

Dear NEA Members:

On March 2, 2007, the National Education Association marks a very special milestone — the 10th Anniversary of NEA's Read Across America. Ten years of putting the joy of reading center stage, 10 years of building a nation of readers, 10 years that began with a simple question from your fellow NEA members: What would happen if we created a national celebration of reading?

Today, NEA's Read Across America Day brings together more than 45 million readers who blanket the nation in a sea of red and white Cat in the Hat hats and fill city halls, classrooms, stadiums, and libraries with the sound of reading. By creating Read Across America, we've shown the nation that our 3.2 million members are unparalleled in their ability to mobilize their communities. When Gulf Coast school libraries were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, Read Across America "Cat-a-vans" brought funds, books, and caring readers to communities up and down the coast and launched a new initiative to raise funds and distribute new books for school libraries in need, NEA's Books Across America.

Building a Nation of Readers

NEA's Read Across America keeps reading in the spotlight all year long by creating new programs and partnerships such as Get a Kick Out of Reading with Major League Soccer, Drop Everything and Read Day, and Youth Leaders for Literacy Grants, and creating new resources for the Read Across America Web site. Read Across America is also increasing outreach to high school and middle school students, minority communities, English language learners, and readers of all ages, young and old.

As Read Across America celebrates its 10th anniversary, we ask you to get involved, create a reading event or reading program, celebrate all of your favorite authors, and involve everyone in your community. Don't forget to tell us what you're doing by going to the Read Across America Web site. In doing so, you'll make this year's Read Across America one for the record books.

The sound of children and teens reading aloud is music to the ears of educators. Let's make this joyful sound together from classroom to classroom, from school hall to city hall, from sea to shining sea.



President

National Education Association