



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Janet Wilwerding, Development & Communications Specialist, 515-309-9406,
jwilwerding@pleasanthilliowa.org

Pleasant Hill Public Library introduces 1,000 Books before Kindergarten Challenge

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa – January 18, 2016 – The Pleasant Hill Public Library introduces a fun and exciting reading program for children ages 0-5 years – **1,000 Books before Kindergarten!** This program was specifically designed to give babies and toddlers the best start possible on lifelong reading and learning skills.

The 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program is easy to follow and is designed to help parents and children get in the habit of reading on a regular basis and to improve language skills before they enter kindergarten. Families can sign up at the Pleasant Hill Public Library. Each child who signs up will receive a reading log to record the books they read, and a free bag to collect their books each time they visit the library. Once 100 books are logged, children are encouraged to bring their log to the library to receive the next reading log, be recognized and pick out a prize!

"We encourage parents to read to their children as early as possible," said John Lerdal Library Director. "Studies have shown that reading at a young age builds a child's vocabulary and communication skills. The library offers a variety of books to help stimulate your child's imagination, build listening skills, and nurtures a strong relationship between parent and child, which proves that books can be a fun family activity."

The goal of this challenge is to help kids enter school ready to learn and read. If reading 1,000 books sounds daunting – it shouldn't. If a parent reads one book a day to their child, that's 365 a year. By year end of year five, the child will have read 1,825 books. The level of 1,000 books is based on current research that emphasizes the importance of reading aloud to children from birth onward. Reading provides an opportunity to increase a child's exposure to a wide variety of books, and to promote the use of the Pleasant Hill Public Library and the resources available.

The Pleasant Hill Public Library is located at 5151 Maple Drive, Pleasant Hill, IA. The library is open Monday – Thursday 10 am to 8 pm, Friday 10 am to 6 pm, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 1 to 4 pm.

For more information, visit us at www.pleasanthilliowa.org/library or like us on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).

#