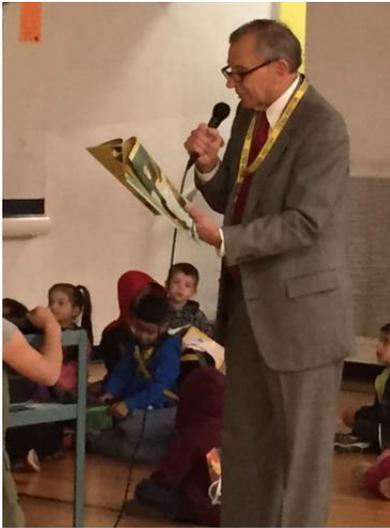




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Mayor Thomas M. Bernabei Announces Summer Reading Challenge for Canton Students

CANTON, Ohio – **Mayor Thomas M. Bernabei** kicked off the first annual Mayor’s Summer Reading Challenge this morning at Schreiber Elementary School. He read to the entire school during their morning meeting.

The Mayor’s Summer Reading Challenge will encourage students to read at least 20 minutes a day for 40 days over their summer vacation. According to the nonprofit Reading is Fundamental, “children who do not read over the summer will lose up to three months of reading achievement... [and] children who lose reading skills over the summer by the end of fifth grade could be three years behind their classmates.” The Challenge seeks to mitigate summer learning loss by promoting daily reading activities for Canton students.

The Mayor’s Summer Reading Challenge will officially begin for students on May 31 during the Canton City School District’s Literacy on the Lawn event. The event will highlight the importance of reading, and mark the first day of the challenge. “It is critically important that we support our city’s students and their learning,” Mayor Bernabei said. “This program will ensure our students stay sharp over the summer and retain their reading skills.” Additional Literacy on the Lawn events will be announced throughout the summer.

For more information, contact the Office of Mayor Bernabei, 330-438-4307.

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