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## First Lady Mary Pat Christie Announces Award of 500 Books to Camden's Octavius V. Catto School as Part of National Summer Reading Initiative

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The free Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading all summer in order to avoid the "summer slide" — learning losses which can occur when school is not in session. Ensuring that children have access to books is a key step to enhancing reading achievement.

"As I was growing up, reading was such an important part of my life and it still is," said Camden Mayor Dana Redd. "I commend Scholastic, New Jersey's First Lady Mary Pat Christie and all of the first spouses for encouraging interaction between parents and children with regards to improving literacy. I am particularly grateful to Mrs. Christie for selecting Camden's Catto School as the recipient of 500 books as a part of the Scholastic Summer Reading Program. Along with the Camden City School District and the Camden County Police Department, we are making a strong effort to promote reading from the earliest age. This donation will go a very long way toward advancing that goal."

The Catto School opened in 2007 for grades K-8. Overall, it serves 565 students and has 83 staff members. The staff school is dedicated to educating students in an urban area with diverse cultures and a wide range of educational levels and abilities.

"We are grateful to the First Lady for selecting Catto School as the recipient of 500 books," said Superintendent Rouhanifard. "Across our School District, we are working to increase students' literacy rates and open up the opportunities that come with being able to read, write, and do math well. This contribution will aid our efforts, and we are much appreciative."

According to research done by Scholastic, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level or previous achievement

For more information about the Scholastic Summer Challenge, please visit <http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/SummerReadingChallenge>.

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