



Photo by Lindsay Lightner

Student representatives of grades kindergarten through sixth grade at Juniata Valley Elementary School hold the goal of 1 million minutes in a book reading project. The global map on the wall behind them was colored in as reading minutes were accumulated. Kneeling is Paige Bousum, first grade, and from the left are McKayla Showalter, second grade; Michelle Bailey, third grade; Renee Downs, kindergarten; Heather Carper, fourth grade; Krista Hawn, fifth grade; and Margaret Miller, sixth grade. Laura Boone, first grade teacher, is at the right. The older girls said they mostly read large chapter books to complete their goals.

## Juniata Valley elementary students 'read around world' to learn cultures

Reading skills at Juniata Valley have become global! In addition to reading a million minutes and charting the progress around the world, the students learned reading skills to discover more about the countries and cultures of the world

According to JV elementary principal, Mary Ann Warner, students learned how different nations celebrate the winter holidays, explored the cultures of different nations, became mini tour guides and a lot more through their reading. Class-

rooms represented different countries through displays, students' work, presentations and guests from other countries who attend Juniata Valley High School and Juniata College.

Children colored continents as they completed reading goals. The goal was set for one million minutes. Students in grades kindergarten through third colored a continent every time they read one hour and 45 minutes. Children in grades four to six had to read 30 minutes to color a continent.

A large map of the world was placed in the main hall and as minutes were calculated the big map was colored. It took one million minutes of reading to complete the world map. The reading activity started Nov. 24 and ended Jan. 20 with a Reading Night program for parents and guests.

Family Reading Night is funded through the Blue Ribbon Campaign for Public Education Grant and the State Parent Advisory Council Parent Involvement Mini Grant for Title I.

Local businesses also help support Family Reading Night: Main Street Cafe, Real Trees Landscaping, Metz and Associates, Dively Auto Body, Morrison's, MeadWestvaco, Jim's Anchorage, Heberling Associates and the Juniata Valley Medical Center.

The Juniata Valley Parent Teacher Organization provided child care, treats and refreshments and representatives assisted children with decorating cookies to represent flags of different nations.

Juniata College's Language in Motion Program students assisted and participated in the celebration.