

# Students' reading marathon lands them in record book

By Alice Collins  
staff writer

Lone Pine School sixth-grader Ellen Ozolins said she "made a few mistakes 'cause my tongue got tied. But I didn't blow it."

Celica Diacolo, another sixth-grader, said she got a tired throat. The minor symptoms Ellen and Celica suffered last week were caused by reading — lots of reading. They, along with 260 other Lone Pine pupils, participated in a read-a-thon believed to have set the first world record for continuous reading — 54 hours.

The record setters expect to be listed in the next "Guinness Book of World Records."

Lone Pine, a Bloomfield Hills district school, is in Orchard Lake. The media center at the school

was the scene of the reading, eating and sleeping activities, which began at 9 a.m. Wednesday and ended at 3 p.m. Friday. When it was over, there were free bagels and blue ribbons for all.

"OUR REASON for doing this," said Principal Marjorie Thomas, "was to emphasize reading as a skill and to show the children that it can be fun."

"Instead of having a contest and pitting one class against another, we decided to go for a record. This way, we have the whole school working together, cooperating rather than competing."

The read-a-thon had the support and assistance of the parents as well as the teachers and students.

"I thought they (parents) might think it was a little bit crazy," added



DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

Lynn Prybis (left) and Sandy Steahlin watch to make sure Lone Pine pupil Merrick Faber doesn't pause what is believed to be a record for continuous out-while reading. Lone Pine School's 260 pupils held a loud reading — 54 hours.

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