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For More Information Contact:
Rachel French

Jesse White Celebrates Family Reading Night on Thursday, Nov. 21

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White encourages families to read together to celebrate Illinois' annual Family Reading Night (FRN) on Thursday, Nov. 21.

"This is a night when families are urged to turn off electronic devices and spend time reading together," White said. "Reading together creates a positive learning environment and helps children develop language skills, comprehension and a love for reading that can last a lifetime."

The Illinois Library Association's iREAD theme was "It's Showtime at Your Library." The Illinois State Library distributed thousands of colorful posters and bookmarks to libraries, schools and literacy programs across the state to promote FRN events.

This year marks the 28th year that the Secretary of State's office has sponsored FRN. All events are free and open to the public.

Some organizations that are hosting FRN include:

- **Zion-Benton Township High School**
Families can take part in literacy-related crafts, board games, a free book giveaway and a Shakespeare slam.
- **Milledgeville Public Library**
Families will read stories in blanket forts and snack on s'mores and pretzels.
- **Urbana Free Library**
Families will participate in stories and crafts.
- **Galatia Public Library**
Families will read some of their favorite books together and play games. Olaf from "Frozen" will make a surprise visit.
- **Germantown Public Library**
Attendees are encouraged to wear pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed teddy bear or animal. The teddy bear themed night will include stories, games and snacks.
- **Hope Welty Public Library District in Cerro Gordo**
Attendees are encouraged to dress as their favorite princess or superhero. The event will include crafts and readings from superhero and princess books. Every child will receive a free book.

For more information about Family Reading Night, visit:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/frn.html or contact Bonnie Matheis, coordinator of the Illinois Center for the Book, at bmatheis@ilsos.net.

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