

Dear teacher/educator:

It is with great enthusiasm that we invite you to join us in helping children worldwide become lifelong readers. With education as a top priority, we cannot think of a more urgent task than inspiring our children, through our own excitement and participation, to discover the joy of books. Research tells us that children who learn to read well in their early academic years excel in their later years. With an astonishing 68 percent of the nation's fourth-graders performing below the proficient achievement level, the responsibility falls on parents, educators, and community leaders to assure reading success is a shared goal across our nation and around the globe. For this reason, we have accepted the honor of Ambassadors of Reading for the sixth annual **Scholastic Read For 2005** program.

Initiated in 1999 by Scholastic, the global leader in children's publishing and media, **Read For 2005** encourages children, parents, and teachers to read together for one day with the hope that their reading will continue for days to come. **Scholastic Read For 2005** will take place worldwide on **Friday, December 3, 2004**, and we invite you and your students to participate in this meaningful reading event and read together for 2,005 seconds (approximately 33 1/3 minutes). Last year, more than 24,000 teachers participated in this worldwide reading day. This year, with your help, we hope to surpass that exciting achievement and make **Scholastic Read For 2005** the most successful "Read For" ever.

I urge you to join us and Scholastic in taking the necessary steps to promote literacy in classrooms, libraries and living rooms around the nation. To sign up your class/school for **Scholastic Read For 2005** and to be featured on the world map of participating schools, visit www.Scholastic.com/ReadFor2005, where you can also obtain more information and free classroom resources.

Your work can help initiate a life-long reading habit, the product of which is always success.

Best wishes,



Anita Perry
First Lady of Texas
Scholastic Read For 2005 Co-Chair



Daniel Granholm Mulhern
First Gentleman of Michigan
Scholastic Read For 2005 Co-Chair



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