. You can pledge a certain number of dollars or cents per day, per minute, or just donate a flat amount. Your donation can be cash, check (made out to "282 PTO") or online at [this link](#)

(make sure to put my name in the “Tribute Gift” section so they know you’re sponsoring me!)

Thank you so much.

*Love,
[You]*

What Are The Prizes?

Every student who turns in a Reading Log will receive a **certificate of participation**, a **goody bag of reading-themed gifts**, and a shout-out in the PTO newsletter!

Special prizes will be awarded to the reader who logs the most minutes in each grade, the reader who logs the most minutes in the entire school, and the top fundraiser in the school.

Prizes are still coming in, and will include **gift cards to local book stores**, **gifts from local shops**, **Movie Night passes**, **282 T-shirts**, **gift bags of new books** from major publishers, and more! (Since we’re still getting donations, we will send a more detailed prize breakdown before the Read-A-Thon ends.)

The class with the highest rate of participation will receive a pizza party sponsored by Roma Pizza.

When Will Prizes Be Announced/Awarded?

It usually takes a few days for all the forms to come in and for volunteers to tally all the minutes, but **all Read-A-Thon participants should receive their certificates and prizes by Friday, March 15**. Students who hand in their materials in the lobby on March 11 can get their goody bags right away; students who hand in materials to their teachers will have their goody bags (and other prizes, if applicable) delivered to their classrooms.

Wait! I Still Have Questions...

No problem. [Email the PTO](#) with the subject line “Read-A-Thon,” and we’ll answer any further questions you have.