A Family Engagement Newsletter

Family Engagement Night featuring Van Wezel Teaching Artist, Freda Williams

Join SCGLR for an exciting adventure with Van Wezel teaching artist Freda Williams! During this online event, guests will learn how to read illustrations like artists by learning about the elements of art. Together, we will make images come to life using drama, and families will create simple art inspired by an illustration from a really COOL book!

For this event, every participant will need to bring something BLUE from around the house, like a cup, hat, or a stuffed animal. Participants will need a sheet of white paper and some crayons, markers, or watercolors to complete this quick art activity.

All are invited to join THIS BOOK IS COOL! host, Beth Duda, and Freda for this interactive family activity sponsored by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and The Patterson Foundation!

REGISTER HERE

REACH OUT AND READ: Stronger Together

Say Cheeseeeeeereee :-D

SCGLR is having five raffles during the summer to celebrate THIS BOOK IS COOL! Participating families who send in a picture of their child reading, watching a webisode, or creating an activity from a featured book to connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net are put into the raffle every two weeks.

What might YOU win?

A gift bag containing Play-Doh, crayons, markers, cards, bubbles, a beach ball, an activity book, construction paper, sidewalk chalk, an expandable book rack to display TBIC! books, and a $50 gift card!

Congratulations to the Brooks family for winning the most recent THIS BOOK IS COOL! raffle. Lucky kiddos...Rita Story delivered!

HONK HONK!
30 Years of Reach Out and Read (time 2 minutes)

Reach Out and Read® gives young children a foundation for success by incorporating books and reading into their pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together. Reach Out and Read® doctors and nurse practitioners have the greatest access to families with children in the early years, when it really counts.

Studies show that the children who participate in Reach Out and Read®

- are read to more often by their parents
- have improved language skills
- have a greater love of reading

At more than ten routine health checkups from infancy through five years, Reach Out and Read® trained providers:

- talk with parents about how important it is to read aloud and engage with their young children
- demonstrate how best to look at books and talk about the stories with their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers
- encourage parents to cuddle up and read together at home and build routines around books
- give a new book to the child to take home and keep

Each new book is given to the parents with the acknowledgment that they are their child’s first and most important teacher. At the end of the program, HONK HONK!

IT’S LIZZY THE LITERACY BUS

Have you heard about the new literacy bus in Charlotte County? Angie Matthiessen, executive director of the United Way of Charlotte County, shares a glimpse into how this school bus transformed into a bus called Lizzy.

"In the fall of 2019, the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Charlotte 2019 (LC19) class began their journey with Community Services Day, where nonprofits share their work with the class, hoping to inspire the class to pick a project. It is no secret that every nonprofit wants its project selected.

In the United Way Charlotte County office, we dreamed of making the best offering related to grade-level reading. What if our community had a mobile book bus, a legacy vehicle for change and impact?

The planning included Carmel Kisiday, Director of Early Learning at Charlotte County Public Schools and Shiloh Burger, former Engagement Team member with The Patterson Foundation and Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. The intention was for the book bus to travel around Charlotte County, allowing easy access for families to books and other resources.

A book bus allows partners to go where our families are. Once the idea was pitched to LC19, and it was selected for their project, we were beyond thrilled. The school system agreed to donate a bus, the Boys & Girls Club agreed to be the lead partner with responsibility of the bus, and forward movement began.

What can a community achieve when we all come together? The proof is here. A true community collaborative to be immensely proud of. The bus hit the road -- already busy with visits to the elementary school summer programs!

The baton has passed, and the next leg of the relay race managed by the Boys & Girls Club will surely be the most important. Lynn Dorler of the Boys & Girls Club shared last week of a child excitedly entering the bus like it was Christmas Day. Our children need the joy Lizzy can bring to this community. Lynn is ready, and so is his team to ensure its success."

Keep and eye out for Lizzy or if you're interested in learning more, contact the Boys & Girls Club of...
Thanks to the generosity of the Manatee Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and The Patterson Foundation, physicians in DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota have joined this national network of more than 42 affiliates that serve in over 6,400 medical sites in all 50 states.

Families in Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto counties participating in Reach Out and Read are invited to send pictures of themselves reading together to SCGLR, automatically putting them into a monthly drawing for a $50 Visa gift card!

BIG congratulations to the Benoit family, SCGLR’s winners from June :- )

Interested in learning more about where you can find a Reach Out and Read® provider in our region? Click [here and scroll down](#).

**CELEBRATING SUNCOAST FAMILIES**

**SUMMER READING TIP**

*Record Achievement*

As your child finishes each book, have them record their accomplishments in the 2021 Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge Reading Log. If you don’t have one, you can download it [here for FREE](#).

Pro Tip: Praise your child as you are adding your initials to the log...everyone likes a pat-on-the-back for a job well done!

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