**Dear library advocates,**

When school closed in June, our local elementary school posted on its message board "***This Summer – Read a Good Book.***" Now we have great news!

> **Thousands of students across the state followed that advice and read more than two million books—2,190,357, to be exact—during our public libraries' Summer Reading Club. At an average cost of $15.00 per book that adds up to more than 32-million-dollars' worth of books read—a wise investment for taxpayers that helped students maintain or improve their reading skills.**

Public libraries are a proven smart investment of public dollars and an invaluable resource for learning. Public libraries are working hard to sustain high-quality services and resources as students, parents and teachers head into a new school year.

But budget cuts in Harrisburg threaten to reduce drastically and, in some case, shut down libraries. Find more information

Additional cuts proposed to other library programs could eliminate the widely used services such as POWER Library which is available in public and school libraries. Find more information

As the new school year begins, in addition to great teachers, our students deserve to have all of the tools they need for a high-quality education: computers, online access, and information literacy as well as books and up-to-date reference materials.

Please take a few minutes to write a personal note, place a short phone call, or send an email to your state representative, your state senator, and to Governor Rendell. Urge them to **make libraries a priority for level funding** in the next state budget. Or **write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper** in support of library funding and your library's role as a vital lifeline in these difficult economic times. Find some sound bites here:

The PaLA website includes helpful information and updates on the budget process. Link to www.palibraries.org. Thanks for adding your voice to keep libraries open and supporting our students in the new school year.

**Sue Solarczyk and Margie Stern**
**Co-chairs, PaLA Legislative Committee**