The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is uniting with public elementary schools in our four-county region to host the Attendance Awareness Poster Contest. Why? Great question! To help build awareness for students,
families, and educators about the importance of outstanding attendance.

Starting in kindergarten, missing 10% of school – or just two days a month – can make it harder to learn to read, and that causes children to fall behind. Good attendance, in person or remotely, can help kiddos succeed.

As schools and communities continue to address the academic and social impact of the pandemic, incorporating meaningful ways to engage students, and their families, is critical to addressing the significant absenteeism, enrollment declines, and educational inequities exacerbated by the disaster.

Based on past success, the Attendance Awareness Poster Contest is back! Since the inaugural Attendance Awareness Poster Contest in 2015, nearly 200,000 posters have been created. Any public elementary school in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota county can participate on an “opt-in” basis during September 2022.

SCGLR produced a short contest video that can be used at schools during their newscasts. The video highlights the need for superior attendance, gives the rules and time frame of the poster contest, reinforces the tagline “Make Every Day a Learning Day,” and encourages students to enter the poster contest and the photo/video contest.

Attendance messaging helps build a habit and a culture of attendance by helping everyone understand why going to school regularly matters, when missing school is a problem, and what they can do to ensure students are in school.

We know that there’s no such thing as perfect, especially when it comes to attendance. After all, children do get sick or may need to miss school for a number of reasons, including the need to quarantine. We know missing more than 10% of the work covered in class puts children in academic danger. To hit the mark of excellence this year, make every day a learning day!
"Since 2018, albeit interrupted by COVID, SCGLR has hosted 18 Pop-Up Neighbor Through Laundry events providing 708 families with 7,222 loads of laundry for free as a gift from The Patterson Foundation—averaging ten loads per family—that's a lot of suds!"

– Debra Jacobs, president and CEO of The Patterson Foundation
The Suncoast Campaign and the Laundry Project assembled a Pop-Up Neighbor event in Charlotte County. There were snacks, drinks, and a colorful book nook with books the children could take home to add to their home libraries. Community partners from United Way of Charlotte County, Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County, Charlotte County Libraries & History, Kids Thrive!, and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office spent the morning sharing their expertise and hearts with the laundromat patrons.

CONTINUE READING

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