



ALL ABOUT THE READ-A-THON

This year's annual Giving Challenge kicks off with a Read-a-thon on Dec 20th. Every minute children read supports both their growth and our school-wide Giving Day on February 3. This will be a celebration of words, reading, and living our values through children's sponsorships, community donations, and matching challenges to help us reach our **Giving Challenge goal of \$50,000.**

Why a Read-a-Thon?

Daily reading and listening to stories are essential components of early literacy and core to Montessori learning. These experiences help children build vocabulary, develop focus, and form joyful relationships with books. Because reading already holds such meaning for our students, this year we're collaborating with classrooms to shape Giving Day around something that matters to them. Instead of a Jog-a-thon, the Read-a-thon grows directly from the work children love and do every day.

This year's challenge encourages students to stretch their skills, explore new genres, and see themselves as readers. Whether they create cozy reading spaces, visit the public library, or enjoy our book fair, children are invited to experience reading in ways that feel authentic, motivating, and fun—while contributing to a community effort they helped inspire. Thank you for making reading an important part of your family rhythm this season.

What counts as reading?

Reading during the Read-a-thon may include:

- Independent reading
- Reading aloud to someone else
- Being read to by an adult or older sibling
- Audiobooks paired with a physical book
- Re-reading familiar books
- Reading in any language

What if my child is not reading independently?

All reading to your child counts. Listening to stories builds vocabulary, comprehension, attention, and a lifelong love of reading. Young children may also “read” pictures or retell stories on their own—this is a valuable part of early literacy.

Can we participate without sponsors?

Absolutely. All children are encouraged to read and help us reach our community goals. Participation, not fundraising, is what matters most.

Where does the money go?

Funds raised support Cobb School Montessori's Giving Day Challenge and Annual Fund, helping provide exceptional classroom materials, student experiences, outdoor learning, visiting specialists, and other enhancements that make our learning environment extraordinary.

Do graphic novels count?

Yes! Graphic novels support comprehension, sequencing, vocabulary growth, and stamina. They are a developmentally appropriate and motivating choice for many readers.

Can my child count the same book twice?

Yes. Re-reading supports fluency, memory, confidence, and deeper comprehension.

Should I push my child to read ‘harder’ books?

This is about helping children build a habit, confidence, and fluency. Children are encouraged to choose books that interest them. Parents may guide choices but should avoid pressure; joy and curiosity lead to the best literacy growth.

How do we log reading?

Families record date, book title, time spent reading, pages read, and whether the child read themselves or were read to. Honesty and approximation are fine...consistency is more important than precision.

How much should my child read each day?

There is no required amount. A few minutes a day is meaningful—small, regular reading habits make the biggest difference. Children are encouraged to read at their own pace.

What if English is not our home language?

Reading in any language is welcome and encouraged. Stories in a child's home language support comprehension and identity and strengthen overall literacy.

What if my child reads less than other children?

We will be celebrating our combined achievements. On Feb 3rd children will hear the total number of books, pages, and minutes we read together, as a whole. This is about inspiring reading as a community, not about individual achievement.