

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Lincoln Elementary, Washington Elementary Named 2018 Summer Reading Challenge Winners***

*BOE to honor schools with 'Accent on Achievement'*

**ELGIN** – Lincoln Elementary School in Hoffman Estates won the 2018 Summer Reading Challenge for producing the largest number of readers while Elgin’s Washington Elementary School saw the greatest gain in students who completed their reading logs.

“Congratulations to Lincoln and Washington elementary schools,” said U-46 Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders. “This friendly competition helps our staff and families as they encourage children to read over the summer. We appreciate the collaboration with the public libraries across our District that support our students not only in the summer but also year-round.”

The U-46 Board of Education and Gail Borden Public Library will celebrate the winners of the 2018 Summer Reading Challenge at 7 p.m. tonight (Sept. 10) as part of the Board’s Accent on Achievement recognition program. In addition to receiving certificates and trophies, the two winning schools will be treated to a special prize. For the past several years, they have chosen a visit from the Jesse White Tumblers.

U-46 and four public library districts that serve U-46 students lead the challenge each year to inspire reading during summer vacation and avoid

the dreaded "Summer Slide" when students can lose up to two months in academic gains made during the school year. In addition to Gail Borden (with branches in Elgin and South Elgin), the Bartlett Public Library, the Carol Stream Public Library, and the Poplar Creek Public Library (with branches in Streamwood and Hanover Park) work closely with U-46 on crafting and tabulating the Summer Reading Challenge.

The District's 40 elementary schools participated in the 2018 challenge, with 3,695 students completing the program, an increase of 629 students over 2017 and the second-most students to finish the program since it started in 2012.

As part of a new program feature this year, Gail Borden Public Library is also recognizing Lords Park Elementary School. Principal Dr. Hilda Rivera participated in a pilot program that Gail Borden offered to schools within its boundaries, allowing those schools to collect students' logs in the first few days after class resumed on Aug. 15, even though the library's summer reading program officially ended Aug. 8. Lords Park Elementary submitted an impressive 158 logs!

"When public libraries and schools join forces to keep kids reading throughout the summer, the impact on student performance is so much greater than if we act alone," said Jennifer Bueche, Director of KidSpace at the Gail Borden Public Library. "Our collaboration helps create a fun, compelling summer reading challenge that resonates with families. Working together, we reach more families and get more kids reading."

At Washington Elementary, Principal Lori Brandes said she and her staff used a number of techniques to keep students engaged with reading over the summer, including social media posts, emails sent home to families, and using Title I funds to mail six books home to about 80 students who might have trouble getting to a library over the summer. The students will bring

those books back later this fall for a book swap. Washington had 135 students finish the Summer Reading Challenge in 2018, compared to 52 last year.

At Lincoln Elementary, 142 students, or about 37 percent of the school's population, finished the Summer Reading Challenge, and Principal Abbie Eklund called it an "amazing honor for our Lincoln family.

"We are proud of the commitment our scholars, staff and families have shown for year-long learning and growing through reading," Eklund said. "Gail Borden Library's support of our school and District is invaluable to helping our scholars develop their unique abilities, and we look forward to continuing to grow this partnership over the coming years."

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*School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, South Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 39,000 pre-K through twelfth graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the [U-46 website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*