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Contact: Donna Scott-Martin

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301-699-3500, ext. 6152

**Ready 2 Read Backpacks Rule!
Early Literacy Library Success @ PGCMLS**

Largo, MD – Ready 2 Read backpacks recently circulated by the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) have proven to be one of the Library’s newest hottest items. “All 50 backpacks, five at each of our 10 Ready 2 Read Centers were checked out within an hour after being made available to our customers. The program was such a huge success that 100 more backpacks are being created for circulation throughout the Library System in the New Year,” said Chief Operating Officer for Public Services Michelle Hamiel.

Each Ready 2 Read backpack includes five theme-related books and an activity sheet. Some of the Ready 2 Read backpack themes are *Busy Bugs*, *Colors*, *ABCs and 123s*, *Feelings*, *Libros en Español y Inglés/Books in Spanish and English*, *Things that Go* and *Let’s Get Moving*. There will be a total of 15 themes when the additional backpacks are circulated. The use of themes helps children connect the books to their everyday lives and provides them with rich vocabulary. The more vocabulary and background knowledge that a child has when they enter school is related to their school success.

Since parents are their child’s first teacher, the Library’s goal is for families to read the books in the Ready 2 Read backpacks and participate in fun activities together. Talking, singing, reading, writing/drawing and playing with your child enhances early literacy skills and helps promote kindergarten readiness.

The backpacks circulate for a period of three weeks and may be renewed. By increasing the quantity of Ready 2 Read backpacks and expanding distribution to all branches, more customers will get to take advantage of these early literacy tools in the New Year.

About The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Library early literacy resources include: Ready 2 Read Centers, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations and Beanstack. Other resources are: Lynda.com, Brainfuse’s JobNow, OverDrive, Inc., FastPencil, hoopla digital, Freegal and Zinio. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Library programs include: Storytimes, Read to Rover, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), Book

Discussions, Book Signings, Teen Advisory Board (TAB), Chess Clubs, MAC: Manga and Anime Clubs, Crazy 8's Math Clubs and so much more. For additional information, visit our website at www.pgcmls.info.

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