

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." -Dr. Seuss*



## **Damascus Elementary PTA READ-A-THON**

Dear DES Families,

The Damascus Elementary School PTA is very pleased to announce our fifth annual Read-A-Thon for our students! We all want our kids to share a love of reading and this Read-A-Thon supports that goal as well as raises money for the PTA without your child having to sell anything or the school having to split the profits with another organization. Will you please join us in asking at least 5 friends and family members to sponsor your child as he/she pledges to read at least 15 minutes a day for 15 days? We are even offering an option to pay online to make collecting money even easier!

The PTA has made the Read-A-Thon easy and fun and we're hoping that everyone will participate to make it a huge success for our school. The best part of the Read-A-Thon is that **100% of the money raised will stay at Damascus Elementary School and directly benefit our kids** to fund family fun nights, cultural arts assemblies, staff appreciation, Grandparents day, muffins with moms, the science fair, books for the media center, enhancements to the curriculum and much, much more!! And there's nothing to buy; just family and friends encouraging our kids to read! The Read-A-Thon is the primary fundraiser for the PTA, so let's work together to make it even more successful than last year!!

### **Here's how it works.**

This packet contains the Read-A-Thon rules, an overview of the prizes, a participation form, a sponsorship form, and a calendar to record minutes read each night. Your child can begin setting his/her reading goals and ask people to sponsor them right away!! Sponsors can pledge to pay a certain amount per minute that your child reads or is read to. They can also pledge a flat amount to encourage your child to meet his/her reading goal. Remind your child that relatives, neighbors, family friends, coaches and even often-frequented businesses make GREAT sponsors! All donations are tax deductible. Your child can continue collecting sponsors throughout the Read-A-Thon.

Your child will track the minutes they read outside of school each day from Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. **Please initial your child's recording calendar each day and return it in their green student folder so the minutes read can be tracked daily.** The classes compete against each other for the most minutes read to make the Read-A-Thon even more fun! Forms and any money collected are due back by Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please use the Read-A-Thon packet envelope to return your child's sponsorship form and minutes recording form along with any money collected so that your child will be eligible for the prize drawings to reward our hard-working readers!! Sponsors can also pay online through the Damascus Elementary School website at [www.damascuspta.com](http://www.damascuspta.com).

### **Prizes, Prizes and More Prizes!!**

There are lots of prizes students can earn for participating in the Read-A-Thon, whether he/she raises money or not. There will be drawings every day to reward our hardworking readers, prizes for the top readers and fundraisers in every class as well as incentives for the whole school if we reach our minutes read goals. See the overview of prizes for more information.

Thank you so very much for your support. Please feel free to contact Laurie Murtaugh ([laurie.murtaugh@verizon.net](mailto:laurie.murtaugh@verizon.net)) if you have any questions about this fundraiser.



## Damascus Elementary School READ-A-THON Rules

Use your Sponsor Pledge Form to keep track of your sponsors and how much they pledge. Use your Minutes Recording Form to keep track of how many minutes you read (or are read to) and return the form in your green folder **each day** so your minutes can be included in your class tally.

\*\*\*Aim to get at least FIVE sponsors to be entered into a prize drawing!\*\*\*

### READY - SET - GO!!

1. Reading before school *counts*.
2. Reading before the official beginning of the READ-A-THON on March 29<sup>th</sup> does not count.
3. Being read to by other people *counts*.
4. Reading during class time does not count.
5. Reading aloud to the dog, cat, chicken, goldfish, sheep, guinea pig, turtle, chicken, goat (or any other pet) *counts*.
6. Reading on a train, with a fox, in the rain, or on a box *counts*.
7. Reading under the covers, with a flashlight, late at night *counts* (but only if it's okay with your parents).
8. Reading aloud to other people *counts*. If you read to someone who is also participating in the Read-A-Thon, it *counts for both of you!*
9. Reading instead of watching TV or playing video games definitely *counts!*
10. Reading assigned homework (including assigned books, chapters, etc) *counts*.
11. Reading anything, in any language (even cereal boxes) *counts*.
12. Attending the "Passport to Reading" night at school on April 4<sup>th</sup> *counts for DOUBLE MINUTES!* A separate flyer with more details about the reading night will be coming home soon, so be on the lookout for it.



No guessing or rounding off minutes. Please look at the clock or use a timer to keep track of your minutes. Please remember that **CHARACTER COUNTS - be honest with your minutes** so that it will be fair and fun for everyone. Remember that your **parents need to initial your minutes every day** on your Minute Recording Sheet. Bring it to school every day so your minutes can be added to the classroom total.



