



Patrick Henry ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2017 Patrick Henry Read-A-Thon

Dear Patrick Henry Families,

The PTA is sponsoring our annual Read-A-Thon. We invite all families to participate in this event that promotes literacy and raises funds for the Patrick Henry PTA.

The Read-A-Thon is a 12-day period (October 11-22, 2017) where we encourage Henry students to read as much as possible! Each student is given a reading log and asked to record how many minutes they read each day outside of school. **Please help your student(s) fill out their reading log(s) each day and send it back to school on Monday, October 23.**

We hope that all students will challenge themselves to read at least 500 minutes – that's about 40 minutes a day. **Each student who makes the 500-minute goal will be recognized as a proud member of the Patrick Henry Reading Fleet!** They get entered into a raffle for great prizes donated by our community and help to earn a schoolwide reading celebration.

The Read-A-Thon is also a great fundraiser for our school. We ask students to raise support in the form of pledges. To make fundraiser easier, we are using the website PledgeStar. **Please go to <https://pledgestar.com/patrickhenryread/> to create a fundraising page.** You can invite friends and family members to support your student. All the money goes back to Patrick Henry and is tax deductible. We also accept cash or check contributions (checks should be made to the Patrick Henry PTA – all donations must have your student's name & teacher name on them to be credited appropriately).

Students earn prizes for fundraising at the \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$300, \$400, and \$500 levels. **All money is due by November 3 to be eligible for prizes.**

Enclosed please find your student's reading log, frequently asked questions, and a list of prizes. Fundraising is strongly encouraged but not required.

We appreciate your support! If you have any questions, please contact Henry parent Christine Brittle who is coordinating this year's Read-A-Thon. You may reach her at christinebrittle@yahoo.com or 703-254-6515.

Happy Reading!



Patrick Henry ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Read-A-Thon Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Read-A-Thon? Why do we do this?

Read-A-Thon is one of two main PTA fundraisers (the Silent Auction is the other). We ask students to read as much as they can during this time and to ask others to support them. The Read-A-Thon raises \$10,000-\$15,000; that money goes directly to support our school. It also gets our students excited about reading.

How do we participate?

First, encourage your student(s) to read as much as possible. Fill out the reading log each day, and tally your minutes. Second, go to <https://pledgestar.com/patrickhenryread/> to create your fundraising page. Students earn prizes both for reading and for fundraising.

What's the Reading Fleet?

Every Henry student who reads 500 minutes during this time period (about 40 minutes a day) will be recognized as a member of the Reading Fleet. They will get an official wristband and are also entered in a raffle for prizes. If enough Henry students join the Reading Fleet, students will earn a school-wide reading celebration.

What are key dates?

Packets go home October 10. Reading dates are October 11-22. Funds are due on November 3. Prizes will be distributed in November or December.

How do we fundraise?

Go to <https://pledgestar.com/patrickhenryread/>, enter your name and email, and follow the instructions. We encourage all families to use the online system to make fundraising easier. However, you can also turn in cash or checks. Make checks payable to Patrick Henry PTA. Please label all donations with your student's name and teacher's name, and turn them in to teachers or the main office by November 3. Fundraising is encouraged but not required.

What counts as reading? What if my student can't read yet?

Reading includes any time spent reading or looking at books, being read to, reading aloud, listening to audio books, or reading for homework. Reading during the school day only counts during the special times marked as READ! on the reading log. We encourage you to make it a family habit to read. The library (both school and Arlington County) is a great resource for books, and many teachers have lending libraries as well. You can find books online at <https://henry.apsva.us> under digital resources. Arlington Public Library has audio books via both OverDrive and hoopla <https://library.arlingtonva.us/>.