"A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind, hospitals of the soul, theme parks of the imagination..." - Caitlin Moran

On behalf of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, wishing you and yours a joyful holiday season, and a sparkling New Year!
The Power of Presence

To harness the inherent power of Suncoast families and strengthen the parents who shape them, the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, with support from The Patterson Foundation, is facilitating a series of Book Circles open to the community to explore *The Power of Presence*, written by Peabody Award-winning author Joy Thomas Moore. Moore will visit the region to kick-off the Book Circle opportunity in an event open to participants held Thursday, Jan. 31 at Pine View School at 7 p.m.

In addition to an invitation to attend Moore’s author event, The Patterson Foundation will provide Book Circle participants with copies of the book, discussion guides, and funds to assist with covering costs.

Each Book Circle will comprise a small group of people reading and meeting regularly to discuss *The Power of Presence*, in which author Joy Thomas Moore reflects on her journey as a single mother and explores the seven pillars of presence -- mind, heart, faith, courage, resources, connectedness, and values. Moore says these pillars are key to being a lingering voice of positive influence on children -- even when their parents can't be with them.
"Families are facing new, unfamiliar challenges today compared to previous generations," said Moore, who also serves as a senior communications consultant for the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. "Parents are working longer hours or multiple jobs, and more children are being raised in single-parent households. Families are changing, but the need to have an indelible presence in the lives and futures of our children has not. I hope The Power of Presence sends a message of love and support to any parent facing these challenges while trying to raise great children."

Kudos to these groups who have already registered a Book Circle:

- Brentwood Elementary School
- Sarasota County Schools
- Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County (2 groups)
- Florida Studio Theatre
- Glenallen Elementary School
- School District of Manatee County
- Taylor Ranch Elementary School
- Cyesis
- Step Up Suncoast
- Samoset Elementary School
- Wilkinson Elementary School
- Lamarque Elementary School
- Visible Men Academy

If you are interested in participating in a Book Circle, click HERE to join.

Click HERE to volunteer as a Book Circle leader.

For more information on Joy Thomas Moore and The Power of Presence, visit www.power-ofpresence.com.

Happy Holidays