



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 410-767-0100 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Margaret Cellucci, 410-767-0502
William Reinhard, 410-767-0486

BALTIMORE ORIOLES COLLABORATE WITH MARYLAND LIBRARIES TO PROMOTE 2009 SUMMER READING CLUB

The Summer Reading Club encourages reading for children and teens

BALTIMORE, MD (May 29, 2009) – The Maryland State Department of Education’s Division of Library Development and Services announces the Statewide Summer Reading Kick-Off on Saturday, May 30 at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. This event marks the official opening of the **2009 Summer Reading Club** themed, “*Be Creative@ your library,*” and will be celebrated in all Maryland public libraries. By registering for free at their local public library, children and teens from birth through high school participate in this program.

An exciting partnership for the **2009 Summer Reading Club** includes the Baltimore Orioles, who are donating a limited number of free tickets to each Maryland public library. This is the second year that the Orioles have supported the Summer Reading Club, but the first year that the opening celebration will be held at Camden Yards. In addition to special seating for a limited number of library customers, the scoreboard will display public service announcements for the **2009 Summer Reading Club**.

On August 17 during a pre-game ceremony on the field at Camden Yards, representatives from each library system will be recognized. Other summer reading participants from each of the 23 counties and Baltimore City will receive tickets to one of four games in August culminating with the August 17 game. County libraries use the Oriole tickets as incentives for the summer reading program.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for students to embrace reading during their summer break,” said Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools. “I’m proud that the Department is involved with Maryland public libraries and the Orioles to encourage our young people to read more and maintain their reading levels during the summer.”

To participate students choose their own reading material such as books, magazines, or graphic novels and track their progress using the reading logs provided through the program. Last summer more than 150,000 children and teens in Maryland participated in the Summer Reading Club. The program is a cooperative project between the local public libraries, the Maryland State Department of Education, and the Division of Library Development and Services, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Students may register for the **2009 Summer Reading Club** at any Maryland Public Library. For more information visit the Maryland State Department of Education’s website at http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/library/public_library .

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