

January 3, 2018

Dear Superintendents and Principals:

You might not know this, but there's one king in our household, and that is our golden retriever, Bandit. He loves living in the Governor's Mansion, and on any given day you might see him wondering around. Because he's the king of our house, we decided to name a new reading challenge after him. Donna and I are proud to announce the first ever *Bandit's Book Challenge* for elementary and middle students across Louisiana. I would like to invite your students to participate in this year's program.

The reading portion of the program will begin January 15, 2018, and will end on April 16, 2018. During this time, the students, with the help of their families, are expected to read 10 books of their own choosing that are not already required from their schools. Enclosed you will find a letter for you to distribute to parents explaining the program, an online registration link, and log sheets which are to be distributed to parents.

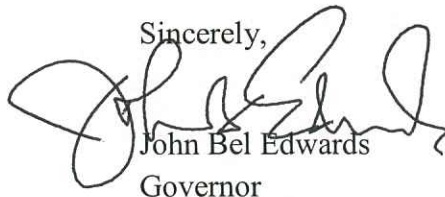
To participate in the *Bandit's Book Challenge*, please register your school on our website at www.gov.la.gov/banditsbookchallenge. The sign up deadline is now extended to January 8, 2017.

As part of this program, we will also be holding a bookmark design contest for participating students. The contest winner's bookmark will be distributed to every *Bandit's Book Challenge* participant in the state upon completion. These bookmarks should display a picture depicting the importance of reading from a young person's perspective.

All bookmark design submissions should be returned to my office at by April 16, 2018. Photos of each entry can be emailed to bookchallenge@la.gov.

Upon completion of this program in the spring, recognition ceremonies will be held at your schools, at which time certificates and bookmarks will be distributed to each child who has read 10 books. While I won't be able to attend every ceremony, Donna and I will do our best to participate. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (225) 342-9800.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards
Governor