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BESTSELLING AUTHOR DAV PILKEY AND SCHOLASTIC CHOOSE ANN STREET SCHOOL TO RECEIVE A SUMMER READING LIBRARY FOR THEIR SCHOOL

Newark, NJ - May 1, 2017 – Worldwide bestselling author **Dav Pilkey** and Scholastic rewarded Ann Street School as the winning school in New Jersey in the **Dav Pilkey Summer Reading Educator Contest**. The prize will provide Ann Street School a set of 500 books to build their school library and help kick off summer reading. The contest is in support of the 2017 **Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge** – a **free online and mobile summer reading program** that helps kids take a “summer leap” into books and keep kids reading-ready during the summer months. Parents and educators can learn more about the challenge and sign-up kids to participate at www.scholastic.com/summer.

Despite conventional wisdom, six in 10 children ages 6–17 agree “I really enjoy reading books over the summer,” according to the Scholastic *Kids & Family Reading Report™: 6th Edition*, but too many kids lack access to books when school is not in session. In support of the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, author Dav Pilkey pledged to help get books into the hands of kids across the country before the summer break. One school in each U.S. state, territory and in the District of Columbia were selected to win an array of popular, age-appropriate Scholastic titles to build their school library. More than 6,000 educators entered the contest. Applicants were asked to fill out an online application responding to the prompt: “Tell us about your school and the need for new books to help your students keep reading over the summer.” The contest ran from March 15 through April 14, 2017. Any U.S. school with students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade was eligible as an entrant. The full list of winners is available online at <http://scholastic.com/summer/contest/teacher/>.

QUOTES:

Kelly Piret, Literacy Coach, Ann Street School – Our students are excited to participate in the *Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge* again this year. Last year was a huge success. We logged over 1 million minutes read and ranked in the Top 20 of all the participating schools. This Challenge really helps to motivate our students to read during the summer. As teachers, we know how important it is that students keep reading during the summer in order to avoid the dreaded “*summer slide*.” The Challenge offers digital rewards and reading activities that make reading an engaging and fun experience. A little competition while learning and having fun in the process is the perfect way to keep the reading momentum going all summer long!

Principal Richardson wholeheartedly supports and encourages reading because after all, “reading is at the heart of everything we do.” “Independent reading fosters true reading relationships, as well as opening the imaginations of all students and is key in developing their vocabularies.”

Dav Pilkey, Caldecott Honor artist and creator of the bestselling Captain Underpants and Dog Man series:

“We all know that reading is important, but there’s a certain kind of reading that is life-changing: reading for fun. Studies have shown the benefits of making a habit out of reading for fun—not only does it help our brains stay sharp over summer vacation, but it also makes us more empathetic. This is not only life-changing, but also world-changing. I have such admiration for all the educators who participated in this contest—they are great advocates for their students and communities, and they too are changing the world.”

Michael Hagen, Chief Academic Officer, Scholastic Education:

“We know that when children don't have access to books, they have less of an opportunity to practice and develop the reading skills that allow them to achieve academic success. They may also lose the chance to learn more about themselves, other people and the world in which they live. Thanks to the Dav Pilkey Summer Reading Educator Contest, kids across the country will have beautiful, brand new books that will help them fall in love with reading.”

To learn more, go to <http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/SummerReadingChallenge> and follow #SummerReading on social media.