



# Jesse White

---

SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

## ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**November 2, 2000**

- CONTACT: Dave Druker  
or
- CONTACT: Randy Nehrt

### **White Encourages Participation In Family Reading Night Nov. 16**

**SPRINGFIELD** - Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is encouraging Illinois families to set aside time during the evening of Thursday, November 16 to read together as part of the Secretary of State's ninth annual Family Reading Night.

"One of the greatest gifts an adult can give a child is time spent together reading," White said. "An adult who makes time to read to a child sends a strong message that they care about that child. Children from families who read together are better prepared for success in the classroom.

"Reading together strengthens the family unit, creates a positive environment for learning, and instills a love for reading among our children. I hope all Illinois families will find time November 16th to read together and celebrate the special joy and unity that comes from family reading."

Since 1992, the Secretary of State's office has worked in conjunction with libraries, schools, educational associations, publishers, literacy programs, community organizations and the State Board of Education to sponsor Family Reading Night as a way to celebrate the enormous benefits of family reading.

White said the theme for Family Reading Night is 'Read Together, Grow Together.' Several million posters, bookmarks, stickers and other materials have been distributed to schools, libraries, literacy programs and other organizations throughout Illinois in an effort to promote Family Reading Night.

White anticipates that Family Reading Night celebrations will take place at several thousand locations across the state. In previous years,

participants have been wonderfully creative in celebrating this important event. Celebrants have held contests where children win prizes, and parades where children dress up as characters from popular books. Many grandparents participate in Family Reading Night.

Another highlight of Family Reading Night is the presentation of specially selected books to babies born on November 16th. Together with the Illinois Hospital and Health Systems Association, White has arranged for books to be sent to several hundred IHHA member hospital maternity wards, and every newborn will receive a special book on November 16.

"Reading can educate, enlighten and enrich all of us," White said. "I salute all adults who take the time to read to children, and I look forward to another successful Family Reading Night November 16th."