Blast Off to Summer Reading Gains!

Recently, Beth Duda, director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR), led a conversation outlining the Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge [#SummerRC2019] as part of the second installment of the nationwide GLR Campaign Learning Conversation series.

Last year, to avoid the "summer slide," SCGLR engaged our four-county region and partnered with 83 summer camp providers and summer learning academies to encourage a love for reading. Why? Because nationwide, low-income children can lose an average of 2 to 2.5 months of reading skills each summer!

5,369 children participated with 4,915 completing the challenge by reading at least six books. In total, they read 126,787 books.

96% of the summer locations participating in the 2018 reading challenge gained reading skills, stayed even or lost 1 month or less of reading skills.

The Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge Blast Off is an inspiring and motivational training event for the summer providers working with SCGLR.

More than 250 individuals will experience outstanding educators presenting replicable lessons designed to inspire team building and a love of learning. Education Warrior, LaTonya Pinkard, featured on season 3 of the Netflix series Last Chance U, will deliver the keynote event on May 4 at 1:00p. Click here to register.

SCGLR is relying on a team of volunteers to make the Blast Off event run smoothly. If you are available on May 4th and would like to join the team of

FREE WORKSHOPS

Mind in the Making
(MITM)
Currently Registering:

Team Integrity
Bradenton
Thursdays
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Team X-Plore
Bradenton
Saturday, April 27
Saturday, May 4
8:30am - 4:30pm

WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS

VOLUNTEER's NEEDED
2019 Summer Reading Blast Off Event
volunteers, please register here. NOTE: High School students are welcome.

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.

REGISTER YOUR ORGANIZATION FOR THE SUMMER BLAST OFF! EVENT HERE

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**SCGLR IS LISTENING!**

Joy Thomas Moore's "love letter" to single mothers has proven to be so meaningful to our community, SCGLR is extending The Power of Presence Book Circles into the summer months.

Happily, Joy will be in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties May 15-16 to inspire us once again. Please join us!

REGISTER HERE TO MEET Joy Thomas Moore, Author-The Power of Presence

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**
Charlotte Harbor Conference Center
75 Taylor Street Punta Gorda, FL 33950
8:30am-10:00am

**Venice William Jervey Public Library**
300 Nokomis Ave S, Venice, FL 34285
12:30pm-1:30pm

**Sarasota Selby Public Library**
1331 1st St, Sarasota, FL 34236
Thursday, May 16, 2019
4:30pm-5:30pm

**Manatee Chamber of Commerce Lakewood Ranch**
4215 Concept Ct. Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211
9:00am-10:30am

**Community Foundation of Sarasota County**
2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 3423
1:00pm-2:30pm

**Braden River Public Library**
4915 53rd Ave E Bradenton, FL 34203
6:00pm-7:30pm

The Patterson Foundation will be supporting new book circles in May, June, and July. If you have not yet participated in a book circle or would like to gather a new group, you can [HERE](#).

FUN FACT: Parents can participate in Book Circles as kiddos participate in the Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge!

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**Donor Update: 3 Collaborative Grade-Level Reading Programs Getting Results by Cassandra Decker**

Conversation buzzed throughout the room, like electricity linking one person to another, as attendees connected around the community-driven, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Donors, campaign leads, practitioners, and passionaries convened April 4, 2019 at the Manatee Community Foundation for a Donor Update centered on impacts made through three initiatives: Reach Out & Read, Dive Into Reading, and Soar in 4.

United Way Suncoast is the lead partner on the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading in Manatee County. Its support and design of the community-wide effort swelled from an early understanding of the achievement gap.

The sobering statistics around grade-level reading continue to drive these efforts in Manatee County. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, "A student who is not reading proficiently by third grade is four times less likely to graduate from high school by age 19 than a child who is reading proficiently by third grade." Moreover, the American Educational Research Foundation explains the intersectionality of poverty and literacy noting that "Students who are both not reading proficiently by third grade and living in poverty are 13 times less likely to graduate from high school on time." Community members such as Steve Roskamp, who funds Soar in 4, called these statistics "unacceptable" saying quite simply that they were "not ok" with such a future for our children and families. Below are three initiatives where community is "fighting back" against these statistics.

Continue reading, ["Donor Update: 3 Collaborative Grade-Level Reading Programs Getting Results"](#) by Cassandra Decker.

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We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at [info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net](mailto:info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net).