

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
City of Eugene, Oregon

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS:** Reading is an early gateway skill that paves the pathway for future success; and

**WHEREAS:** Lower literacy rates don't just hurt individual children; they're a huge concern for the future health and prosperity of our community and state; and

**WHEREAS:** The third-grade reading level is a key indicator of a child's future educational success, yet half of Eugene's third-graders aren't meeting this critical benchmark; and

**WHEREAS:** By providing our children with one-on-one reading support, access to books, and building their confidence, literacy skills, and a love of reading, we can reduce the negative ripple effects of illiteracy and help children realize their full potential; and

**WHEREAS:** World Read Aloud Day is an opportunity for people in Eugene and across the globe to celebrate the joy of reading aloud and advocate for literacy as a fundamental human right that belongs to everyone; and

**WHEREAS:** In recognition of SMART Reading's efforts, since 1992, to engage 140,000 Oregonians to provide 222,128 Oregon children with reading support and 2.8 million books to keep, putting them on a path to strong literacy skills that yields lifelong benefits and opportunities.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Lucy Vinis, Mayor of the City of Eugene, Oregon, do hereby proclaim February 5, 2020 to be:

***"World Read Aloud Day"***

in Eugene and encourage everyone in our community to join in this observance.



*Lucy Vinis*  
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*Mayor Lucy Vinis*  
*City of Eugene*  
*February 5, 2020*