SUNCOAST FESTIVAL: OUR CHANCE TO REMAKE LEARNING
By Beth Duda, director of Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

In thinking back on your early years, you likely can recall several experiences outside of the classroom that contributed to your overall learning and development: a trip to the museum that introduced you to the cultures of past civilizations – or a session witnessing an artist at work that inspired your creativity.
Helping families in our region realize those possibilities is at the heart of **Suncoast Remake Learning Days**, an exciting 10-day, free, hands-on learning festival now taking place through May 8 in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.

Presented by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, with the generous support of The Patterson Foundation, Suncoast Remake Learning Days consists of more than 140 events at locations throughout our region designed to provide hands-on and engaging educational experiences for youths of all ages and their families, caregivers, and educators.

All Suncoast Remake Learning Days events occur outside of school hours to highlight the learning opportunities that exist around us every day. The gatherings are focused on the arts, maker spaces, outdoor learning, science, technology, and youth voice. There are also professional development opportunities for parents and educators. In short, everyone will be able to try new things and rediscover a love of learning.

Among the events taking place are:
- Youth poetry workshops
- Outdoor science, technology, engineering, arts, and math activities
- Dance exhibitions
- Wildlife encounters
Cultural celebrations
Hands-on building activities
Theatre classes

These events create shared experiences between children and families that can texture how kids learn in the classroom and introduce them to interests that can provide a lifetime of intellectual fulfillment. And they are the result of innovative efforts by more than 165 host organizations representing institutions throughout our region, such as schools, museums, libraries, after-school organizations, early child care centers, universities, and media outlets.

It has been tremendously exciting to witness them turn their ideas into reality. The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is thrilled to help share their activities with families in our four-county region. Our region’s festival is one of 17 Remake Learning Days festivals taking place across America, and it is the only one being held in Florida. It is giving our community the opportunity to take ownership of our children’s education and reinforce our knowledge that learning happens everywhere.

I invite all of you to take part in these inspiring, stimulating, and, most of all, fun learning experiences. For more details on this festival, visit SuncoastRemakeLearningDays.org for a full overview of the free events you and your children can experience.
Let's remake learning together!

Glimpse Event Highlights
April 29, April 30, May 1, May 2, May 3

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
By Karen Windon, Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Thousands of rising PreK–3rd-grade children in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties have already signed up for THIS BOOK IS COOL! Eligibility is also open to children in Hardee County again this year. Families will have the opportunity to expand their home libraries, thanks to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation. Kiddos will be exposed to new characters and experiences in exciting fiction books and learn new facts and figures from the well-researched non-fiction books.

While registration began on March 21, the Suncoast Campaign gave early registration access to families who previously participated in the program.
Watching the registrations stream in from families who loved the experience of seeing their child eagerly read the 20 books they received for the summer made them want to participate again. Parents have told us how their children looked forward to the webisodes and fun activities corresponding to each book. From creating a paper plate hat to go with the book *Caps For Sale* to planting seeds as in the story of *City Green*, the activities are fun for children, parents, grandparents, and child care providers.

One happy mom told us, "Elijah is so excited to sign up for THIS BOOK IS COOL! He didn’t love reading before, but last year’s experience was so good that he said, ‘Mom, I get to read ALL summer long!’ Those are words every mother wants to hear."

Do you know any incoming children (grades PreK–3) who could benefit from this incredible program?

Registration is open. Click here to register in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)!

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

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

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