Another Launch for SCGLR!

It’s incredible to be on this journey together and to bear witness to the changes that are happening locally, and nationally, as part of a nationwide network of more than 360 Campaign for Grade-Level Reading communities in 43 states.

Since the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading’s (SCGLR) inception in 2015, we've grown into a four-county effort -- Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota:

Each summer, school doors close and millions of children go without the things they rely on to learn and thrive. While one summer only lasts three months, if you add those months up over the course of a child’s school career, it equals three years. And three years is too long for any child to go without books, healthy meals, computers, and even the watchful eye of a caring adult.

National Summer Learning Day, July 12, 2018, was a national advocacy day aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they start school ready to learn.

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• Lead Partner in Sarasota County: Community Foundation of Sarasota County
• Lead Partner in Manatee County: United Way Suncoast
• Lead Partner in Charlotte County: United Way of Charlotte County
• Lead Partners in DeSoto County: DeSoto County Education Foundation, Desoto County Health Department, Desoto County Public Schools, Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland, United Way Suncoast

SCGLR's focus is on five solution areas, and as we evolve, we are learning how to make more meaningful impacts to strengthen our communities.

While there are unique approaches to tackle the needs and challenges of each county, a brighter future for all children is at the core of our work. Showcasing these efforts is SCGLR's brand-new website.

One of the first places to explore is the Initiatives & Projects tab. While hovering your mouse over the tab, you will see a list of the five pillars: School Readiness, Attendance, Summer Learning, Family Engagement, and Health. Wherever you choose to learn more, each webpage will provide you with useful information to help guide you on your educational journey.

Boundary-spanning activities and approaches that benefit all four counties are reflected in the Events Calendar and on SCGLR's social media outlets, including Facebook and Twitter. Please share these resources with your communities.

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Won't You Be My #PopUpNeighbor

On July 14, 2018, the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and The Laundry Project teamed up to hold a #PopUpNeighbor event at SuperMatt Laundromat/Lavandería in Bradenton. Pop-Up Neighbor events are unexpected opportunities where caring volunteers make real connections with individuals and families while alleviating the cost of laundry. For three hours, everyone who walked into the laundromat had their laundry fees paid, thanks to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation.

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

Kindergarten Readiness
Play Days

“What's that? What's that you say? You say today is... Saturday? G'bye, I'm going out to play!” -- Shel Silverstein

Play Days are designed to answer some of the many questions kids have about going into kindergarten. At the library, educators will guide families through stations and share tips and ideas on how parents can assist their children to be ready for school.

Share this event with your community so families can help prepare their kiddos for kindergarten!

July 21, 2018, Ellenton
July 28, 2018, North Port

Friday Fest at Van Wezel
July 27
5:00pm-9:00pm

Reading with the Rays
Manatee County Public
The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County provided books for the children, The Food Bank of Manatee provided food sacks and fresh produce for all the laundromat patrons, the Manatee County Public Library was there with information on how to get a library card, Manatee County Rural Health Services provided information on health resources, Volunteer Readers kept the book nook alive sharing books and stories, and UnidosNow provided information on college and career readiness and other programs as they empowered Latinos to achieve their American dreams. The Patterson Foundation provided breakfast and lunch, and the volunteers and laundromat patrons offered bundles of goodwill, baskets full of smiles, and a sense of community that will last far longer than the fresh scent of the dryer sheets. - Beth Duda, Director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

"A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role." Yehuda Berg

The Pop-Up Neighbor #FreeLaundryDay collaboration was a first for SCGLR and plans for the next one are already underway!

You know those moments that make the hair on your arms stand up straight. Follow the links below in order and let us know if that happens to you!

Won't You Be My Neighbor? Part I
Won't You Be My Neighbor? Part II
The Pop-Up Neighbor Photo Album
Event Highlights

Blastoff News #SSBC2018

Blastoff News, a weekly newsletter showcasing the work of participating organizations in the Suncoast Summer Book Challenge, highlights camps that have done a space-tacular job blasting off their campers towards the love of reading. The latest edition showcases how children are inspiring others and coming up with creative ideas to bring the books they are reading to life.

For example, "Campers at Just for Girls-Palmetto did popcorn reading. Each girl picked a book of her choice and then the campers took turns reading part of the book to each other. Once they knew the story, they then acted out a part of the book and the other girls had to guess which part of the story they were seeing. Encouraging children to read to each other in small groups can help overcome the fear of reading aloud." - Dr. Jessica Patella

As of Friday, July 13... 81, 812 books have been read!

Access Blastoff News to read about the interesting ways organizations are encouraging summer learning.

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