

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Kiwanis is a global organization with over 7,300 clubs across 85 nations. Kiwanis consists of volunteers dedicated to changing the world through service to children and communities. The organization believes that no problem is too big or too small, including that of ensuring child literacy; and

WHEREAS, research shows that children who do not read in the summer can lose two to three months of reading development, and children that read four or more books over the summer perform better on reading comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer; and

WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Ormond Beach hosts multiple projects throughout the year with most of them focusing on helping children learn to read. The Kiwanis Clubs signature project is Kiwanis READS! The award-winning program's three pillars include building home libraries, building classroom libraries, and building a culture of independent reading across Ormond Beach.

WHEREAS, Kiwanis READS! a Summer Reading Challenge Read-a-thon promotes ongoing literacy for elementary school aged through the summer; and challenges students to read 20 minutes a day over the summer break; and

WHEREAS, each year the Kiwanis Club sponsors 300+ students from Ormond Beach Elementary School through the summer program. In 2020, Ormond Beach Elementary School finished third in the State of Florida in minutes read; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to sustain the program and continue providing books to students all year long, the Kiwanis Club has partnered with the givebacks app to launch Backers 4-Books, a free cashback app that gives Backers (consumers) cash back from retailers and restaurants. Kiwanis READS! will donate a new book to an Ormond Beach Elementary student for every active Backer. When you give a child a chance to learn, experience, dream and succeed, great things happen!

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby declare May 16, 2022, as the

Kickoff of Kiwanis READS! 2022

in the City of Ormond Beach and urge all residents to engage in activities whose purpose is to promote ongoing literacy support for elementary aged school children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 3rd day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-two.



BILL PARTINGTON
Mayor