-- The Kindergarten Round-up! --

We've learned that children who enter school with a basic knowledge of math and reading and a well-developed vocabulary are better positioned for school success. We've also learned that "Parents are the secret sauce!" and that it takes a community working together to raise successful kids.

To encourage early-learning and school readiness, SCGLR and our spectacular volunteers assembled more than 6,000 Kindergarten Readiness Bags for all incoming students in Charlotte, DeSoto, and Sarasota counties, and Manatee County students attending Title 1 schools. Kindergarten Readiness Bags include nearly 20 tools to provide learning support for parents and children in the months before school begins.

“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play, children learn how to learn.” – O. Fred Donaldson
Many of you already know about the Kindergarten Round-Ups held at elementary schools in the spring before a child enters kindergarten. Round-Up days provide an opportunity for families to pick up their Kindergarten Readiness Bags and learn more about the school while they play, and explore.

At the Round-Ups, children get to meet other kids going through the same experience, and parents get to meet other families from their community whose child may potentially be a classmate. Historically, Kindergarten Round-Ups have been a positive experience for the incoming students, parents, and the schools.

Click here to access the printable Kindergarten Readiness Guide: ideas and activities for parents and children.

Click here for a list of Kindergarten Round-Up! dates.

Be sure to share these resources with the families in your network.

The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level reading is grateful for the generous support of our volunteers, The Patterson Foundation, Charlotte Community Foundation, Murdock Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation, and the School District of DeSoto County -- for making the distribution of the Kindergarten Readiness Bags possible.

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**Whoot Whoot!**

**The Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge is Back!**

Here's what you need to know....

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Port Charlotte Library
Spring Break Lunch + Fun
Thursday, March 21
10:30am - 12:00pm

Port Charlotte Library
Spring Break Lunch + Fun
Friday, March 22
10:30am - 12:00pm

Children's Book Fair and Family Fun Day
Saturday, April 6
9:00am - 2:00pm

EGGstravaganza Annual Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 13
9:30am - 11:30am

FREE Parenting Program Groups at Forty Carrots Family Center

Kindergarten Round-up! at Blanche H. Daughtrey Elementary
Thursday, March 21
2:00pm - 6:00pm

Kindergarten Round-up! at Florine J. Abel Elementary
Thursday, March 21
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Kindergarten Round-up! at James Tillman Elementary
Thursday, March 21
2:00pm - 6:00pm
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"Inspired by reading Planting A Rainbow, Miss Saria's campers wear their rainbow colors while showing off their new garden. @SummerLearning! @SuncoastGLR #GLReading #SSBC2018"

- Aaron Watkins @SRQAaronReads
Spring may be around the corner, but our brains are already in summer!

The 2019 Summer Reading Blast Off! happening May 4th with keynote speaker LaTonya Pinkard from Last Chance U will be here before we know it. To make it a successful event, SCGLR needs nearly 50 volunteers in early May. Volunteers from all four counties are encouraged to participate.

View VOLUNTEER DETAILS and register. NOTE: High School students are welcome.

This year's Blast Off! event starts a bit later than last year and will showcase local artists during lunch that camps and programs can learn more about.

The Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge is implemented by SCGLR and promoted through local summer camps and businesses to encourage children to read, reducing the "summer slide." Learn the ins and outs and everything in between about the 2019 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge, and view sites from 2018 that had zero learning loss or experienced reading gains through the challenge.

The Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge is made possible through the generosity The Patterson Foundation.

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**1 CommUNITY, 24 Questions**

*What is the future we want to create, and what will it take for that to be our reality?*

We have a task at hand, and it can only be accomplished together. 1 CommUNITY, 24 Questions, and 1000 people.

Sarasota County's Florida Department of Health and Age-Friendly Sarasota have teamed up to support Sarasota County's community assessment which happens every three years.

The assessment will identify and guide the allocation of future resources for 3-5 priorities, #ForAllAges. This assessment comes in the form of a survey available in English and Spanish and only takes 5-7 minutes to complete.

If each of us encourage two people in our network to take the survey, together, we can make a HUGE impact. Here is an easy cut and paste passage that you can include in an email or paste into Facebook messenger:

Creating our future begins with sharing our voice(s). Our opinions will help identify and shape 3-5 priorities for Sarasota County. I hope you will click on the link and invest 5-7 minutes to share your thoughts.


Feel free to forward this to others in your circles.

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