FEBRUARY

		1 Plan a Valentine's Day Project	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4	5
6 Last Day to collect items for Souper Bowl of Caring!!	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY Remind someone how much they matter to you!	15	16	17 Start planning an Internet Safety project	18	19
20	21 PRESIDENT'S DAY	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Notes:

*Continue collecting for Souper Bowl of Caring Project

JOOI Reading Month!

JOOI of Reading

Kids who love to read know how much fun it can be to open up a book and discover the story that waits on the pages inside.

Aside from the fun a good book can bring, it gives young readers a brighter future. Children who read are more likely to do well in school and be more successful in all areas of their lives.

Reading also gives kids hope. Reading helps children develop their imaginations so they can dream bigger dreams for the future.

But while children in well-developed countries like the United States and Canada have many advantages in life, the rate of illiteracy and the poor reading levels can be alarming. The JOOI of Reading has not spread to everyone! JOOI can change this. By getting children excited about reading early in life, they can take this excitement with them as they grow up. And in a few years, they will be passing their love of reading along to other kids!

JOOI has outlined JOOI of Reading projects that JOOI Clubs can choose to do, or Clubs can develop their own ways to promote reading to other students.

Possible projects include:

Kids Mentoring Kids – JOOI Members mentor younger students in their schools or communities to introduce them to the fun of reading at an early age. While the younger students are having fun, they are also sharpening their reading skills!

JOOI Reading Month – JOOI Members initiate a fun competition in their schools to get students reading outside of class.

Kids Mentoring Kids

Readers know how fun it is to open up a book and be taken into a story far away – you never know where you will end up when you open up a book and start turning the pages.

But not every student has discovered the "JOOI of Reading." Sometimes it takes a special person in a child's life to get them excited about reading. And who better to show them this whole new world in books than other kids!

Children look up to older students and trust them to know what is fun, interesting and cool! If JOOI Members show how fun reading can be, they will pass the JOOI of Reading along to other kids.

If you need some facts to convince you that Kids Mentoring Kids is important, consider this:

According to studies by the U.S. Department of Education and national literacy agencies, the single most important activity for building a foundation for reading skills is reading aloud to children.

It's time for Kids Mentoring Kids!

What Kids Mentoring Kids Should Accomplish

JOOI wants all children to share in the JOOI of Reading! Here are some other areas where mentors should see improvement when they start mentoring younger kids:

- Recognizing and naming the letters of the alphabet
- Connecting sounds to letters to establish basic reading skills
- Recognizing words more easily
- Learning and using new words
- Understanding what is read
- Listening and responding to stories read aloud

JOOI Reading Month

Reading should be fun! Many students get so wrapped up in reading for school that they forget to take time to read just because they enjoy it. JOOI has selected February, but JOOI Clubs can designate any month to promote reading for fun to the students in their schools.

Reading Rates are Dropping

Literacy is on the decline and the number of readers is also declining. It's time for JOOI to turn this trend around!

Objectives and Goals

To increase literacy rates in every classroom and to get every student in school to read a certain number of books in one month

Possible Results of JOOI Reading Month

- Students choose to read for fun in their free time
- Readers put school and public libraries to good use
- Members of JOOI gain high visibility in schools
- Program success can lead to sponsorship opportunities to fund the program in the future
- Establish partnerships with organizations/libraries

Suggested Supplies

Bookmarks, promotional posters, goal sheets, T-shirts (for JOOI Members), banner to present to school library for participation in the program

Supplemental Materials

The materials in this guide and more are available on the JOOI website at www.jooi.org.

Get the Word Out!

JOOI Clubs can promote their JOOI of Reading activities and events with press releases that are available on the website and can be modified to fit a JOOI Club's promotional needs.