

3rd Grade Reading Success Matters

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR)

November 2020

COMMUNITY UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

Leaders from our 4-county region shared in the accomplishments of the past 12 months. Participants learned about the current work happening as we strengthened our resolve to help children from birth through 3rd grade, especially those from asset-limited families, succeed in life by ensuring they read on grade level.

There were important milestones to celebrate in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties, and SCGLR's collaborative work was once again affirmed with Pacesetter Honors awarded from the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.



[2019 Pacesetter Honors \(time: 9 minutes\)](#)

In September, SCGLR celebrated another milestone with Reach Out and Read, the nonprofit that connects and partners with pediatricians and clinics to share important information for parents so they can help their children develop a love for reading while encouraging brain development.

In the Suncoast region, during routine health checkups, families receive a book and a stamped postcard. If parents fill out the postcard and drop it in the mail, SCGLR sends a bonus book to their home. We are excited to announce that SCGLR recently marked its 5,000th book mailed, an incredible accomplishment for clinics, pediatricians, and parents who all play a critical role in encouraging reading

Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Book!

Have you heard of Patriot Plaza? It's a 2,800-seat ceremonial amphitheater at Sarasota National Cemetery, and features commissioned art that honors veterans, inspires patriotism, and embraces freedom. The space is a place of peace and reflection and exists for our community to honor veterans through ceremonies and events for generations to come.

Parents are questing for more ways to engage with their children, so The Patterson Foundation has created its first ever Patriot Plaza family engagement activity book.

With Veterans Day around the corner, this edition was designed with veterans as its focus and is full of fun ways to learn more about Veterans Day and the different branches of the United States Armed Forces. You can complete the activities at home or take it with you to Patriot Plaza. Admission is FREE.



When you visit Patriot Plaza see if you can find a service member from each branch in the photographs on the artwork or on the headstones.

What is Veterans Day all about? Download the first edition of the Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Book to find out!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



at a young age in our region.

The Suncoast Campaign celebrated by sending a gift basket and balloons -- delivered by [Rita Story](#) -- to three families served by our Reach Out and Read efforts.



STRONGER ME, STRONGER WE

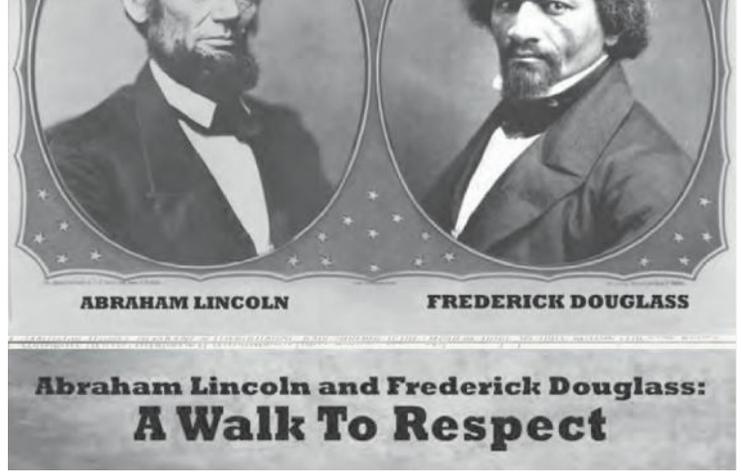
The Patterson Foundation is investing in our community to provide increased knowledge and personal development, which, in turn, will make our community stronger. Stronger Me, Stronger We provides opportunities for personal growth and connection at no cost as a gift from The Patterson Foundation. In the coming months, [SCGLR will offer Stronger Me, Stronger We workshops throughout our 4-county region to interested individuals.](#)

Stronger Me, Stronger We will give community members and their families the opportunity to virtually come together in small groups, connect, and build knowledge and skills. Each Stronger Me, Stronger We offering is comprised of five one-hour Zoom sessions. Participants can choose from the following workshops:



Vrooming to Literacy

During five 1-hour, guided conversations centered on child development, SCGLR will introduce new games and activities you can use to engage your child and help build



[The Patterson Foundation](#) is presenting a viewing of *Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, A Walk to Respect* -- a one-act play taped in February in partnership with the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe -- at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, followed by a one-hour panel discussion. The screening is free and open to anyone who would like to join.

