SCGLR Community Breakfast Highlights...

Last week, nearly 200 community members gathered to reflect on the efforts made in the last 18 months and to share aspirations for the future. Attendees were Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) "passionaries and possiblitarianers" - all with a common goal to help all children, especially those from low-income families, succeed in school by ensuring they read on grade-level by the end of third grade.

This Special Edition newsletter provides some highlights from the event. The presentation began with a video recap of some of the notable moments in SCGLR's journey over the past 18 months. To see this video, click here.

Click here to see more photos from the event, courtesy of photographer Dale Smith.

Sign a Book, Show your Support

Breakfast attendees were encouraged to sign their names on the spine of a book, adorning SCGLR's poster of a bookcase to their show of support for the SCGLR movement.

Happy Thoughts Activity

When you talk about feelings with a child, whether they are yours or others, you help them learn that people may feel differently than they do. Being able to understand the views of others is an important life skill that will help the child in school and in life.

Vroom

Beth Duda, Director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR), invited attendees to participate in an activity based upon one of her favorite Vroom tips, "Happy Thoughts." Guests experienced the fun of what a parent and toddler feel and learn when they share "Happy Thoughts."

Vroom is a free app for parents and caregivers with children from birth to five years old. The app, developed by the Bezos Family Foundation, uses the most recent brain science to give parents actionable tips to turn everyday moments into brain-building moments.

Beth also shared that:

- Since February 2016, the SCGLR outreach team conversed and introduced Vroom to more than 17,993 Suncoast community members.
- Activity of Vroom use in our community increased by 170% in quarter 2 compared to quarter 1 of 2016.

Visit www.joinvroom.org to learn more. Share your favorite Vroom activity with SCGLR by posting it on twitter and tag @SuncoastCGLR.

Click here to see a short video on the SCGLR Vroom Pilot program.

Two-Generation Approach

John Annes, Senior Vice President, Community Investment for the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, shared how the Community Foundation of Sarasota County (CFSC), Sarasota County's lead partner in the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, is going deep in their work in four high-need elementary schools, using the two-generation approach.
Manatee County Turns Outward

Bronwyn Beightol, Chief Operating Officer for the United Way of Manatee County (UWMC), reflected on how the UWMC joined the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and how SCGLR fits in with the overall mission of UWMC. She framed her remarks using an inspirational quote from Maya Angelou.

UWMC serves as the backbone organization for SCGLR’s work in Manatee County. By working closely with partners like The School District of Manatee County and Manatee Community Foundation, progress is being seen in key solution areas of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Notably, The School District of Manatee County is effectively targeting chronically absent children in Title 1 schools by hiring Graduation Enhancement Technicians (GETs) for each Title 1 school in the district. The GETs work with school guidance and social workers using data to identify students at risk. Their efforts in the 2015-2016 school year resulted in a 55% reduction in chronic absenteeism of historically chronic students at the Title 1 elementary schools.

Stronger Working Together

Debra Jacobs, President and CEO of The Patterson Foundation, spoke about the importance of collaboration in reaching SCGLR goals and the benefits of participating in a national movement. SCGLR is able to download proven programs and best practices from the National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, improve upon them, and share back... influencing communities all over the United States. She pointed out the “Knowledge Tree” centerpieces, each of them featuring 40 messages related to SCGLR, reminding everyone that no one can do this work alone. It is going to take all five sectors: Individuals, Non-Profits, Government, Businesses, and the Media to create sustainable change. Debra emphasized the need for “connective tissue” in this work, even using post-it note pads to show how the connections we have with each other will strengthen the work of all of us.
Founding Network Weavers

We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net.

2 North Tamiami Tr. Suite 206
Sarasota, FL | 34236 US

This email was sent to...
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.