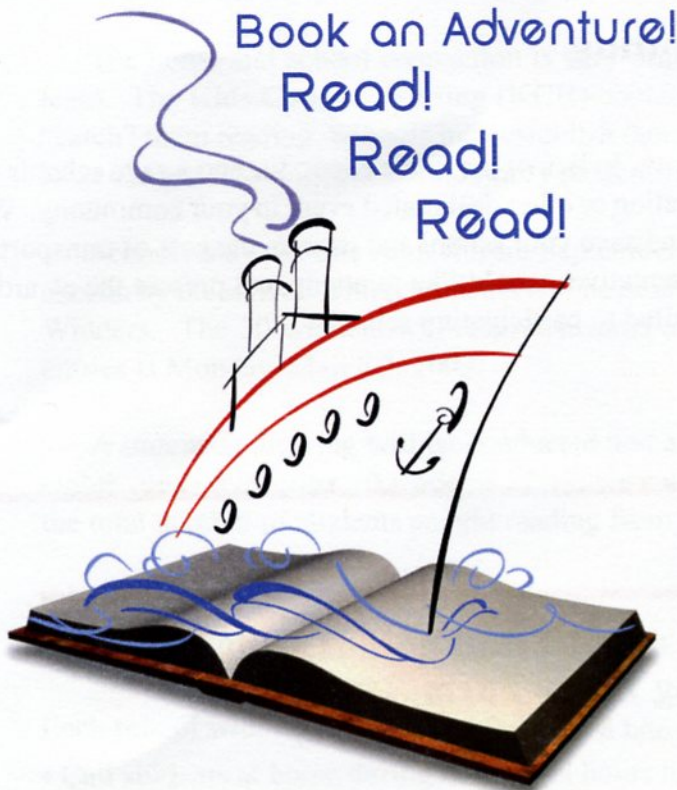


20<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Oklahoma Celebration of Reading

The Oklahoma Celebration of Reading, along with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma Reading Association, are once again challenging Oklahoma children to read more by sponsoring the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Oklahoma Celebration of Reading. Principals of Grades 1 through 8 may participate in the annual **Principals' Challenge** contest; trying to catch their students reading for the **Kids Caught Reading** contest; and students in Grades 1 through 8 may participate in the Essay and Poetry Contests. (Contest details enclosed.)

This year's theme, "**Book an Adventure! Read! Read! Read!**" will give students new opportunities to read and to write a poem or essay on the theme by using the following suggestions or their own imagination: "What adventure would you like to book?" "What fantastic trips have you already taken through books?"



We are pleased to announce **BIG** changes for the 20th Celebration. This year, we are bringing the awards to you! Because of the increasing cost of bus fuel, the Oklahoma Celebration of Reading representatives will be available to come to schools and present the awards at the school's annual awards celebration or at a time designated by the school. If it is not possible to arrange a presentation, the awards will be mailed to the school in early April.

All contests, entry forms and reports should be completed and returned by Monday, March 2, 2009. Winners will be notified immediately after judging.

**MAKE READING A TOP PRIORITY IN YOUR SCHOOL!** It is suggested that schools plan additional events for the contests to include area readers, writers, motivational speakers, local celebrities, and others in your school's program. When your contests are completed, consider rewarding the participating students with a schoolwide celebration. Invite parents and community leaders to share in your school's joy of reading.

By helping to develop a love for reading, you build a foundation to support every child. Details of all contests, deadlines and additional information are provided inside.

If you have questions, contact Oweita Calvert, Director, Oklahoma Celebration of Reading, (580) 497-3922, e-mail <oweitachey@dobsonteleco.com>; Betty Clifton, Assistant Director, Oklahoma Celebration of Reading, (405) 842-5657; or Penny Gooch, State Department of Education, (405) 521-2537, e-mail <Penny\_Gooch@sde.state.ok.us>.

*Please join us in the 2008-2009 Oklahoma Celebration of Reading. Help us make reading the first priority of every student in Oklahoma schools.*

*Sandy Garrett*  
Sandy Garrett

State Superintendent of Public Instruction