



Dear SCS Families,

January 30, 2025

Our third annual schoolwide Readathon begins **Wednesday, February 5** and runs through **Wednesday, March 5**. This is the PTO's largest fundraiser, and it's also a great way to turn your child into a lifelong reader. Our theme is **READING IS SWEET**, and our goal is to read **150,000 minutes together!** We also have fun events planned all month long: Go to [shelburnepto.org/readathonevents](http://shelburnepto.org/readathonevents) to learn more!

We are using a web-based platform called PledgeStar to track minutes. If you choose, you can also use PledgeStar to ask friends, family, and neighbors to sponsor your child. Here's how the Readathon works:

**1. Register your family for PledgeStar.**

- Go to [pledgestar.com/shelburne](http://pledgestar.com/shelburne), or search for "PledgeStar" in your device's app store to download the app. (*NOTE: If you participated last year, you'll need to re-register. Use the same email address and you can import last year's donor contacts.*)
- Use event code **SHELBURNE** to locate the event in the app.
- Click "Not Registered For This Event."
- Enter an **adult's name and email address** (*Do not use your child's cvsdt.org email.*)
- Click "Submit." Then follow the instructions on-screen to register your reader(s).
- For help, call 1-888-598-7510 for PledgeStar support.

**2. Secure sponsors. (optional)**

Raising money is a great way to support SCS! Donations are collected via PledgeStar or by check (Write it to "SCS PTO" and drop off or mail to 345 Harbor Road, Shelburne, VT 05482).

**3. Stock up on books!**

- Attend the free BOOK SWAP on Wednesday, February 5 from 6 - 7:30 in the Green Team Common. Book donations are welcomed, not required. Enjoy \$2 pizza, crafts, and more!
- From **February 16-22**, shop at Phoenix Books in Burlington, Essex, or online ([phoenixbooks.biz](http://phoenixbooks.biz)). Use code **SCS** and the PTO earns **20% back!**

**4. Encourage your child to read.**

Post the attached calendar and reading log in your home. Help your child track their reading—solo reading, audiobooks, and reading aloud (or being read to) all count! Update your child's log on PledgeStar weekly. Then keep an eye on the schoolwide leaderboard. There will be fun prizes for the classes that read the most!

**Questions?** Please email [scsreadathon@gmail.com](mailto:scsreadathon@gmail.com).

Have FUN and happy reading!

– The SCS 2025 Readathon Committee



STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE & TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

Use this calendar to track your minutes. Then update your PledgeStar account weekly to track our progress as a school!  
Visit [shelburnepto.org/readathonevents](http://shelburnepto.org/readathonevents) for more info.

## February 5 - March 5 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	Adults and 7th & 8th graders! Join our SCS Community Read of <b>GATHER</b> by Kenneth Cadow		5 minutes Readathon Begins ★ FREE Book Swap 6-7:30 pm	6 minutes	7 minutes	8 minutes	
	9 minutes	10 minutes	11 minutes	12 minutes	13 minutes ★ Virtual Storytime 7-7:45 pm	14 minutes	15 minutes
16 minutes ★ Lucy Cooney Author Event 11:30 AM	17 minutes 	Feb. 16-22: Use code SCS to shop @ Phoenix Books				21 minutes ★ Character Day	22 minutes ★ James Kochalka Author Event 11 AM
23 minutes	24 minutes	25 minutes	26 minutes	27 minutes	28 minutes	1 minutes	
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2 minutes	3 minutes	4 minutes  <b>Town Meeting Day</b>	5 minutes ★ Readathon Ends	<b>TOTAL MINUTES:</b>			

**Don't miss the fun!**



**WED 2/5: FREE BOOK SWAP**  
Free books, pizza & more! Green Team Common: 6-7:30 pm

**THURS 2/13: VIRTUAL STORYTIME**  
Virtual bedtime stories with surprise SCS readers: 7-7:45 pm

**2/16 - 2/22: BOOK FAIR @ PHOENIX BOOKS**  
Use code **SCS** in person or online all week and SCS gets back 20%!

**SUN 2/16: AUTHOR LUCY COONEY**  
SCS bus driver & para LUCY COONEY reads from her new book **THE GAME** at Phoenix Books Burlington at 11:30 AM

**FRI 2/21: CHARACTER DAY**  
Dress like your favorite book character!

**SAT 2/22: AUTHOR JAMES KOCHALKA**  
This author & artist visits Phoenix Books Burlington at 11 AM

Enter your minutes on  
**★ PLEDGESTAR**



Sign up for a family account at [pledgestar.com/shelburne](http://pledgestar.com/shelburne)  
Use event code **SHELBURNE**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: What are the dates of the SCS Readathon?**

A: Wednesday, February 5 to Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Reading done before or after these dates is awesome, but is not counted toward the Readathon.

### **Q: What does my child need to do to participate in the Readathon?**

A: Please register your family for [PledgeStar](#)! If you participated in previous years, *you'll need to re-register. Use the same email address and you can import last year's donor contacts. Be sure to use an adult's email address (Do not use your child's cvsdt.org email.* For help registering, email [scsreadathon@gmail.com](mailto:scsreadathon@gmail.com) or call 1-888-598-7510 for PledgeStar support. Then work with your child to set a reading goal. Keep track of time spent reading, and log your child's minutes on PledgeStar. If you choose, you can also use PledgeStar to ask friends, family, and neighbors to sponsor your child.

### **Q: My child cannot yet read on their own. Can they still participate?**

A: Yes! Parents, guardians, siblings, friends, and other family members may read aloud to your child. This reading time counts toward minutes read.

### **Q: What counts as reading?**

A: Any time your child spends reading from Wednesday, February 5 to Wednesday, March 5, 2025. This includes solo reading time as well as time spent listening to someone else read aloud. Audiobooks, comics, cereal boxes, magazines, newspapers... it all counts!

### **Q: Whom should my child ask to be a sponsor?**

A: Sponsors can be parents, relatives, neighbors, or friends — anyone who has a connection to your child, would like to support their reading, and would like to support SCS. This is a major fundraiser for the PTO where it is easy to ask extended family and friends to donate to our school. PledgeStar allows you to customize your request letter, so feel free to make it your own.

### **Q: How much money should a sponsor donate?**

A: That is up to the sponsor. Any donation is greatly appreciated!

**Q: When should the money be collected from sponsors?**

A: The Readathon ends Wednesday, March 5, and all donations are due by **Friday, March 7**. Online donations made via Pledgestar can be made anytime. Sponsors can choose to add an additional donation to help cover credit card and other fees. Or sponsors can write a check to "SCS PTO." Checks can be dropped in the front office or mailed to Shelburne Community School, 345 Harbor Road, Shelburne, VT 05482.

**Q: Can my child's sponsors get a receipt for tax purposes?**

A: Yes. PledgeStar automatically provides a tax receipt as well as a thank you letter whenever someone sponsors your child.

**Q: Are there prizes?**

A: Yes. This year there is a Golden Ticket Scavenger Hunt around Shelburne to build excitement for the Readathon. Every student who turns in their scavenger hunt sheet at the end of the Readathon will receive a small prize. There will also be fun surprises and rewards for classes that read the most!

**Q: Can my child participate – even without sponsors?**

A: Yes, all students are encouraged to participate! Please sign up for PledgeStar and log your child's minutes online because the classes that read the most minutes will be rewarded with special class celebrations. In addition, our school-wide goal is to read **130,000 minutes**, so every student who reads and logs minutes will help us meet this goal!