



# 2008-2009 MS Read-A-Thon Read for a Future without MS!

## The purpose of the MS Read-A-Thon activity is fivefold:

- Encourage students to develop their interest and enjoyment in reading.
- Develop altruism among young people.
- Promote literacy by encouraging young people to read.
- Inform youngsters about Multiple Sclerosis.
- Help people who have Multiple Sclerosis.

## The MS Read-A-Thon for students

Students are asked to read as many books as they can during a period of two consecutive weeks (determined by the school).

Each student receives a kit in which he or she must record all of the books read. To ensure that the books are a bit challenging and also for validation purposes, students must have an adult (parent or teacher) sign their initials on the reading list next to the books which were read. In addition, sponsors' names and the amounts pledged are recorded (an amount per book read or a fixed amount).

## The MS Read-A-Thon for teachers

### 1. Register Now :

Please fill out in the registration form, making sure that you indicate the two-week period, between November 2008 and April 2009, during which you choose to hold the event.

### 2. During the Read-A-Thon :

We need your cooperation to distribute the materials, suggest books that correspond to the children's academic level and encourage students to read as many books as possible over the two-week period.

### 3. At the End of the Read-A-Thon :

Please collect all the materials and money and return it to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

*"It was fun because I helped people just by reading books."*

*- Jacob, age 12*

*"I didn't like reading before, but I read books for the Read-A-Thon."*

*-Liam, age 9*

*"It was great! I had never seen anything like it. They were reading in the yard at recreation and lunchtime, everywhere! They were reading at home too because parents called us. It's amazing! Some children who had never read before started reading."*

Annie Turcotte, teacher at  
École Des Deux Ruisseaux in  
Gatineau

**We will provide you with all the materials needed for the MS Read-A-Thon**, such as documents for the contact person, teachers and parents, as well as kits for the students. In addition, we will supply promotional posters and prepaid envelopes for returning documents and money to the MS Society.

A videocassette is also available to explain the activity and the illness to the students.

When the MS Read-A-Thon period has ended, **we will compile everything**: the funds collected, the number of books read and the number of participating students in each class. We will inform each participating teacher of the results.

#### 4. After the Read-A-Thon: Two Options, One Choice!

Our school would like to **donate** 100% of the amount raised and receive a participation prize for each student.

**OR\***

Our school would like to **receive a check** for **10% of the total amount** raised and participation prize for each student.

**\*Choose one of these two options on the Registration Form.**

### Why participate?

Because, in addition to being a fun, energetic, intellectual activity that is easy to organize, young people discover the pleasures of reading while collecting funds for MS research and improve the quality of life for people with multiple sclerosis. At the moment, MS is still incurable despite the enormous progress made in research in recent years.

*"As a person who has MS and as spokesperson for the MS Read-A-Thon, I was extremely touched by the children's positive response to my speech. They promised me to read from now on, not only for the cause but also for the future. They had realized the importance of reading, and this for me was priceless."*

*-Marie-Josée  
Abouzakhm*

*"It is not easy to live with a father who has just learned that he has MS, because you have to accept a lot of changes in life, and they are not always nice at my age."*

*- Caroline, age 11*

### Participation Prize



#### For the school:

- If your school achieves a participation rate higher than 30%, you are eligible for a visit at your school by the Read-A-Thon spokesperson, Whynter Lamarre.
- Three reading and sponsorship champion schools will be rewarded with a special award.

#### For the contact:

- A special participation prize of the MS Read-A-Thon.

#### For teachers :

- A participation prize of the MS Read-A-Thon.

#### For students:

- A participation prize of the MS Read-A-Thon.
- Certificates for reading and sponsorship champions.

A draw for one brief bag for each participating school; readers who raise \$50 or more are eligible.

Please take note that the participation prizes list will be sent with the MS Read-A-Thon Kit.

For more information, visit [www.msreadathon.com](http://www.msreadathon.com).

**DRAW**

## Register your school now!

Register **before November 21** to take advantage of our early bird registration promotion and have **a chance to win one of the three Scholastic Canada gift certificates of \$300.**