

RAVENS IN OUR COMMUNITY

BIRK KICKS OFF READING PROGRAM



The Ready, Set, Read! Program is a partnership between Carroll County Public Schools and Birk's HIKE (Hope, Inspiration, Knowledge and Education) Foundation. The goal of the program is to motivate and encourage more than 100,000 elementary school children to read at home. Students in grades K-5 will receive a Ravens-themed notebook to record the number of minutes they read each day and to write letters to Birk on their progress.

The incentive-based program rewards students who meet the reading and writing goals each quarter with prizes, including Ravens jerseys, footballs and other team-related items, which are raffled. At the end of the program, two students from each elementary school will be randomly selected to take a special tour of M&T Bank Stadium and have lunch with Birk.

On Tuesday (9/13), **C Matt Birk** (below) hosted an assembly at Taneytown Elementary School to kick off his Ready, Set, Read! Program. Talking briefly about his football career, the six-time Pro Bowler emphasized how children can be anything they want to be as long as they study and work hard. He encouraged kids to read for fun and explained how books are a great way to explore the world.



FT. MEADE BLOOD DRIVE

Ravens players, including **NT Terrence Cody**, **DE Arthur Jones** and **T Bryant McKinnie**, will visit Ft. Meade on Tuesday (9/20) to host a meet and greet with patrons who are donating blood.

The blood drive is part of the Armed Services Blood Program, which helps provide quality blood products for service members and their families.



NT Brandon McKinney (left) and former Ravens DT Lamar Divens (right) visit a blood drive in 2010.

RAVENS DISTRIBUTE BIKES



Rookie **CB Jimmy Smith** and additional Ravens players will distribute new bicycles to youth at the Lansdowne Police Athletic League Center on Tuesday (9/20).

The bicycles were assembled on Monday evening by members of the All Community Team (ACT). **QB Tyrod Taylor** and **RB Ricky Williams** will assist staff and the Ravens corporate partners in assembling the bikes for kids in need.

The ACT is a partnership among the Ravens organization, players and members of the corporate community. Together, they work to improve the quality of the local communities through fundraising and volunteerism.