A MAGICAL EVENING FOR FAMILIES

On March 2, 64 families from 29 schools in Manatee and Sarasota counties joined Embracing Our Differences, SCGLR, and artist Cedric Hameed on Zoom for a creative poetry experience.

During the family engagement event, Cedric shared, "making time to be proactive with our kids is important because moment to moment is all we have with the people we love."

Cedric and his children prompted guests to fill in the blanks to questions like "I hope you can see that..." and "I hope you dream because..."

Some families were eager to share their heartfelt poems...

WHY YOU'RE THE SECRET SAUCE!

Research shows that students with families engaged in their education are more likely to:

• Learn to read faster
• Adapt better to school
• Take more challenging classes
• Have better attendance
• Have better social skills & behavior
• Have higher grades and test scores
• Graduate
• Get promoted

Take a glimpse below to learn about the importance of early learning and why parent and family engagement is essential for success!
EOD Family Engagement Night with Cedric Hameed

Why Family Engagement is Essential for Success

BRAIN BUILDING MOMENTS

Click the Vroom Tips below to access print-at-home tip sheets that include a mix of Vroom Brain Building Activities™ for children ages 0-5. Share them, put them up on your fridge, or carry them around...whatever helps remind you that brain-building moments are all around you.

Brain Building Basics

Science tells us that children's first years are when they develop the foundation for lifelong learning. Every time we connect with them, it's not just their eyes that light up -- it's their brains too! In these moments, half a million neurons fire at once, taking in all the things we say and do. We can't see it happening, but the brain is growing and strengthening as they absorb the world around them.

A COOL WAY TO ENGAGE YOUR CHILD!

THIS BOOK IS COOL! promotes a love of reading by celebrating the content, style, and story of 100 high-quality children's books.

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Participating families shared some of their reflections immediately after the event:

"I loved tonight's webinar. It was so family-oriented and brought my young family closer together in a memorable experience in an inclusive activity. We will definitely remember this forever."

"My daughter's reaction to my poem is forever ingrained in my heart and soul."

"It was so beautiful to share our hopes as a family and to hear it mirrored with other families."

The Patterson Foundation offered prizes for the schools that had the greatest number of participants.

- 1st Prize - Ashton Elementary School: A "Reading is the Key to Succeeding" cloth face mask for every student, teacher, and staff member at the school (valued at $3 each) AND $1,000.00
- 2nd Prize - Tuttle Elementary School: 100 "Reading is the Key to Succeeding" cloth face masks and $1,000.00
- 3rd Prize - Louise R. Johnson K-8 International School: 100 "Reading is the Key to Succeeding" cloth face masks and $500.00

The Bonus... All participating children received Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream for their home libraries thanks to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation.

If you feel like you missed out... don't worry. More family engagement opportunities are on the horizon!
Reading is the key to succeeding!

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