



September, 2010

Dear Student,

Thank you for participating in the **“Give Literacy a Hand” Read-a-thon**. This Read-a-thon is designed to help you improve your literacy skills by focusing on reading during the month of October. The monies that you raise through pledged donations will benefit your school’s educational programs, and will promote deaf literacy nationwide.

To participate is simple – here’s how to get started:

1. **Ask your Parent to Sign the Permission Slip** – Available at the lower section of the Parent Letter.
2. **Set a Daily Reading Goal** – Decide how many minutes you will read between October 1- 31, 2009. Include all time spent reading outside of school. The time parents or others read aloud to a student also counts.
3. **Secure Sponsors** – Using the Pledge Sheet, you are asked to secure sponsors – parents, relatives, friends, and neighbors – people who will pledge money for each minute that you read. (A pledge might be \$.02/minute or a one-time pledge of a set amount.)
4. **Track Reading Time** – Track how many minutes you read each day *after school* using the Calendar Tally Sheet.
5. **Collect Pledges** – After collecting your money, place the money /checks and forms into an envelope marked *Give Literacy a Hand Read-a-thon*. Envelopes are due back to the classroom no later than November 5, 2010.

Do you need some ideas or suggestions of books to read? Please visit our web site that was specially designed for this Read-a-thon at www.literacycounts.org. You will be able to read a listing of suggested favorites, by grade level, of NCSA’s spokesperson and famous professional lacrosse player, Paul Rabil. Also, while you are visiting the web site, read why famous children’s author, Laura Numeroff, is endorsing our Read-a-thon. She is the author of the spectacular book, “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie”.

To thank you for participating, we are giving every participant – any student who receives at least one sponsor – a prize! Other prizes are available for students who read a minimum of 500 minutes, and 1,000 minutes.

There is a Grand Prize for the student who earns and receives the most money in pledges school-wide.

Thank you again for your participation. Please send an email to Readathon@literacycounts.org if you have any questions or comments.