Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge Blasts Off to Summer Reading Gains -- Part II

On May 4, 2019, Suncoast Summer Blast Off! participants saw the "LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!" all day as videographers, newspapers, and photographers documented #SummerRC2019.

More than 300 individuals representing 90 summer camps and programs from our four-county region spent the day learning, sharing, and strengthening their abilities to combat the summer slide. The Blast Off! event, generously sponsored by The Patterson Foundation, included breakout sessions presented by talented educators from the Suncoast region and a keynote address by Education Warrior LaTonya Pinkard. LaTonya Pinkard was featured on season three of the Netflix series, Last Chance U.

RECAP of Social Media Highlights

Provider Toolkit

Belonging to a Pride

To harness the inherent power of Suncoast families and strengthen the parents who shape them, SCGLR, with support from The Patterson Foundation, began facilitating a series of Book Circles open to the community to explore The Power of Presence, written by Peabody Award winner Joy Thomas Moore.

SCGLR kicked off its first Power of Presence event on January 31, 2019, hosting Joy and more than 200 Book Circle leaders who wanted to explore how to "be a voice in a child's ear even when you're not with them."
how to “be a voice in a child’s ear even when you’re not with them.”

Since the Book Circles began, hundreds of people from local businesses, nonprofits, government, and the media have explored the 22 different short stories from single moms shared in the book and came away with their own takeaways and aha moments that can be adapted.

Each week, The PULSE Newsletter can be found on SCGLR's website, gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net, documenting learnings which we hope will inspire interest into this highly rewarding exploration.

**Highlights from The PULSE Newsletter:**

"The book is not just for those who parent, it is for anyone who wants to have a meaningful interaction with children." -- Dawnyelle Singleton

"We discussed creating an acronym as a go-to for our values and aspirations similar to Joy's I AM CHHIPPER (page 233). In theory, we know what our values and aspirations are, but thought it would be inspiring to have something tangible to remind us on the tough days." - Stacy Sternberg

One participant shared *The Power of Presence* really affected her conversations with her child. She is putting the phone down and rather than being in the conversation in body, she is now being more in the moment by listening and tuning in... being fully present.

"We shared about the power of being mentored and mentoring and all identified with the idea that children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." -- Angie Matthiessen

Inspired by Davin Whitehurst’s quote, "There is no better example for our children than the one we set before them every day" and Joy Thomas Moore's LESSON FROM A LIONESS: Show, don't just tell -- parents are encouraged to participate in a Book Circle as kiddos participate in the Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge. #SummerRC2019

**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, please register HERE.
Aspirations Journalism: A Partnership Between Journalism and Philanthropy

Through a partnership between journalism and philanthropy, Aspirations Journalism is an initiative to share information and engage communities through stories that encourage people to be part of the solution and take action. While examining relevant social issues, Aspirations Journalism focuses on motivating, innovating and collaborating through the lenses of several of The Patterson Foundation's initiatives, including the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

Aspirations Journalism follows the learnings and success of SPIRE CoLab covering the importance of third-grade reading proficiency for success in the classroom and beyond. With this latest initiative, The Patterson Foundation and the Herald-Tribune Media Group are bringing their respective assets and talents together to inform, educate, and engage communities locally and beyond on a broader range of issues.

If you are interested in sharing information about the GLR movement through the Herald-Tribune, contact Brian Ries, Herald-Tribune digital media editor, at brian.ries@heraldtribune.com.

Learn more about Aspirations Journalism.

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