**Annual Gifted Program Fall Read-A-Thon**

**PAGE** (Parents and Advocates for Gifted Education) is sponsoring the annual gifted student Read-A-Thon to raise money to support activities at the *Joplin Elementary Gifted Center*. The money will be used to provide field trips, continuing education for teachers, and to purchase items needed for the classrooms. In the past, PAGE used the funds to purchase IPADs for the classrooms and have sent students on field trips to the Discovery Center, Silver Dollar City, Crystal Bridges, the Joplin Globe, Branson, among others.

The goal of the Read-A-Thon is for each student to raise a minimum of $35. Through this fundraiser, we hope to provide students with opportunities they would not receive in their home classroom while promoting the love of reading. *Research shows that children who love to read have better test scores throughout their academic career.*

**Read-A-Thon Timeline**

1. **Kick-Off—Week of Sept 27th** PAGE will work with the teachers to kick-off the Read-a-thon and help the students set a nightly reading goal for the read-a-thon week. Students will receive donation forms and collection envelops on their Gifted Day. Students will then inform their parents about the Read-a-Thon and discuss their **reading and pledge goals.** *(These forms are inside the envelopes.)*
2. **Obtain Pledges/Sponsors—Week of October 4th – 8th** Students will officially start seeking sponsors from family, friends, and anyone interested in supporting the Gifted Center. Donations can be pledges by **minutes read or as a lump sum**. Donations may be *collected up-front or upon completion of the read-a-thon*. **NEVER ALLOW CHILDREN TO GO DOOR TO DOOR ALONE TO COLLECT DONATIONS!**
3. **Read Week—Week of October 11th-** All students will read *after school* on Monday, October 11th through Sunday, October 17th to complete their reading goal. Both the student and a parent or guardian will sign off on the number of minutes read each evening/afternoon. *Please record nightly for accuracy.*
4. **Collect Pledges—Weeks of October 18th and October 25th** *Students will use their collection envelopes for any donations they need to collect.* All pledges and your reading log must be turned in by your gifted day of the 2nd week to be considered for the contest.

**Prize winners will be announced at the Gifted Park Night on Friday, November 5th from 5:30-6:30 at Cunningham Park.**

**Prizes will be awarded for the top pledge earners and for the top minutes read.**

**Prizes are donated from local businesses.**

**Thank you for your support and for making it a great year at the Gifted Center!**

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