

PROCLAMATION

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

WHEREAS, World Read Aloud Day is celebrated around the globe on February 1 to promote literacy; and

WHEREAS, reading aloud to children every day puts them almost a year ahead of children who do not receive daily read aloud and 66 percent of children ages 6 to 11 say that reading together is fun; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Library System will promote World Read Aloud Day at scheduled events on January 31 and February 1 as part of ongoing efforts to promote literacy; and

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County Library System launched the county's E-Library – an online collection of books, audiobooks, and magazines – in August 2017. E-Library is a major initiative to promote literacy and demonstrate a commitment to providing literacy opportunities to residents of all ages and abilities, giving them the opportunity to download and read books anywhere they can access the Internet; and

WHEREAS, since its launch, usage has skyrocketed. Checkouts have increased by 1,972 percent and registered users has increased by 446 percent, with an average of 325 new registered users per quarter; and

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez will join McAllen Mayor Jim Darling and others in reading aloud to children at the McAllen Public Library at 6 p.m. on January 31.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims February 1 as World Read Aloud Day with observances held on both January 31 and throughout the month of February.

Approved this 15th day of January 2019.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk