On August 10, SCGLR shared its 100th webisode of **THIS BOOK IS COOL!** While summer is over and school has begun, we can be delighted to know that THIS BOOK IS COOL! webisodes will live on. As of 8/14/2020, there have been more than 25,000 views.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from children and their parents, SCGLR is making plans so that families, educators, public libraries, and community centers can use this tool to promote the joys of literacy. If you are interested, please [contact Beth Duda](mailto:beth.duda@scglr.org).

Special thanks to each celebrity for helping to create the magic. Click a name below to watch them in action!

### Week 1

- Kelli Karen Smith
- Tracy Calla
- Amanda Horne

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**A MEANINGFUL IMPACT**

In an excerpt from Abby Rolland's blog, *The Heart of Philanthropy,* she shares a short story about a young reader who received *Charlotte's Web* from SCGLR's summer program, **THIS BOOK IS COOL!**

"Sa'ryiah had started reading the book from her school's library during the spring semester but was unable to finish when schools closed due to COVID-19. As she dug through her packet of books, her eyes lit up when she saw her brand new copy of Charlotte's Web. Her repeated phrase of "I'm so happy," shows not only the power of reading but also the power of connection and the heart in philanthropy."

[**Sa'ryiah opens her This Book is Cool! envelope**](#)
A message of gratitude from a family who participated in THIS BOOK IS COOL! If anyone needs a reminder of the "why," this message will certainly bring some gentle encouragement :- )

"I would like to sincerely extend our appreciation - The blessing that your program was for my girls this summer was absolutely beyond imagination. They were so excited about the books and were excited to get new books and read them and to share them with each other. They even took and read them on audio so that we can share them with their younger cousins.

I wanted to just thank you because to receive new books when I couldn't afford to buy them was such a blessing and made the summer so much more exciting.

When we went into some of the facilities, you had extra crafts they could do and things that could encourage us. I met some really wonderful people on the inside that facilitated your program. I want to just thank you, thank you from the bottom my heart. They read with your books 24 and Eyva loved the big girl books. Although Amayah didn't read unassisted, she did progress to 5 pages from the cool cat book alone by memory and learned 7 new sight words.

Thank you. Be blessed. They made a thank you card. I would love to send it, and bless you for the mask, and reading bracelets. I gave them one for finishing books.

What your program did for my girls was a very special treat. You all gave new books to people who couldn't afford them and during a time that that as a community we were suffering greatly and truly needed the support and encouragement to spark excitement.

Thanks again"
In the July newsletter, we shared details about SCGLR's virtual family engagement nights, including the interactive journey through spoken-word poetry with poet, Cedric Hameed, and a recap of the creative adventure of "story-gami" with origami artist, Kuniko Yamamoto.
With more than 25,000 views in only ten weeks, THIS BOOK IS COOL! is proving to be a popular learning tool -- every webisode is entertaining and educational. SCGLR has kept tabs on views each week, and here are the most popular ones to date.

Week 1
Sharon Knapp
Beth Mueller
Cedrick Hameed
Joy Mahler
Devin Johns
Shalia Moore-Hayes
Stacy Sternberg
Carrie Seidman

Week 2
Danielle Hudzina
Janet Lane
Sam Rivera
Samantha Cremen
Pedro Leos
Cheif Bernedette Dipino
Paul Hockenbury
Ben Turoff
Dalila Lumpkin
Carolina Franco

Spoken Word Poetry with Cedric Hameed
Origami artist Kuniko Yamamoto

Using follow-up surveys, guests provided positive feedback, which has encouraged SCGLR to continue to keep families engaged throughout the fall with additional family nights. Stay tuned!
**Tornado**, featuring ABC-7 Meteorologist, John Scalzi

**Brontorina**, featuring Principal Dancer with The Sarasota Ballet, Danielle Brown

**Week 3**

**The Name Jar**, featuring Embracing Our Differences Education Director, Ben Jewell-Plocher

**Flora and Ulysses**, the Illuminated Adventures, featuring Samoset Elementary School Principal, Maribeth Mason

**Week 5**

**More-igami**, featuring Origami Artist, Kuniko Yamamoto

**Why Mosquitos Buzz in People’s Ears**, featuring Playwright and former Executive Director of the Hermitage Artist Retreat, Bruce Rogers
Week 7

Martin's Big Words, featuring Actor, Playwright, and Director, Joel PE King

Week 8

Capital! Washington D.C. from A-Z, featuring Communications Coordinator for The Patterson Foundation, Stacy Sternberg

Week 9

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type, featuring Recreation Program Coordinator for the City of North Port, Samantha Cremen

Week 10

Roxaboxen, featuring SNN meteorologist, Marco La Manno

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