

PRESS RELEASE

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Library introduces Winter Reading Challenge to keep students reading over break

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library is introducing 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. 3 through Feb. 28, K-12 students can pick up a game board in the Homework Help Centers of any of [CML's 23 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, at which time they'll earn a book they can keep.

Then, students will have the opportunity to get a "Bingo" by completing reading challenges as assigned on their game board. Examples include "Read a mystery", "Read a graphic novel", "Read a book by an author who's new to you" and many more. Students who complete a "Bingo" will earn a pair of earbuds.

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.

Winter Reading Challenge is sponsored by Ellen and Jim Bachmann, the Nationwide Foundation, Corde Westwater Robinson and Grant Morrow, Altrusa International and the Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

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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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