



Dear SCS Families,

January 26, 2026

Our fourth annual schoolwide Readathon begins **Wednesday, February 4** and runs through **Wednesday, March 4**. A monthlong celebration of reading, this is the PTO's largest fundraiser, and it's also a great way to inspire your child's love of reading. Our theme is **Discover the World of Reading**, and our goal is to read **200,000 minutes together!** We also have fun events planned all month long: Go to shelburnepto.org/readathon 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, 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 cvsdvt.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 4 from 6 - 7:30 in the Green Team Common. Book donations are welcomed, not required. Enjoy free pizza, crafts, and more!

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, and a schoolwide celebration when we reach our 200,00 minute goal—let's do it!

Questions? Please email readathon@shelburnepto.org.

Have FUN and happy reading!

– The SCS 2026 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/readathon for more info.

February 4 - March 4 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Help SCS reach our goal: 200,000 minutes of reading!		4 minutes Readathon Begins ★ FREE Book Swap 6-7:30 pm	5 minutes	6 minutes Remember to hunt for Golden Tickets!	7 minutes
8 minutes	9 minutes	10 minutes	11 minutes	12 minutes ★ Virtual Storytime 7-7:45 pm	13 minutes	14 minutes
15 minutes	16 minutes	17 minutes	18 minutes	19 minutes ★ Character Day	20 minutes	21 minutes
22 minutes	23 minutes	24 minutes	25 minutes	26 minutes	27 minutes	28 minutes
1 minutes	2 minutes	3 minutes VOTE Town Meeting Day	4 minutes ★ Readathon Ends	5 minutes ★ Community Read 2:00 pm	TOTAL MINUTES:	

WED 2/4: FREE BOOK SWAP

Free books, crafts, pizza, & more! Green Team Common: 6-7:30 pm

THURS 2/12: VIRTUAL STORYTIME

Virtual bedtime stories with surprise SCS readers: 7-7:45 pm

FRI 2/20: CHARACTER DAY

Dress like your favorite book character!

THURS 3/5: SCS COMMUNITY READ

Join in a discussion of *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes. All adults and 5th-8th grade students welcome.

CELEBRATIONS

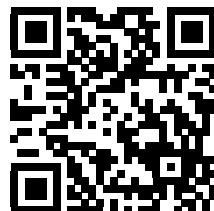
Look forward to pop-up celebrations of reading throughout the month. The K-4 and 5-8 classes that read the most minutes will get to silly string Ms. Roth and Mr. Cluff at an assembly!

Don't miss the fun!



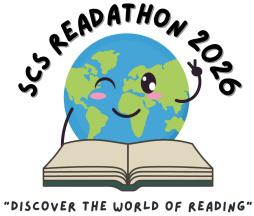
Enter your minutes on

PLEDGESTAR



Sign up for a family account at
pledgestar.com/shelburne
Use event code **SHELBURNE**

Readathon 2026 Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What are the dates of the SCS Readathon?

A: Wednesday, February 4 to Wednesday, March 4, 2026. 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 [cvsdvt.org](#) email. For help registering, email readathon@shelburnepto.org 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 4 to Wednesday, March 4, 2026. This includes solo reading time as well as time spent listening to someone else read aloud. Audiobooks, comics, magazines, newspapers, song lyrics...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 4, and all donations are due by **Friday, March 6**. 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. The K-4 and 5-8 classes that read the most will get to silly string Ms. Roth and Mr. Cluff at an assembly! Look out for fun surprises and celebrations throughout the readathon.

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 **200,000 minutes**, so every student who reads and logs minutes will help us meet this goal!



Can you find the Golden Tickets?

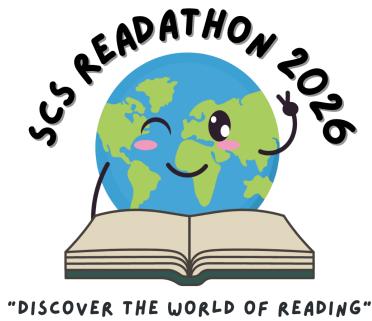
To celebrate the Shelburne Community School Readathon, the reading fairies have hidden 9 golden tickets inside SCS and around Shelburne.

You will be able to find the golden tickets using only your eyes—you should do not have to move or touch anything to locate a ticket!

Please do not touch the ticket. Kindly leave it in place so others can find it.

Write down each ticket's location on the following page. Then return your completed sheet to the front office by **Friday, March 6** to receive a special prize!

Here are some clues to help you. Happy hunting!



"DISCOVER THE WORLD OF READING"

**A RIDDLE TO HELP...****THE TICKET IS...**

In this school where stories soar,
Seek the spot you can explore.
A golden ticket's tucked away,
Where imaginations blast off every day.

By the doors where people meet,
And friends and teachers often greet,
Take a peek and have some fun—
A golden ticket waits for one!

Into the village we go!
Turn a page,
Check a shelf.
The world of reading reveals itself.

With jars of candy all around,
Sugary treasures can be found.
Bells may ring and floors may creak—
The Golden Ticket is yours to seek!

Where muffins sit and hot drinks delight,
A golden ticket hides from sight.
Not in your cup, but near a nook.
Take a peek, come have a look!

Yummy treats and baked delights,
A Vermont gem for all appetites.
Peek behind the croissants and pie,
A golden ticket is hidden nearby!

After school we walk this way,
To where the soccer players play.
Slow your steps and look around,
A golden ticket will be found.

When smiles grow wide and worries melt,
A chilly joy is always felt.
Search where happiness is scooped with care,
Your golden ticket will be waiting there.

Where stories come alive and pigs might fly,
Imagination passes by.
Browse the shelves where dreams begin,
Your golden ticket is tucked within.