

Students go on reading spree

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COVENTRY — Students at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School spent the whole day reading at school in their pajamas on Wednesday.

They were involved in a school-wide “Read-a-Thon,” with a goal of reading 120,000 pages combined.

“We’re so close to our goal,” said Olivia Phillips, fifth grader, “I think that we’ll make it by today.”

According to the school’s Web site, the reading challenge began last Friday and ended with the school-wide Read-A-Thon. During the week, students were asked to give up 30 minutes of television and video games and instead begin their marathon reading challenge. The students also collected pledges and donations from people and all money collected will go to help end hunger in America.

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Student read-a-thon covers 120K pages

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As part of the incentive, students were allowed to wear pajamas, bring comfortable pillows and read during classes.

"So far I've read 200 pages," said Lauren Giampietro. "Today has been great, I'm very comfortable."

The students also had guest readers, including Attorney General Patrick Lynch and John Dubis, a war re-enactor, who read to students about life as a soldier. Parents came in and volunteered as well.

"There are really great unique things going on here," said Mike Almeida, principal of the middle school. "The incentives

gave students the motivation to fight hunger while improving their literacy."

He said he has been surprised by the students who have stepped up to the plate to collect pledges and were really motivated to read.

Almeida added he was also pleased to see the amount of community members who came to join in the reading. He said teachers were going above and beyond to use literacy to teach their classes that day as well.

"It's awesome because we want to make reading as fun as possible," he said. "We want literacy to be a life skill they have. Hopefully this will help kids to develop this life skill."