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To:

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Subject: Gov. Nikki Haley, Scholastic celebrate "Summer Challenge"

Attachments: Scholastic Summer Challenge 8-30-13.jpg

Gov. Nikki Haley, Scholastic celebrate "Summer Challenge"

585 books donated to Estill Elementary in Hampton County

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley and representatives from Scholastic, the children's publishing, education and media company, today visited students at Estill Elementary School to celebrate the success of the Scholastic Summer Challenge. Scholastic previously named Gov. Haley a 2013 Summer Challenge Reading Ambassador and today donated 585 books to Estill Elementary School students as part of the program – enough books for each student to take one home.

"Growing up in the small town of Bamberg, reading was incredibly important to me. Books inspired me to dream, to think about things that didn't happen in Bamberg," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "That is why I am proud to have joined with Scholastic to help deliver 585 books to Estill Elementary School, one for every student to take home. Reading is not only essential to getting a good education but plays a role in leading a full and happy life – something all parents want for their children."

Now in its 7th year, the Scholastic Summer Challenge encourages children to read every day over the summer months to combat learning losses that can occur during the long break from school. The challenge unites students and schools nationwide as they collaborate to "Read for the World Record." Though the program doesn't officially end until September 6, participating students have currently logged a record 143 million minutes of reading. The top 20 schools with the most minutes read will be featured in the 2014 edition of the Scholastic Book of World Records.

For more information about the Scholastic Summer Challenge, please visit www.scholastic.com/summer.

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