



A Family Engagement Newsletter

February 2021

FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

The Black History Month 2021 theme, "Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity" explores the

African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States.



Family Event with Cedric Hameed



Last year, artist Cedric Hameed guided online guests through an interactive journey of spoken word poetry. Families created and shared poems that began with "I need you because..." "I want to see you..." "I want you to know..." and "Because even when I am gone..."

Ashley Coone, a consultant for SCGLR, captured this magical moment of a mother and daughter reading their collaborative poem out loud.

the United States.

Source: [History Channel](#)

[Click here to explore the History Channel's in-depth article on the "Origins of Black History Month," "The Man Behind Black History Month," 14 prominent African Americans who made history, and more.](#)

THIS BOOK IS COOL! **"Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."**



[THIS BOOK IS COOL! -- Martin's Big Words \[13 minutes\]](#)

This webisode features the book, "Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Bryan Collier. Second graders and the special adults in their lives will enjoy learning about this book with host Beth Duda, and special guest, actor, playwright, and director Joel P. E. King.

playwright, and director, Joel P.L. King.

After watching "Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," [click here to engage your kiddy-bopper further with this super fun activity!](#)



READING IS THE KEY TO SUCCEEDING!

THERE IS NO APP TO REPLACE YOUR LAP!

READ TO YOUR CHILD



Read daily to the kiddos. Reading aloud to children has clear cognitive, social, emotional, and character developmental benefits. By reading aloud daily, you can help prepare the children in your life for success.

If you are interested in learning adventures designed to help you and your children, check out [Stronger Me, Stronger We](#). Each Stronger Me, Stronger We offering is

We are delighted to offer another opportunity to join [THIS BOOK IS COOL!](#) host Beth Duda and Cedric for its next interactive family activity sponsored by the [Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) and [Embracing Our Differences](#). Participating families will receive a copy of *Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream* for their home library.

During this 1-hour workshop, families will explore thoughts and feelings through spoken word poetry and share ideas to create a collaborative work of art. Guests will need to have paper, a pencil, pen, or crayon, and their imagination handy!

This family engagement activity is designed for adults and children Pre-K through Grade 3. Please invite families in your network who may be interested.

[Click here to register for the virtual event on Tuesday, March 2 from 6:30pm-7:30pm.](#)

This event is made possible thanks to the generosity of [United Way Suncoast](#), the [Community Foundation of Sarasota County](#), The Patterson Foundation, and

THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY LEARNING

Beth Duda, director of [Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) was a welcomed guest on the Suncoast View. Take a glimpse to learn about the importance of early learning and SCGLR's newest program offerings, including [Stronger Me, Stronger We](#) and [volunteer opportunities](#).



comprised of five one-hour Zoom sessions. Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and neighbors can choose from the following workshops offering high-quality content in a facilitated learning format: Mind in the Making, The Power of Presence, THIS BOOK IS COOL!, and Vrooming to Literacy

Thanks to the generosity of [The Patterson Foundation](#), Stronger Me, Stronger We workshops are available to strengthen parenting skills, build executive functions, strengthen early literacy, and help develop a love of reading **at no cost**. All of the tracks directly correlate to learning new skills to help prepare and guide children through school!





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