

Sheridan School District 48J

PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE LAST TUESDAY IN MAY AS STOP, DROP & READ DAY

WHEREAS, reading is the cornerstone of knowledge; and

WHEREAS, 6 out of 10 babies and 5 out of 10 toddlers are not read to regularly; and

WHEREAS, many children enter kindergarten not ready to learn and recognizing that children who are behind in reading when they start first grade only have a 1 in 8 chance of ever catching up to grade level and

WHEREAS, studies confirm that students who fail to become skilled readers by the end of third grade have little chance of graduating from high school; and

WHEREAS, 23.8% of Yamhill County's population with less than a high school degree live in poverty and in 2008, the illiteracy rate among adults in Yamhill County was 10.8%; and

WHEREAS, a group of Yamhill County citizens recognized the need to raise awareness about the importance of strong reading skills and elicited the support of public libraries, local school district and fire department who acknowledged the importance of participating in this event; and

WHEREAS, *Reading for All*, a county literacy initiative, agreed to support and promote this event throughout Yamhill County; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the Sheridan Board of Directors acknowledge the importance of reading to a healthy and productive community.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS PROCLAIMED by the Superintendent and Sheridan Board of Directors of the Sheridan School District, Oregon that the last Tuesday of May will henceforth be Stop, Drop & Read Day in Sheridan and calls upon our citizens to celebrate the joy of reading by stopping what they are doing at 1:30 p.m. and reading for up to 15 minutes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the Sheridan School District to be affixed on this 16th day of May, 2012.

Judy Breeden, Board Chair