Script for Video:

Hi! Welcome to the Welch Elementary “Read Captions Across America” event for 2013.

My name is Michelle Rich and I am going to talk to you about how you can turn watching television or videos into reading time.

Next, we’ll watch a Dr. Seuss video while reading along with the captions.

I am a parent here at Welch of a 5th grader, but for the past 11 years, I was a Captionist for educational videos in Kansas.

Most of you have probably seen captions on television before or heard the TV announcer say, “Closed-captions provided by…” and then the name of a company who supports the program.

Captions are the text or written words of what is being said and heard on a video.

Captions were developed so that people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can access or get to the information contained in a TV program.

People who are deaf cannot hear sounds. People who are hard of hearing don’t hear sounds clearly or hear distorted sounds and language.

You can imagine that watching your favorite TV program without sound would be pretty confusing and hard to understand.

You might try that at home sometime to see how much information is missed without sound.

When the captions are displayed, the person who is deaf can read along and understand what is happening in the movie.

They can enjoy the movie just like a hearing viewer.

When a video is captioned, all of the sounds are converted into text.

That includes dialogue (what is being said between the characters), narration (the information spoken by the narrator), music and lyrics, and sound effects (like a dog barking or thunder crashing).

Hearing people can benefit from captions too.

Captions can improve reading and listening skills, vocabulary (what the words mean), and word recognition (the words you know by sight).

Closed-captions have to be opened or turned on.

We are sending home some instructions for turning on the captions at home.

DVDs are usually subtitled in English.

Before you begin watching a DVD, go to the Main Menu and under Languages, select English Subtitles.

Captions are sometimes available in the movie theater too.

In Newnan, the Georgian runs one Open Captioned movie each week.

In Fayetteville, the Tinseltown movie theater offers a device that allows many movies to be individually captioned.

A person is given a device that has a rectangular box with a flexible arm that sits in the cup holder of their seat.

LED captions or lit up words are displayed on the rectangular box.

I would love it if you would go home and talk to your parents about caption reading and try it out for yourself on your favorite TV show, DVD, or even at the movies.

Read Captions Across America is sponsored by one of my favorite companies, the Described and Captioned Media Program, or the DCMP.

The DCMP provides a library of over 4,000 educational videos to students who are d/hh, their parents, and the school staff members who support them.

Special thanks go out to the DCMP for providing us with the captioned video that we will be watching in a few minutes.

Each of you will be going home with a bookmark to remind you to turn on the captions.

I also have a special reading challenge for you:

I want you to turn on the captions at home for at least one TV program or DVD.

You are going home with a paper explaining the benefits of caption reading to your parents.

On this paper is a raffle ticket that you can fill out when you’ve watched a program with captions.

On the raffle ticket you will write your name, your teacher’s name, and how many minutes of captioned media you watched.

There is also a place for you to write any comments to me about your experience with caption viewing.

Turn the raffle ticket in to your teacher by March 11th to be entered for a prize drawing.

Here are some of the prizes you could win:

Also, the class with the most returned raffle tickets will win cupcakes.

I hope you’ve learned something about the benefits of captioning today.

Captions are very important for my family.

My oldest son, Kyle, is a senior in college and plays baseball at Missouri University of Science and Technology and he is profoundly deaf.

My daughter Megan is a junior at East Coweta and is hard of hearing.

Keegan, my 5th grader here at Welch, is hearing.

Kyle and Megan must have captions to understand and enjoy TV programs, the news, music lyrics, and movies.

Keegan was an early reader because of his exposure to captions and they continue to help him improve his reading skills and vocabulary.

I hope that they will help you to become great readers too.

Thanks for participating in Read Captions Across America at Welch elementary and let’s get on to watching and reading our movie.