



December 5, 2018

Dear Parents:

Exposing your child to books in the home is an important part of the learning experience. That's why I would like to invite you and your child to participate in the first ever *Bandit's Book Challenge* reading program. The program is designed to increase interest in reading, outside of a formal classroom environment, by encouraging parents, grandparents, and older siblings to take the time to read with your child at home.

As part of the program, you and your child will be encouraged to read at least 10 books at home from January 15, 2018 – April 16, 2018. Children who meet the 10 book goal will be invited to a recognition ceremony so Donna and I can personally congratulate them on a job well done. While we won't be able to make every ceremony, we're going to do our best.

Bandit's Book Challenge participants are also invited to take part in a contest to design a bookmark. These bookmarks should display a picture depicting the importance of reading from a youth perspective. **The deadline for such submissions is April 16, 2018.** Certificates and bookmarks will be handed out at the ceremony to each child who reads 10 books.

Education is the key to the future. By exposing your child to new people, places, and cultures through reading books, you will be opening a whole new world of excitement and possibility for your child. Good luck and have a great year, and I look forward to meeting you and your child at our celebration in the spring!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Bel Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

John Bel Edwards
Governor