

PRESS RELEASE

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Library kicks off Winter Reading Challenge on Dec. 2

Program returns for second year to keep kids reading over break

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library is bringing back for a second year its **Winter Reading Challenge**, in which students can earn prizes just by reading during winter break.

A twist on CML's Summer Reading Challenge, Winter Reading Challenge aims to keep reading skills strong when students are out of school over the holidays. From **Dec. 2 through Jan. 31**, K-12 students can pick up a game board at any of [CML's library locations](#). Just for signing up, they will earn a pencil and a Winter Reading Challenge bookmark.

Students are challenged to track their progress as they read for six hours and complete five squares on their game boards, at which time they will earn a book they can keep as well as a drawstring bag. Examples of game board squares include "Read a mystery", "Read a graphic novel", "Read a book about an animal" and many more.

Last winter, the program's debut saw nearly 5,000 registrations and nearly 2,000 completions.

Studies show that kids who read during out-of-school time maintain reading skills that are critical to future school success. The Third Grade Reading Guarantee in Ohio means many [central Ohio third graders could repeat the grade](#) if they don't pass state proficiency testing.

This year's Winter Reading Challenge is sponsored by Altrusa International of Columbus, Ohio, Ellen and Jim Bachmann, the Nationwide Foundation, Corde Westwater Robinson and Hugh Robinson.

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Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge and Ready for Kindergarten. The library's Strategic Plan supports the vision of "a thriving community where wisdom prevails," which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college and career readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

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