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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE UNIFIED JOINS JUMPSTART'S READ FOR THE RECORD®

ORANGE, Calif., October 2, 2009 – The Orange Unified School District celebrates Jumpstart's Read for the Record®, a national campaign designed to break the world record for the largest shared reading experience ever, while also working to break the cycle of illiteracy. Throughout OUSD over 2,500 Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Special Day Class (SDC) students will be participating on Thursday, October 8.

"Current research overwhelmingly supports the importance of facilitating early and emerging literacy skills in preschool-age children as a critical foundation for literacy development," said Linda Stoterau, OUSD Curriculum Coordinator. Readers of all ages are encouraged to visit www.readfortherecord.org and register to read the campaign's official book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

The Pearson Foundation, Sponsor and Founding Partner of the campaign, is once again underwriting the cost of the campaign book, which this year is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* from Philomel Books. The Pearson Foundation is also helping to organize events nationwide with governors, mayors, school districts, and other community organizations.

The 2009 campaign is designed to encourage young people, their families, and educators everywhere to set another world record by creating the largest shared reading experience ever on Thursday, October 8, 2009. The day's activities are designed to generate public awareness about the importance of early childhood education.

The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA

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