Just over three weeks and already 28,081 books have been read in the Suncoast Summer Book Challenge!

#SSBC2018 UPDATE: Thanks to funding provided by The Patterson Foundation, more than 79 locations are working collaboratively to provide summer learning opportunities to more than 6,000 children. This collaboration will help these children gain reading proficiency over the summer to avoid the dreaded "summer slide."

Each venue has the benefit of a Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR) Engagement Team member to amplify cool activities and success stories and of course, monitoring the weekly reports. Data collection is the strategic component vital to tracking the "summer slide". The goal is to follow how the work is making an impact. Through partnerships with Charlotte County Public Schools, The School District of Manatee County, and Sarasota County Schools, SCGLR will use i-Ready data to clearly show if summer gains were made from reading and reading-related activities.

You might be wondering what a "reading related activity" is. Michele Miller @mmillerTPF, SCGLR Engagement Team member, shared this amusing example in her Tweet.

Click the image to watch the video.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

SCGLR is looking for volunteers of all ages to help prepare books for Reach Out and Read (ROAR), on June 26-27. ROAR is a program that promotes family-engaged reading by supplying children with new books to take home when they visit their pediatrician for a wellness-visit.

Have more fun than you've ever imagined! Sign up to volunteer!
How the data will be used

Once school begins, students will take a "back to school" test. The school systems will then compare that test to the "end of the school year" test from the previous year. After the schools review the scores and share, we will know if summer gains were achieved, if students stayed the same, or if students ended up on the "summer slide."

"If you want to raise a reader, be a reader."

Everyone is included in the Suncoast summer reading fun! For those not attending a reading camp, download the Summer Book Challenge Log HERE. Grown Ups, click HERE for the Adult Summer Book Challenge Log and support our kids as they develop the love of reading.

- Both children and adults are highly motivated by those brightly colored silicone bracelets, each symbolizing a different color for each book read. For anyone not affiliated with a provider, you can turn in your log and collect bracelets at Children’s World: 4525 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34233 Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:45pm | Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm.

Volunteers are vital to the success of the Suncoast Summer Book Challenge and necessary in supporting this community-wide effort so all children can succeed in school by ensuring they read on grade level by the end of third grade.

The Bank of the Ozarks is partnering with Just for Girls Manatee County for the #SSBC2018 and is looking for volunteers, just like you, to donate the gift of time for one hour each week from 9a-10a.

Volunteers are needed on

- June 26th East Bradenton Campus
  60-65 Volunteers needed

- July 3rd West Bradenton Campus
  40 Volunteers needed

- July 10th Palmetto Campus
  40 Volunteers needed

Make it an extra special day! Contact Sue Abbott to get involved.

Mind in the Making (MITM):
Team Velvet
Team Ideal
Team Fantastic

Summer Learning Day at South Florida Museum
South Florida Museum is hosting Summer Learning Day on Thursday, June 21. The day includes FREE
40 hours until we learn how to Be Amazing!

On Friday, SCGLR is hosting Erin Ramsey, the inspiring speaker and Best-Selling Author, as she takes 90 participants on a learning adventure designed to help them shine!

Through funny stories, interactive activities including a unique WOOP Art Activity, and proven strategies, Erin will guide participants on how to take personal action by sharing useful tools to brighten up their lives so they can light up the world!

All seats have been reserved, but we will be sure to share the highlights!

Friday, June 22nd
8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Breakfast provided

It's Already Begun!
The countdown to the Attendance Awareness Poster Contest

School is only seven weeks away, and SCGLR is already gearing up for the 2018/19 Attendance Awareness Poster Contest. Since the inaugural Attendance Awareness Poster Contest in 2015, elementary schools in both Sarasota and Manatee counties with a history of chronic absenteeism have shown significant reductions in student absences. With Charlotte and DeSoto counties making SCGLR a four-county region instead of a two-county region, this year is going to be the BIGGEST one yet!

FUN FACT: United Way of Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, also knows that #EveryDayCounts when it comes to attendance. When they learned about the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's Attendance Awareness Poster Contest, they wanted to get involved. And they did, because where ever you live, going to school EVERY DAY COUNTS!

View highlights from the 2018 Attendance Awareness Poster Contest.