February is National Children’s Dental Health Month!

We know that poor oral health can have a detrimental effect on a child’s quality of life, their performance at school, and their success later in life.

We are fortunate that the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County (DOH-Sarasota) recently launched a school-based children’s oral health education and sealant program in collaboration with the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, The Patterson Foundation of Sarasota, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and The Patterson Foundation.

This sealant program is available to all the second-grade students attending Title 1 Schools in Sarasota County.

Click here to learn more about Sarasota’s school-based dental sealant program.

Moving the Needle: Attendance Awareness Poster Contest

In honor of Attendance Awareness Month in September, the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading hosted an Attendance Awareness Poster Contest to promote good attendance habits and help students and parents understand why going to school EveryDayCounts.

ATTENDANCE FAST FACTS

• In the Manatee-Sarasota region, nearly 10,000 students are chronically absent
• In some communities, chronic absence affects 1 in 4 children
• Nationally, as many as 7.5 million students miss 10 percent or more of the school year – that’s 130 million days

FUN FACTS

• In 2016, over 44,000 students created a poster with the message Every Day Counts
• In 2016, 42 public schools in Sarasota County and five preschool locations participated for a total of 47 schools
• In 2016, 44 public schools in Manatee County and three preschool locations participated for a total of 47 schools

Our children’s success depends on a number of factors outside of actual classroom content, including access to the most basic school and living supplies. As Joshua Dikerson reveals in his poem, “Cause I Won’t Get a Pencil,” often students at our Title 1 schools are facing additional obstacles in life that may affect their ability to comprehend their lessons while in school and practice skills learned at school.

We look forward to sharing engaging news and updates with you. Please respect your privacy and will not share or sell your contact information.

To be added into the 0–5 Express newsletter distribution list, please click HERE. To be added into the Manatee-Sarasota newsletter distribution list, please click HERE. Provide your first and last name in addition to your potential email address. There is no information you are required to share beyond your name and email. Share the Newsletter!
Cause I Ain't Got a Pencil
by Joshua T. Dickerson

I woke myself up
Because we ain't got an alarm clock
Dug in the dirty clothes basket,
Cause ain't nobody washed my uniform
Brushed my hair and teeth in the dark,
Cause the lights ain't on
Even got my baby sister ready,
Cause my mama wasn't home.
Got us both to school on time.
To eat us a good breakfast.
Then when I got to class the teacher fusses
Cause I ain't got a pencil.