

THE WILBERFORCE SCHOOL READING RALLY 2019 PARENT INFORMATION

February might bring on the winter doldrums for some, but at The Wilberforce School, we joyfully immerse ourselves in the world of books. **It is time for our annual Reading Rally (February 1-28).**

What is Reading Rally?

Reading Rally is an opportunity for our students to develop incredible reading habits and, at the same time, to raise funds (through sponsorship) to build our classroom libraries.

How does it work?

Each Wilberforce student is encouraged to secure a sponsor(s) who pledges a one-time donation to match the student's pledge to meet a reading goal. With or without a sponsor, students read, read, read!

What is required from sponsors?

A personal note by your student can be mailed along with the enclosed sponsorship form (also found in ParentsWeb, under Resource Documents). Instructions on how to submit sponsorship money can be found on the form. Donations should be submitted by **Friday, March 22.**

If a student does not secure a sponsor, can he/she still participate in Reading Rally?

Yes! First and foremost, we hope that the Rally motivates students to read. Class goals and competition across classes lend to the excitement, and every student feels a part. Although the reading goals are not required, and certainly are not counted as homework, we hope that every student will enthusiastically participate.

Book Character Day is Tuesday, Feb. 26

As a fun homage to all the interesting characters they have encountered in their month of reading, Lower School students are invited to come to school dressed as book characters on this day. Laura Ingalls Wilder, Christopher Robin, Bilbo Baggins, or whomever they choose. Please, no weapons or masks. Teachers join the fun as well!

How much should Wilberforce students read?

Students may challenge themselves to meet these goals:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Weekly Goal</u>	<u>Grand Total Goal</u>
Explorers 1	240 min. per week (6 days at 40 min. per day)	960 min.
Explorers 2	270 min. per week (6 days at 45 min. per day)	1,080 min.
Classes 1-2	300 min. per week (6 days at 50 min. per day)	1,200 min.
Classes 3-5	360 min. per week (6 days at 60 min. per day)	1,440 min.

Middle and Upper School students do not participate in Reading Rally.

How will students report their reading?

Students record their minutes in weekly reading logs, which the teacher provides. The teacher then collects these logs each week and calculates the average minutes read by the class. By comparing class averages week by week, students engage in friendly competition.

What counts as reading minutes?

- Student reading to self (aloud or silently)
- Parent (or older sibling, another adult) reading to a student (of any class)
- Student reading aloud to parent – for all Explorers, Class One, and Class Two students only – minutes are doubled when recorded in the log (e.g., 5 minutes read aloud to Mom is recorded as 10 minutes)
- Listening to audiobooks – maximum 60 minutes/day



- Teacher-assigned literature as part of homework
- Daily Bible reading (by student or with family)
- Reading books written in English (sorry, no foreign languages)

* Time spent reading music (i.e., instrument practice) does not count as reading minutes.

Does reading in the classroom count?

No, all Rally reading must occur during out-of-class time. **However**, reading during these times can be recorded:

- Explorers Bridge
- Class One-Two, M-W-F afternoons (during time set aside to do homework)
- Homework Club/Study Hall (3:05-4:30) may be included as Rally reading minutes.

Is there a maximum number of hours that a student can record per day?

We do not want students to be losing sleep trying to accrue reading minutes. Therefore, a student should not read more than **4 hours per weekday** and **6 hours per weekend day**.

What books may my child read?

- Any age-appropriate book in the MPR library or in your child's classroom library.
- Any age-appropriate book listed in *The Classical Reader*, published by Classical Academic Press. This resource can be purchased from our front office or from online booksellers, such as Amazon.
- Any parent-approved book. If you are unsure about a title, ask the classroom teacher.
- We advise that students avoid "reading ahead" books from a higher grade's curriculum, to save that experience for when they enter those grades.

What will happen with the results of the Rally?

- At the end of the Rally, each participant will receive a certificate.
- We will award pizza parties to two winning Lower School classes who have the highest average total reading minutes – one among E1-2/C1-C2 and one among C3-5.
- With the money raised, classroom teachers will be able to choose books and furniture for their classroom libraries.

Reading Rally officially begins Friday, February 1 (7am) and ends on Thursday, February 28 (9pm).

THE WILBERFORCE SCHOOL
READING RALLY SPONSORSHIP 2019



February is Reading Rally month at The Wilberforce School. During Reading Rally, we challenge ourselves to read more than usual, to meet new authors, and to discover different genres. By the end of the month, each student seeks to meet an impressive reading goal.

Another goal of Reading Rally is to ask family and friends to sponsor our students. As students pledge to meet reading goals, sponsors pledge to donate money to our school.

We have a special giving opportunity this year as we prepare for a move to our permanent campus – 75

Mapleton Road, Princeton. As you consider supporting the reading efforts of our students, know that you are investing in classrooms that reflect our love for learning, love for literature, and love for students. How will you partner with us in this endeavor?

Become a sponsor by giving online (wilberforceschool.org) OR by submitting a donation with this form:

CREATE A LIBRARY IN EACH CLASSROOM

- \$50 Purchases books for classroom libraries
- \$150 Purchases one bookcase
- \$500 Furnishes a classroom library (bookcase, reading rug, chair)
- Other \$ _____

Name of student(s) you are sponsoring:

Student 1	_____	Grade (Pre-K-5) _____
Student 2	_____	Grade (Pre-K-5) _____
Student 3	_____	Grade (Pre-K-5) _____
Student 4	_____	Grade (Pre-K-5) _____

*A tax deductible receipt will be issued for donations \$20 and over. To receive a receipt, please supply a full mailing address below.

Your name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____

In an envelope, enclose this form with cash or a check (payable to “The Wilberforce School,” with “Reading Rally” on the memo line). Please give the donation envelope to the student, or mail it directly to our school by Friday, March 22:

Wilberforce School | Business Office | 99 Clarksville Road | Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS FORM WITH SPONSORSHIP MONEY