# READ-A-THON IMPORTANT DATES



- Wed, March 27<sup>th</sup>** Set your reading goal and halfway goal and start collecting sponsors.
- Fri, March 29<sup>th</sup>** Ready – Set – Go!! Use your Sponsorship Form to keep track of your sponsors and how much they pledge. Use your Minutes Recording Sheet to keep track of how many minutes you read. *Don't forget to have a parent initial your form and return it to school each day in your green folder to be included in the daily classroom tally.*
- Mon, April 1<sup>st</sup>** Remember to turn in your Participation Form to receive a prize! Daily prize drawings begin. Students will be entered into a drawing for each day they turn in their initialed reading calendar.
- Thurs, April 4<sup>th</sup>** Come to the “Passport to Reading” night from 6-8pm in the All Purpose Room. You'll get to record double minutes for today!
- Fri, April 5<sup>th</sup>** HALFWAY DAY!! Turn in your half-way goal sheet as soon as you meet your half-way goal and receive a prize!
- Tues, April 9<sup>th</sup>** Come to school dressed as your favorite book character!
- Fri, April 12<sup>th</sup>** This is the last day to count the minutes you read, so read, read, read tonight!!
- April 15<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>** Return your Minute Recording Form, your Sponsorship Form and the Money Collected in the Read-A-Thon envelope to school to be entered in the prize drawings!!

## **PRIZES, PRIZES AND MORE PRIZES!!**

**All students will receive prizes for:**

- Turning in their Signed Participation Form.
- Reaching their half-way goal and turning in the Half-Way Form.
- Attending the “Passport to Reading” night.
- Turning in their forms and any money collected April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Collecting 5 or more sponsors.
- Attending an event at the library.
- Students will be entered into a drawing for each day they turn in their signed reading calendar.

**The top 4 readers and top 2 fundraisers in each class will win the opportunity to go on a field trip to Jimmie Cone to get a sweet treat!**



**The top readers and fundraisers in each class will be entered into a drawing to win awesome prizes like Kindle Fires, Chromebooks and Echo Dots!**



**Students who get at least 5 people to sponsor them will be entered into a drawing to win gift cards and fun prizes!!**

**The class in each grade that reads the most minutes will have a class movie celebration!**

**Last year, our little school read over 154,000 minutes and we know we can beat it this year!! Prizes for reaching school wide reading goals:**

25,000 minutes	Free Seating Day!!
50,000 minutes	Outdoor Lunch
100,000 minutes	Recess dance party
125,000 minutes	An assembly with cool reptiles and animals!
150,000 minutes	The teachers will star in a LIP-SYNC MUSIC VIDEO!!
175,000 minutes	This awesome prize is still a secret until we work out all the details. Don't worry – it will be worth all the reading!!

***The best prize of all is building a love of reading in our children!!***

# Damascus Elementary PTA Read-A-Thon



## Participation Form/Permission Slip

**I agree to participate in the Damascus Elementary Read-A-Thon.  
My Goal is to read (or be read to) \_\_\_\_\_ minutes per day for  
a TOTAL of \_\_\_\_\_ Read-A-Thon Minutes.**

(15 days x minutes per day)

For my halfway goal, I plan to read \_\_\_\_\_ minutes!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Agreement:

I have read and understand the rules of the DES Read-A-Thon explained in this packet. I consent to my child's participation in this school activity. **I agree to initial my child's reading time on their Minutes Recording Sheet each day and return it in their green take home folder every day.** If my child chooses to raise money for reading, I will help him/her find sponsors, and supervise the collection of funds raised and make sure they are returned to the school by Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Students are not required to collect money to participate in the Read-A-Thon.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Half-Way Goal Sheet

For my halfway goal, I pledged to read  
(or be read to) \_\_\_\_\_ minutes ... AND I DID!!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please SAVE and RETURN this sheet to your teacher  
when you meet your halfway goal to receive a prize!!**



## Half-Way Goal Sheet

For my halfway goal, I pledged to read  
(or be read to) \_\_\_\_\_ minutes ... AND I DID!!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian initials \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please SAVE and RETURN this sheet to your teacher  
when you meet your halfway goal to receive a prize!!**



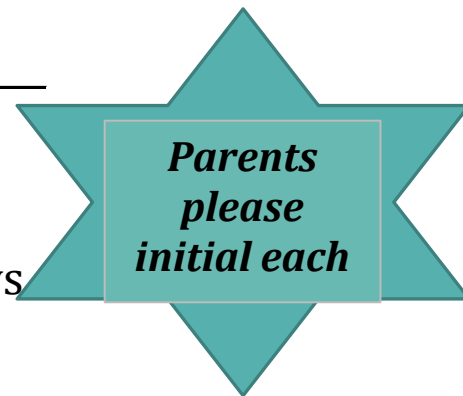


# DES READ-A-THON Minute Recording Sheet

\*\*\*\* Keep this recording sheet in your green student folder so your minutes can be tracked each day. Classes are competing against each other so we want to keep the minutes up to date\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_



\* My Goal is to read \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in 15 days.

