



# MS Read-A-Thon Message to Parents / Guardians

Your child's school has decided to participate in Canada's leading and longest running literacy program - the MS Read-A-Thon.

## Benefits to participating in the MS Read-A-Thon:

- This is an opportunity to foster your child's love of reading and develop their literacy skills
- Your child will learn the importance of community involvement, social responsibility and disability awareness
- Through reading, your child will be helping those living with multiple sclerosis

## How to support your child's participation:

- Ensure that your child received a Pledge Envelope from their school following the Kick-Off. The program will start in the next week or so.
- Set a reading goal with your child and encourage them to read a few minutes each day (either with you or independently) during the three to five week reading period
- Help your child collect pledges by asking family and friends
- Ensure that your child returns their completed Pledge Envelope and pledges to their teacher by the due date specified on their Pledge Envelope. Please do not enclose cash. Instead, please collect all cash and send a cheque or include your credit card information to cover the total funds submitted

## Multiple Sclerosis (MS):

Multiple sclerosis is a disabling disease that strikes people in their prime. Its cause is unknown, its world-wide distribution baffling, its course unpredictable and its cure undiscovered. Canada has one of the highest rates of MS in the world with 55,000 to 75,000 Canadians living with the disease including children as young as 3.

MS attacks the central nervous system, the network of nerves that transmits signals from the brain to every part of the body. The results can include numbness, loss of balance, extreme fatigue, double vision, muscle tremors, speech difficulties, even paralysis.

## Your Contributions Help:

With your support, the MS Society of Canada is able to fund research and services such as the Paediatric MS Clinic, Hospital for Sick Children study. Started in 2007, this 5 year, ground breaking study looks at children and teens who have experienced an initial incident suggestive of multiple sclerosis. Researchers are hoping to understand what causes MS and how we can predict if someone might develop MS.

## Thank you for helping to end MS.

*We hope that you will encourage your child to participate in the MS Read-A-Thon. Should you wish your child not participate, please disregard/recycle this letter and any other MS Read-A-Thon materials received.*

For parent resources and more information:

**1-800-268-7582**

**[www.msreadathon.com](http://www.msreadathon.com)**