Written by award-winning playwright, Beth Duda, this play features nationally known actor and historical impersonator, Michael Krebs as Abe Lincoln, award-winning actor, Joel PE King as Frederick Douglass, and Spoken-word Poet, Cedric Hameed.

Black abolitionist leader and former slave, Frederick Douglass, and Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the

United States of America, clashed in their ideologies regarding race, politics, and slavery. Frederick Douglass, a true radical with a fiery spirit, believed in racial equality for everyone. Douglass dedicated his life, writings, and career to abolishing slavery everywhere. Abraham Lincoln, cautious and considered, while opposed to slavery, was first and foremost a patriot intent on preserving the Union at all costs. These two self-made men, at a time when our divided nation faced annihilation, faced their differences with courage and compassion, forging a friendship that helped to end the Civil War and reunite our nation.

Registration is required... [REGISTER HERE](#)

**The Patterson Foundation is offering new opportunities to continue the Walk to Respect through a guided discussion series this winter.

IT'S A WRAP! Kind of...



their brain. Using proven research, we will practice fun and entertaining methods of encouraging literacy to help children establish a love of learning and reading.



Mind in the Making

Based on the groundbreaking book by Ellen Galinsky, entitled *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*, successful children can focus on their work and control their behavior, figure out what others think and feel, explain what they are thinking, use what they learn creatively, search for reliable information, take on challenges, and engage in learning.

During five 1-hour, facilitated workshops, parents, grandparents, and community members will learn how to strengthen these essential skills and teach them to the children they love. If you're looking for fun and constructive ways to connect with the children in your life, this interactive experience is right up your alley!

[Click here to explore current opportunities.](#)



THIS BOOK IS COOL!

THIS BOOK IS COOL! is a series of 100 webisodes to encourage a love of reading. It premiered on June 1, 2020, and 5,302 children participated. Combined, they read 94,383 books during the summer! Due to its success, and because the community wanted more, SCGLR is offering five 1-hour, guided conversations to teach you how to help your child process new information from books and the world around them.



The Power of Presence

Through five 1-hour, guided conversations, you will take a journey that will give insight into improving your ability to

be present with your family and community. By sharing

THIS BOOK IS COOL! 2020 Wrap Up (time 5 minutes)

In the spring of 2020 -- as the COVID-19 virus disrupted schools, after school programs, and plans for summer learning -- the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading sprang into action to give children and families motivation to keep reading!

Why? Because 100 years of research has proven that students experience academic learning loss when they are out of school for the summer and do not engage in educational activities.

Luckily, children in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties participated in SCGLR's THIS BOOK IS COOL!, and boy, did the kiddos excel!

In Charlotte County, there was outcome data for 637 students. The number of children with no reading skill loss = 508. In total, 80% of kids who participated showed NO reading loss. Excellent, Charlotte County!

In DeSoto County, there was outcome data for 417 students. The number of children with no reading skill loss = 243. In total, 58% of kids who participated showed NO reading loss. Keep it up DeSoto County!

In Manatee County, there was outcome data for 798 students. The number of children with no reading skill loss = 589. In total, 74% of kids who participated showed NO reading loss. Great job, Manatee County!

In Sarasota County, there was outcome data for 2,238 students. The number of children with no reading skill loss = 1,660. In total, 74% of kids who participated showed NO reading loss. Great job, Sarasota County!

If you're interested in a behind-the-scenes look into TBIC, including...

- **The book selection process:** What resources did the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading team use to choose books, and why were certain books chosen?
- **Diversity:** How were different elements of diversity reflected in the selected books?
- **Activities:** Each book featured a uniquely designed activity that went along with it. So how were the activities chosen and designed?
- **Family Participation:** How did families participate in TBIC together? What did they enjoy about it?

...read [Abby Rolland's \(TPF Fellow\) recent blog HERE](#) for video segments that detail the books, diversity, info about THIS BOOK IS COOL! and Mind in the Making, family participation, and THIS BOOK IS COOL! activities. You can

also glimpse the entire 'inside look' below.

be present with your family and community? By sharing your thoughts and experiences, you will help each other discover new ways to strengthen connections.

Are you ready to take the first step? Join us, as we discover Joy Thomas Moore's seven pillars of presence:

- Mind
- Heart
- Faith
- Courage
- Financial Freedom
- Values
- Connectedness



[An inside look into THIS BOOK IS COOL! \(time 21 minutes\)](#)

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