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St. Leo the Great School principal takes on read your heart out principal challenge

By Angela Mansour

LINCROFT — On Nov. 13, Principal Cornelius Begley joined hundreds of principals around the country in the Pizza Hut Book It! Read Your Heart Out Principal Challenge. This challenge is designed to celebrate National Young Readers Week and promote reading. National Young Readers Week is an annual event that takes place on the second week of November, and is co-founded by Pizza Hut and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

As part of the challenge, Principal Begley read all day to the students in kindergarten to fourth grade from the first morning bell to last. He made the experience fun and unique by designating a western theme which included a



Principal Cornelius Begley stopped for a picture with second graders at the Begley Reading Roundup station at St. Leo the Great School.

Photo courtesy Angela Mansour

“Begley Reading Round Up” station set up in the main entrance hall. He also dressed up in a

sheriff costume to enhance the western theme and feel. He visited each classroom and read a book to each class.

Principal Begley's interaction with the students was filled with enthusiasm and attentiveness. The students were fully engaged and eagerly answered all questions he had for them pertaining to the story he read.

Principal Begley said, “As a role model to the students, I wanted to participate in this challenge to set an example for them and demonstrate the importance of

daily reading. Stories teach you life lessons and inspire you to go places and do things you never thought were possible. Stories open a world of wonder to children.”

By participating in this challenge, each elementary school principal earns a chance to win 101 copies of “Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck,” the eighth book in the Wimpy Kid series released on Nov. 5, for their school's library. In addition, the author of the series, Jeff Kinney, will personally autograph one of the books for the winner.



Principal Cornelius Begley read to kindergarteners at St. Leo the Great School.

Photo courtesy Angela Mansour