\* My Half-Way Goal is to read \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in 7 days

March/April 2019

**Start Reading on Friday, March 29th**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
X	X	X	Read-A-Thon Pep Rally	X	Start Reading!!	Minutes Read:
Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Halfway Day!!!	Minutes Read:
	Don't forget to turn in your participation form!			Count double minutes for today if you attend the "Passport"	Turn in your half-way goal sheet!	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Minutes Read:	Tally your minutes and collect money from sponsors.
		DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER!			Last night to track your minutes!!	

**April 23 - 26th:**

Return your Minute Recording Form, Sponsorship Form and Money Collected in the Read-A-Thon envelope to school in order to be entered into the prize drawings!! April 26th IS THE LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PRIZE DRAWINGS.

Total Reading Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Required*



# Damascus Elementary School Read – A – Thon Sponsor Pledge Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

**MY GOAL IS TO READ \_\_\_\_\_ MINUTES IN 15 DAYS!!!**

Dear Sponsor:

I am participating in a school-wide Read-A-Thon at Damascus Elementary School from March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Read-A-Thon is sponsored by our PTA and encourages kids like me to enjoy reading and improve our reading skills while raising money for my school. 100% of the money raised will directly benefit our students to fund family fun events, cultural arts assemblies, field trips, enhancements to our curriculum, staff appreciation, Grandparents day, the science fair and much, much more! There's nothing to buy; just family and friends encouraging our kids to read! **Will you please sponsor me by making a pledge? You can make a flat rate donation or pledge an amount per minute I read. All donations are tax deductible and sponsors can even pay online at [www.damascuspta.com](http://www.damascuspta.com). Thank you for your support!!**

Sponsor Name	Sponsor Phone #	Pledge Amount (flat rate or per minute)	Minutes Read	Total Due (pledge per min. x minutes read)	Collected?
1)					
2)					
3)					
4)					
5)					
6)					
7)					
8)					
9)					
10)					

Some example pledges per minute: ( $\$.05 \times 250 \text{ minutes} = \$12.50$ ) ( $\$.10 \times 250 \text{ min} = \$25.00$ ) ( $\$.25 \times 250 \text{ min} = \$62.50$ )

Make checks payable to Damascus Elementary School PTA. Return this form, your minute recording calendar and money collected in the Read-A-Thon envelope to school by April 26<sup>th</sup> to be entered into the PRIZE DRAWINGS!!



## Sample Read-A-Thon Sponsorship Email

*Copy and paste the sample below into a blank email and send to your family and friends to ask for their support! Don't forget to sign your name and edit the letter to make it more personal.*

Dear Family and Friends,

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, (INSERT CHILDS NAME) will begin a two week reading challenge known as the Damascus Elementary School Read-A-Thon.

The PTA has made this Read-A-Thon easy and fun. The best part of the Read-A-Thon is that 100% of the money raised will stay at Damascus Elementary School and directly benefit our kids to fund family fun nights, cultural arts assemblies, staff appreciation, grandparents day, muffins with moms, the science fair, enhancements to the curriculum and much, much more!! And there's nothing to buy; just family and friends encouraging our kids to read!

There will be prizes for the top readers and fundraisers in every class who will also be entered into a drawing to win fun prizes like a Kindle Fire, Chromebook or Amazon Echo Dot. There are also prizes that benefit the whole school for meeting certain levels of minutes read including cool animal show when students read 100,000 minutes and a lip-sync challenge when students read 150,000 minutes. Last year, the 350 students in our school read over 154,000 minutes during the Read-A-Thon and we know we can beat it this year!

During the Read-A-Thon (INSERT CHILDS NAME) will be reading as much as (HE/SHE) can outside of school hours; **(HIS/HER) goal is to read \_\_\_\_\_ minutes a day (\_\_\_\_\_ total minutes)!** Please help sponsor (HIM/HER) either per minute read **or** with a flat donation. Donations can be made in one of two ways:

1. Please send me a check by April 26<sup>th</sup> made payable to **DES PTA**. Please write (INSERT CHILDS NAME) in the memo section of your check.

2. You can sponsor (INSERT CHILDS NAME) **online** via PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account and can use your debit or credit card.

- Please go to our PTA website at <http://www.damascuspta.com/make-payments-online/>
- Select payment for: “Read-A-Thon”
- Pick an amount to donate
- Indicate student’s first and last name you are sponsoring

Thanks again for sponsoring (INSERT CHILDS NAME)! I really appreciate it and so does Damascus Elementary School!

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

Sincerely,

(Your Name)