

February 2 marks World Read Aloud Day

By Erin McCusker

For Go! Magazine PENDLETON — World Read Aloud Day is happening on Wednesday, Feb. 2. This international advocacy day, founded by LitWorld, celebrates the power of reading aloud to create community, to amplify new stories and to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right.

According to the LitWorld World Read Aloud Day 2022 packet, World Read Aloud Day is:

- A celebration of oral storytelling — sharing stories has always been the way we connect to one another as humans.
- An opportunity to advocate for equity in storytelling — sharing stories is how we learn about the world. On this day, make it a point to read a story from a point of view or perspective you don't often consider.
- A time to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right — share this powerful and accessible action with everyone you know.

For more information, visit www.litworld.org/worldreadaloud.

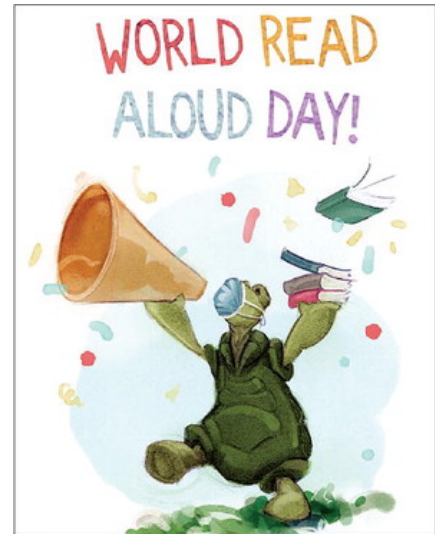
This year, the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub and Blue Mountain Kids are teaming up with the libraries of the Oregon Trail Library District and the Umatilla County Special Library District to celebrate World Read Aloud Day by sharing stories and supplying children with a free book to keep.

The Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub and Blue Mountain Kids are providing the books, which help to develop early literacy skills in young children, for all the libraries to give out during their programs.

Check with your library for your story time and free book giveaway. The following are some of the programs where books will be distributed:

- Feb. 2, 2 p.m., Adams Public Library
 - Feb. 4, 10 a.m., Weston Public Library
 - March 3, 10:30 a.m., Milton-Freewater Public Library
 - March, TBA, Athena Public Library
- The Umatilla Public Library is also planning a follow-along story time that children can join online. Everyone who signs up for a book will receive a link to the story time. On Feb. 2, the Adams and Weston public libraries will host a special story time for the Athena-Weston Preschool at 10:30 a.m. at Weston Middle School, 205 E. Wallace St.

For information on these events and more, call or stop by your local library or find a contact link at www.ucslsld.org/our-libraries. And, get out and share a story on Feb. 2, for World Read Aloud Day! — *Erin McCusker is the district director of the Umatilla County Special Library District. Reach her at 541-276-6449 or director@ucslsld.org.*



Erin McCusker/Contributed graphic Feb. 2, 2022, is World Read Aloud Day!



Erin McCusker is the director of the Umatilla County Special Library District.